

Report of community learning and development in Moray Council

HM Inspectors carried out a Progress Visit to Moray Council in October 2023. HM Inspectors identified that the local authority and their partners were making progress in the majority of areas in their community learning and development (CLD) plan. However, some improvement was required. HM Inspectors requested a report on progress on the main point for action. Moray Council and the CLD Strategic Partnership (CLDSP) submitted a report on progress in December 2024. HM Inspectors met with them in January 2025 to discuss its contents.

Main point for action: The CLD strategic partnership needs to identify how they can best expand the partners involved in CLD plans. This should explore how the independent youth organisations, community activists and organisations, and learners can best contribute to planning and decision-making processes.

The CLDSP have taken appropriate steps to expand the membership of the CLDSP. They have taken action to ensure that youth practitioners, community organisations, and learners contribute to CLD planning and were able to influence the priorities in the refreshed CLD plan 2024-27. As a result, the CLDSP now have a shared sense of direction and have joint ownership of the CLD priorities. They are clearer about how CLD contributes to other strategic drivers and can articulate the synergies between local, regional and national plans. This is helping to reduce duplication and helping to strengthen the governance of CLD. Members of the CLDSP see the added value that the group brings and now have a better understanding of who is best placed to deliver on priorities.

The CLDSP have strengthened their arrangements for partnership working and networking. This is improving their understanding of CLD priorities and increasing joint working between partners. CLD partners have strengthened their use of research and data to attract additional funding and target resources to reduce the impact of inequality and the impact of poverty. CLD partners are working well to sustain and connect capacity building activities. This is increasing the use of community spaces such as community-led hubs. As a result, peer support spaces, linked to the Moray Wellbeing Hub, are now available in more localities. The CLD team have engaged more widely and learned from what other local authorities are doing. They are progressing well in strengthening how young people's voices are included in planning and decision-making. Members of the CLDSP are taking steps to ensure that they represent the views of community members and networks, to better inform CLD planning and decision-making. The CLDSP should continue with plans to formalise their relationship with the Youth Practitioners Network and other relevant groupings.

What happens next?

Overall, the local authority and its CLD partners are taking appropriate steps to address the main point for action and other recommendations identified during the Progress Visit. As a result, we will make no further visits to Moray Council and its CLD partners in connection with this inspection.

Robert Hynd
HM Inspector
February 2025