

Report on community learning and development in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Following a visit to Eilean Siar in November 2021, HM Inspectors reported that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and its Community Learning and Development (CLD) partners have been responding to the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and are implementing plans to support recovery. HM Inspectors noted that more time was required to take forward key areas for improvement, and asked for a report on progress within six months of the report publication. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and its CLD partners submitted a report in July 2022 and HM Inspectors met with them in August to discuss its content.

HM Inspectors have reviewed the progress report and engaged in professional dialogue with staff during the August meeting. It is clear that since our last visit, strategic leaders have increased their oversight of CLD. Partners on the CLD Partnership are working well with strategic leaders and each other to strengthen the joint planning of CLD. As a result, the governance of CLD has improved. CLD is increasingly valued as an important part of education provision.

Partners are committed to working together to improve the joint self-evaluation and performance monitoring of CLD. CLD performance information is part of regular reporting to the Education, Sport and Children's Services committee. The CLD plan has been updated and now has lead partners and success indicators against every action. CLD partners are aware that they need to continue to develop effective and efficient performance measures to best capture and report on the full impact of CLD.

What happens next?

Overall, the local authority and its CLD partners are taking appropriate steps to address the recommendations from the original inspection. As a result, we will make no further visits to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and its CLD partners in connection with the original inspection.

Alona Murray
HM Inspector
September 2022