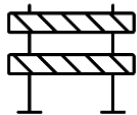


**Learning: For All. For Life.**

**A report from the Independent  
Review of Community  
Learning and Development  
(CLD) – Learners Summary**

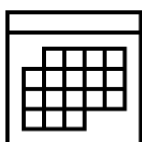
July 2024

## 1. What was the Review about?



Community Learning and Development (CLD) provides learning opportunities for people who may find it difficult to get into learning.

It can take place in community centres, libraries, cafes, colleges and other places where it feels comfortable to learn.



The [Independent Review of CLD](#) considered how CLD can best support learners.

It began in December 2023 and [a report of the review](#) has been published.



The independent reviewer is Kate Still.

Kate is passionate about helping people who need help the most.

Kate was supported by a small team who helped her with the review.

This document explains what the review did and what Kate thinks needs to happen next.



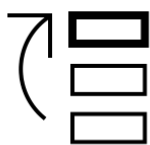
CLD learners and potential learners will probably be interested in it.

## 2. What did the Review do?



The Scottish Government asked Kate to look at CLD in Scotland and to provide advice on:

- 1) Whether we have the right information about how CLD is helping learners across the country and how we can improve CLD.
- 2) How much is CLD helping to improve life chances for learners and especially those who need help the most.
- 3) How to make sure we have good, qualified people working to deliver CLD learning.



These were the priority areas Kate looked at:

- How much learners know about CLD.
- Availability and how easy it is to take up learning in CLD.
- The learning and support provided in CLD.
- How easy it is to move onto new and other learning opportunities in CLD.



Learners and potential learners were asked some questions in an online survey. 717 separate replies were received.

Kate spoke to over 110 learners at focus groups from across Scotland. Most of these focus groups were in-person, although some were online.

The team took notes so we could record experiences to help us make recommendations.



Kate also asked questions to those working in CLD or those who might have an interest in it.

423 separate replies were received.



Kate had lots of meetings (more than 40) with people working in CLD or with an interest in it.

She travelled to different parts of Scotland to hear directly from people working to deliver CLD.

The team took notes of these meetings too.



The CLD Independent Review email inbox was open for anyone to send information which might be helpful to the review.

292 emails were received through the mailbox.



An independent group of researchers and consultants looked at the survey replies, the information sent to the mailbox and the notes from meetings, then sorted them and made a summary report which is available on the Scottish Government website.

### 3. What did the Review find out?

#### FOR LEARNERS



Feedback told us that CLD can have a positive impact for learners. For example:

- Increased confidence.
- Better health, including mental health.
- Help young people feel safer, older people feel less isolated and New Scots to feel more of a part of their community.
- Safer communities.

Learners reported learning new skills:



- Reading.
- Writing.
- Counting.
- Using a computer.
- New life skills such as cooking, budgeting or driving.
- Learning or improving English language skills.

Things that helped learners to participate in CLD include:



- Flexibility.
- Kind and trusted staff.
- Somewhere safe to learn, near where you live.



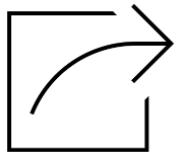
Learners can experience a wide range of barriers, which might prevent them from participating in CLD.

People who experienced inequality, poverty, lack of public transport, lack of confidence or having had previous negative experiences in education found it difficult to take up learning in CLD.

### **FOR THE CLD SECTOR**



There is limited funding for CLD organisations in Scotland.



There needs to be strong leadership, good service delivery and better ways of collecting information to help improve services.

#### 4. What did the Review recommend?

There are 20 recommendations in total. They sit under six headings:



- Leadership and structures
- Overarching policy narrative which is what the Scottish Government wants to achieve for learners in CLD
- Focus on delivery
- Budgets and funding
- Developing the workforce and standards
- Demonstrating impact



The full recommendations are listed in the [Review report](#).

#### 5. What will happen after the Review?



The Scottish Government will consider the recommendations alongside the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) – who are the representative body for all Scottish Councils.

The Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Veterans Graeme Dey MSP will publish a response on next steps in due course.

## **6. Related publications**

This document is part of a suite of publications related to the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD). This includes:

A British Sign Language (BSL) version of this Learner Summary will be available on the Scottish Government website.

[Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development \(CLD\)](#)

[Community Learning and Development in Scotland and Internationally: Literature Review](#)

[Community Learning and Development in Scotland and Internationally: Literature Review – plain language summary](#)

[Independent Review of Community Learning and Development: a call for evidence. Analysis report of the evidence gathered during consultation](#)

[Community Learning and Development \(CLD\) - Statistics Brief presenting data relevant to CLD in Scotland](#)





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