



# Continuing engagement of community learning and development in Moray Council

6 July 2020

for Scotland's learners with Scotland's educators  
do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba le luchd-foghlaim Alba

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In April 2018, HM Inspectors published a report on community learning and development (CLD) in Moray Council and in the Buckie area and communities of Portknockie, Cullen, Findochty and Portgordon. A further monitoring visit was carried out in October 2018 and again in March 2019. This report is based on a continuing engagement which was carried out in March 2020. During this visit we met with a range of staff, volunteers and partners. We focused on the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out how well partners across the authority are now working together to support learners and communities to improve life chances.

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# 1. How good is the strategic leadership of community learning and development?

Strategic leadership of CLD across Moray Council is improving. Senior leaders and elected members are now clearer about the contribution that CLD makes to Moray Council priorities. However, the partnership could be further strengthened by ensuring Education Services contributes more regularly. The CLD Plan for Moray (2020-21) continues to inform partnership working and plans are in hand to improve the governance of CLD. In a period of considerable change, there is a greater sense of direction. Quarterly reporting to the Community Planning Board is now established and senior officers understand the need for improved governance and mitigation of risk. Increasing numbers of partners are attending the CLD Strategic Partnership. They are clearer about their role and how they can drive improvement. Partners including libraries, NHS and public health recognise their contribution to CLD priorities. This is leading to improved partnership working, for example, in the delivery of English for speakers of other languages provision by Moray College. Skills Development Scotland continues to fulfil an important leadership role. There is improving connectedness between the council and local groups. This is increasing access to better sharing of resources through the locality planning structure. TSi Moray successfully secured Leader Plus funding for four community development officers. This is increasing capacity across Moray to support local development. Links with the Northern Alliance is facilitating the sharing of skills and knowledge to inform improvement. Moray Council is now more outward looking, and learning from approaches elsewhere in Scotland to support their improvement journey.

Locality planning continues to be led well by the Community Support Unit. Local communities are increasingly involved in directing the priorities in the Buckie Central East Locality Plan. Local groups in Buckie have a better sense of ownership and are leading on aspects of the priorities. Each community group is progressing their areas of work and delivering tangible impacts for the community, for example, the development of a dedicated website which is improving connectivity and the introduction of community lunches. Although there is a clearer sense of direction, there remains a need to strengthen performance measures and improve reporting on progress. Similarly, locality planning groups should progress with its plans to develop more robust baselines and target setting. This should assist in demonstrating impact and distance travelled.

# 2. How good is the learning and development in this community?

The gathering, analysis and sharing of performance information across partners is improving. Positive trends are emerging in terms of participation rates and achievements. The monitoring group of the Buckie Locality Planning Group is particularly strong. Their systematic collation of information is informing progress against their priorities. This is then shared across community planning partnership partners and the wider community. However, there is potential to gather and report on the benefits of volunteering in terms of longer term impacts on mental health and wellbeing. Work with young people in Buckie continues to be of good quality. They are gaining life skills and accreditation through a range of programmes including The Duke of Edinburgh's award and the Mentoring Young People group. A few young people with hearing impairment benefit from a bespoke outdoor activity programme, although more could be done to ensure that

they can identify the skills they are learning and progression opportunities. The P7 Transition programme at Buckie High School continues to support a positive transition from primary to secondary school. Senior pupils running the programme gain awards and develop leadership skills. Young people across Moray are starting to influence decision making through the Moray Youth Matters group.

A few adult learners are developing skills and gaining awards. However, participation in adult learning is decreasing. This is mainly due to the uncertainty around the future of Essential Skills provision. Reporting against targets and outcomes for adult learning is clear. Increased confidence is allowing a few learners to progress on to volunteering. Parents at the AB56 Futures Group are achieving qualifications to help them secure employment. Parents appreciate being able to access these opportunities in Buckie. This is reducing transport costs and improving access. The range of voluntary and community groups across Buckie continues to be a key strength. Arrangements for asset transfer are working well. Community Councils continue to play an important role. As a result, communities are benefiting from improved facilities. In Findochty, the local community are now making good use of the refurbished town hall. Activities such as a pop-up café and book swap are reducing social isolation. To ensure ongoing improvement, Moray Council and its partners should continue to collaborate to improve coordination at a local level.

### 3. Does the Buckie community have a clear sense of direction?

Since the last visit by HM Inspectors in March 2019, there is a greater sense of direction at all levels. Partners are working together more effectively and the role and function of CLD is clearer.

### 4. What happens next?

As a result of the improvements, HM Inspectors will make no further visits to the Buckie community.

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