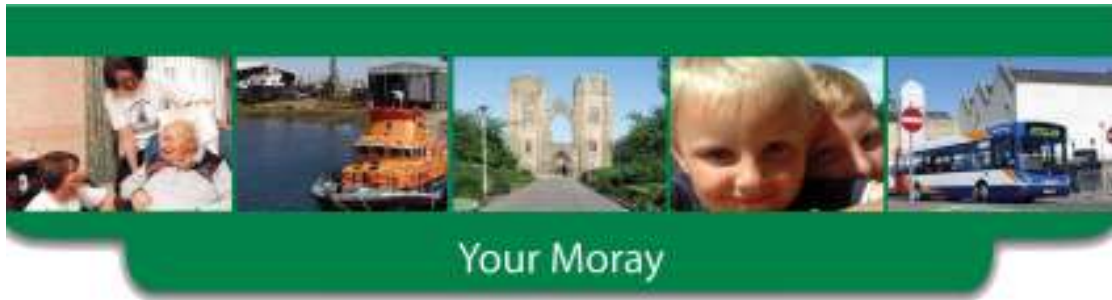




Lifelong Learning Strategy

(March 2008)



1. Background

A Moray Lifelong Learning Forum was formed in 2006. This initiative was taken under the auspices of the Moray Community Planning Partnership to provide an opportunity for those member organisations, which had a keen interest in learning, to meet and explore the learning agenda facing Moray. The Forum was subsequently expanded to take in other organisations and the membership now comprises:

- The Moray Council
- Moray College/UHI Millennium Institute
- HIE Moray
- Jobcentre Plus
- Moray Chamber of Commerce
- Learndirect Scotland
- Careers Scotland
- Community First Moray
- Learning Centres Moray.
- Highlands & Islands Employer Federation

2. Vision

In arriving at the vision that the Moray Lifelong Learning Forum has for the area, we based this very heavily on the Scottish Executive's 2003 document *Lifelong Learning Strategy: Life through Learning; Learning through Life* and on the 2007 vision for Lifelong learning produced by The Scottish Government in its document released in the *Skills for Scotland: a Lifelong Learning Strategy*.

The Strategy should assist meet the SMARTER strategic objectives of the Government which aims to “**Expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.**” And will assist the Partnership meet the National Outcomes of ensuring that “**we are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation**”.

Our vision for lifelong learning in Moray is to provide the best possible match between the learning opportunities open to people and the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that will strengthen Moray's economy and society.

We have also adopted the vision that is to be found within the existing Moray Community Learning and Development Strategy:

The Scottish Governments skills strategy states that: “**Encouraging providers to see themselves as part of a continuum of provision - links in a chain - which helps individuals to see the relevance of learning to them, progress in their learning and make full and effective use of the skills they have acquired. Judging that system by how well it serves those who need the most support.**”

The partners are keen to develop a continuum of learning in Moray. This would mean that a learner could enter the learning process at any level with any provider. The learner would be assured that they were with the most appropriate provider for that stage and that progression would be supported to the next stage and to the most appropriate provider.

3. What do we mean by “Lifelong Learning” in this context?

The Forum has adopted the broad definition that it;

Is about personal fulfilment and enterprise; employability and adaptability; active citizenship and social inclusion.

4. Scope of Strategy

Although the Moray Lifelong Learning Strategy is principally concerned with post-compulsory education, training and learning, it does concern itself with aspects of school education such as school-college partnerships.

5. General Aims of Strategy

The national strategy sets out various challenges in relation to lifelong learning provision in Scotland that are no less challenges to be faced in the Moray context. Specifically, we must aim for local provision to be:

- relevant
- responsive
- in touch
- coherent
- of high quality wherever and however it is delivered.

In addressing these, members of the Moray Lifelong Learning Forum are committed to:

6. Specific Themes

The recently published consultation paper that arises three years into the five year vision of the national strategy identified five themes and the Forum will use these as an essential guide to determining its priorities:

i Engagement with Employers

We want to ensure that the interaction we have with employers in Moray on skills, learning and workforce development is productive and beneficial for all parties concerned.

ii Flexible Learning Opportunities, Entitlement and Discretionary Support

We want to ensure that we have the best quality educational system that can be accessed by everyone in Moray, regardless of their background or personal circumstances, and to have in place the right funding and delivery mechanism to make this a sustainable reality.

iii Information, Advice and Guidance

We want a clear, coherent system of information, advice and guidance that is accessible to and understood by everyone in Moray.

iv Community Learning and Development

We want to have policies in place which will build and support a vibrant and confident community learning and development (CLD) sector. CLD is key to delivering our agenda: it enables people who have been excluded from opportunities to build their confidence and skills, gain access to learning, and play an active part in their communities.

v Journeys Into and Through Learning

We want to encourage everyone in Moray to be a lifelong learner with the confidence and choice to move easily into and through the learning landscape to achieve their goals, whether they are personal, social or economic. To do this we need a flexible, integrated system that suits modern lifestyles.

7. Linkage to Other Strategies

The Lifelong Learning Strategy is considered by the Scottish Executive to “chime” with other strategic developments and it is our intention to give these local expression wherever necessary. It is also the Forum’s intention to avoid cutting across other initiatives that are already underway in Moray although, at the same time, it is our contention that all such key initiatives of an exclusively or predominately nature should be overseen by the Forum to ensure maximum coherence and minimal overlap.

National Strategies

- Skills for Scotland: a Lifelong Learning Strategy
- Curriculum for Excellence
- A Smart, Successful Scotland
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
- Choosing our Future: Scotland’s sustainable development strategy.
- More Choices More Chances

Local – Key Moray Community Planning Partnership Documents

- Community Learning and Development Strategy 2005-2007
- Moray Community Learning and Development Action Plans
- Moray Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (MALP)
- Moray 2020
- Social Inclusion Strategy
- Moray More Choices More Chances Strategy

8. Implementation

The Lifelong Learning Forum will produce an action plan outlining how it will work towards achieving its aims the forum has already committed itself to:

- Producing a longer-term programme of joint activities aimed at increasing the profile of education and training opportunities in Moray.
- In the meantime, look to create a 3-4 week Moray Learning festival (schedule of events in the late summer/early autumn 2008 periods)
- Build on existing work and initiatives
- Focus on communication and promoting Lifelong learning, which we would seek to involve the Northern Scot to get maximum publicity/exposure.
- To produce a framework for monitoring and evaluating partnership performance on lifelong learning issues

9. EQUALITIES

A key element of the strategy is encouraging greater social inclusion and to assist the forum achieve this we will:

- fulfil our commitment to encourage and support minority groups and individuals to access and succeed in lifelong learning
- work to establishing positive relationships with and seek out the views of minority groups and individuals i.e. race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion and philosophical belief views.
- we will actively remove barriers to learning to assist the whole community take part in learning.