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Updates – February 2023

The newsletter for practitioners involved in community learning and development (CLD) learning and practice development work across the North of Scotland



**Who are we?**

Learn North is managed in a voluntary capacity by representatives of organisations involved in community learning and development (CLD) delivery across the widespread geography of the North of Scotland. This includes the council areas of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Highland, Shetland, Orkney, Western Isles and Argyll and Bute.

Our aim is to strengthen access to continuing professional learning for staff and volunteers involved in CLD practice, to identify where there are gaps in provision of learning opportunities and to design and deliver programmes and activities by working collectively to share resources, avoid duplication and enhance joint approaches.

**The Regional Training Networks for CLD in Scotland**

Learn North is one of five networks for professional learning in CLD in Scotland. The others cover Tayside and Fife / Southwest Scotland / South East Scotland / West Scotland. The individual networks come together to exchange information and ideas and to work together at a national level at times to organise broader programmes where there is value in that.

**From North Alliance – to Learn North**

Over recent months, members agreed that a refresh or rebrand was required to encourage clarity, purpose and renewed focus to the group.

Through the monthly meeting cycle, members completed an initial questionnaire about the North Alliance and agreed to review the role and purpose of the group via consideration of the memorandum of understanding.

The memo of understanding was reviewed and amended to better fit the intended direction of the group. A significant change is to the name of the group, changing to Learn North, similar to other CPD networks across Scotland.

Copies of the amended memo of understanding will be circulated to all members.

**Current Representatives**

AVAShire – Keith Anderson; Aberdeenshire Council – Joanne Ellis; Aberdeen City Council – Colin Wright; ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Volunteer Organisations) – TBC; Volunteer Centre Western Isles – TBC; Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar – Fiona MacInnes-Begg; VAOrkney – Clare Gee, Rosalind Aitken; Orkney Council – Kerry Spence; Shetland Council – Ayesha Huda, June Porter, Brenda Leask; TSIMoray – Jackie Maclaren; Moray Council – Karen Delaney; High Life Highland – Kirsty D’Ambrosio; Mark Richardson; bridgeagap – Helena Macleod; LiveArgyll – Alex Edmonstone; Argyll TSI - TBC

**Learn North News and activity**

**1.Winter Learning Festival 31st October – 4th November 2022**

The Learn North delivered the first week of the Winter Learning Festival during week beginning 31 October 2022 with a wide range of CPD opportunities offered by partners across the North. **Topics included:** Youth PB - Creative evaluation - CLD response to the cost of living crisis - Measuring mental health impact in communities - Outdoor Family Learning - Introduction to the CLD Standards Council - Youth Volunteering Pathways - Taking a closer look at Community Based Adult Learning - Tools and resources for creative engagement - Introduction to Gaelic -

Hopefully, folk got a chance to attend as many as possible and completed evaluation forms to allow plans the next Learning Festival to be considered.

The Winter Learning Festival is an exciting programme of free online practitioner learning for those working in community learning and development (CLD) - organised by the regional professional learning networks, Education Scotland and CLD Standards Council.

**Please use the link to the i-develop pages with details on the full range of professional learning activities on offer over the Winter months.** [**i-develop-cld.org.uk**](https://www.i-develop-cld.org.uk/course/view.php?id=195&section=0)



**New HNC offer – Working with Communities** 

Learn North and the Northern Alliance, together with Education Scotland have been working with the UHI to broaden the offer for those interested in pathways to work and volunteering in CLD settings. This new Higher National Certificate is delivered online and on site and expands opportunities to strengthen practice and skills across our North geography. Please follow the link to explore more detail.

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/hnc-working-with-communities/>

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CLD Standards Council is a membership organisation open to staff and volunteers operating in the CLD Sector.

Learn North applies for an annual grant from the Standards Council to support CPD developments in line with the development plan which encourages membership of the sector.

[CLD Standards Council for Scotland | Professional Learning](https://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/)

Hi, I am Vikki Carpenter and I am a Development Officer with CLD Standards Council.  The CLD Standards Council now has staff in local areas, which offers an opportunity for improving our engagement with regional networks, as well as connecting with CLD practitioners and organisations across Scotland.   As I am based in Aberdeenshire I am happy to connect with anyone in the “North” and I really hope to be able to meet up with some of you in the future, so we can offer support to members and potential members living and working up here.

Please get in touch if you would like information about the CLD Standards Council and the support we can offer, or check out our website