Company name

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CLD delivery of Family Learning

***case study***

**Making a difference through: Family Learning in**

Community Learning and Development – key purposes

1.1. Community learning and development (CLD) has a powerful impact on the lives of learners and communities, supporting them to identify and work towards change. Whether that change takes place in an individual’s life, helps to create a resilient and enterprising community or contributes to better public services in a changing landscape, Scotland has a need for successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors working together to build a shared future. <https://www.education.gov.scot/Documents/cld-regulations-la-guidance.pdf>

Family Learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Family Learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children’s learning. The Northern Alliance are keen to capture case study examples of Family Learning activity from each of the 8 Local Authority areas to showcase Family Learning as a powerful method of engagement and learning.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/what-is-family-learning>

**Here is an example of this practice:**

**Need for the project / activity** why?

Gaelic medium education can be more challenging for families with no Gaelic in the home, however the school role remains around 50% of children in Gaelic Medium and 50% of children in English Medium.

A significant number of parents have little or no Gaelic and so are limited with the support they can offer children in the home with homework and informal Gaelic learning.

As the GME role increased to around 50% of enrolments the need for support was anticipated by AL and we worked to secure a post to deliver this support. Previous GME support had been trialled using Adult Literacies hours. The post wasn’t refilled following the death of the tutor. Once the dust settled we worked to re establish the post and engaged with schools to assess the need from parents. The Gaelic education school and/or parents identified the need for a family learning group that would support parents with the Gaelic learning of their children, such as homework tasks.

**Description** what and how?

Gaelic Family Learning

Supporting parents / families / carers to support their children with Gaelic homework - primary school age

Initially Gaelic Family Learning was being developed to support parents on a face to face basis. Children in primary school were targeted and the initial focus was on supporting the homework requirements of the children through a variety of activities and learning covering reading, writing and number work as identified as a need by the parents.

The CLD Adult Learning Team worked in partnership with the school to develop the learning reflecting the requirements from the school and the parents.

In relation to the CLD competencies we have a good knowledge and understanding of the community in which we work. As the island is a very small place and the schools we were able to work with were limited when face to face, we had also built and maintained good relationships with groups and individuals. School management teams were supportive, and parents / carers were responsive and appreciative of the offer of support. Now that we work digitally our reach has expanded and so become more equitable.

With this relationship established we were able to ask for feedback and evaluation to inform our practice. (Feedback quotes at end of report)

**Impact** difference made

Once we went into lockdown, we quickly moved our Family Learning support online. This was well received, and the CLD Adult Learning tutor worked with a few families at different levels to support Gaelic language. The CLD Adult Learning tutor worked with both the parent and child during the virtual sessions which initially was a learning process as delivering learning online was new to staff and learners.

The CLD Adult Learning Team held a focus group with families, schools and Adult Learning / Education staff to discuss the ongoing Gaelic offer to families and it was agreed to continue with online support.

The initial tutor retired but after a couple of months the CLD Adult Learning Team were able to recruit another tutor who quickly established a number of offers of support digitally. There was a mixture of Family and Adult Learning offered during this period. Some families were juggling a number of commitments around working from home, home schooling, more than one child needing support. Parents were offered a short “drop in” where they could ask the tutor for specific support.

Gaps in provision cause problems, this is generally due to short term funding. Following discussions with Line Manager we were eventually able to establish an apprentice post with Gaelic Essential. We now have a native speaker in post and a Gaelic Family Learning pilot will run for 6 weeks from mid-February. This will allow us to offer provision while gathering information and feedback from families around the days, times, type of support offered.

**Evidence** how do we know?

Informal feedback from parents outwith the learning settings. One parent whose son progressed through GME since Primary 1 began to find her own Gaelic abilities could no longer keep up as her son neared the end of Primary School. She was very relieved to discover we were able to offer support and took full advantage of the offer. She stated that she didn’t know what she would have done without the support.

**Lessons learned?**

The CLD AL Team recognised that support and “buy in” from the school / Head Teacher makes a big difference in the engagement from families.

When families are encouraged and enabled to engage, and value is placed on the learning, it has a positive effect on the atmosphere around learning and how families feel about the offer.

Retention of staff is difficult when the post is only a few hours per week. The CLD Adult Learning Team has now recruited an Adult Learning Apprentice who is a native Gaelic speaker and will be able to support Gaelic Family Learning. The new tutor is now developing an offer based on family learning, supporting the child and parent to learn together. The CLD Adult Learning team also have an offer of support adults learning in Gaelic as this will give long term impacts of the adults being able to independently support their children and increase their skills and knowledge of Gaelic as well as embrace their culture.

**Images / learner quotes** if available

Map

Description automatically generated“I am now speaking to my children 50% of the time in Gaelic”

“It was very helpful that there were lots of parents’ support during lockdown, especially 1:1 individual support.”

“I feel that this can only help parents with practically no Gaelic on their journey towards supporting Gaelic in the home with their family and children”

**Date: Local authority:**

<https://northernalliance.scot>

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Lead Officers coming together to deliver on the vision for the Northern Alliance across the geography of the North