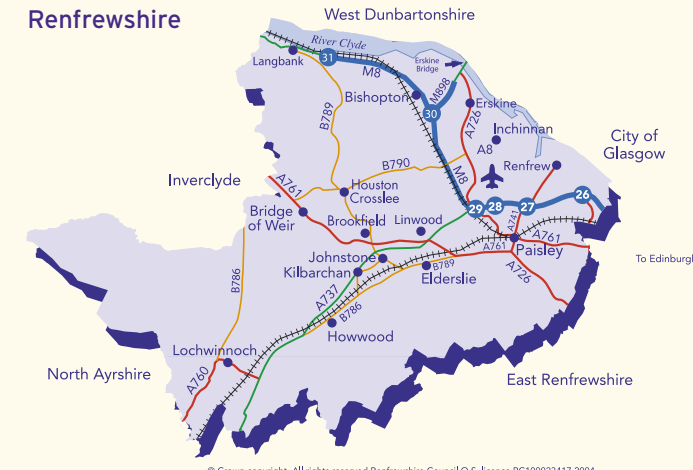


Renfrewshire Council was established in 1996 covering 101 square miles, Scotland's ninth largest council area, situated to the west of Glasgow and serving a population of 176,970 (2000 mid year). The largest settlement is Paisley, Scotland's largest town, with significant centres in the Royal Burgh of Renfrew, Erskine New Town, the 18<sup>th</sup> Century planned town of Johnstone, as well as several villages set in an extensive area of countryside.

Renfrewshire is an area of contrasts: there are significant urban population centres and a number of more rural areas, each bringing their own challenges. There are areas, which are relatively affluent and others where there is significant poverty and deprivation.



Health varies significantly across the communities of Renfrewshire, although it is poorer on average than Scotland as a whole. Employment and employment opportunities are good as a whole but there are significant pockets of unemployment within Renfrewshire. The unemployment rate in Renfrewshire is 3.2%, which is similar to Scotland as a whole.

The population of Renfrewshire is expected to stay fairly constant between now and 2010. There will however be a 14% fall in the number of pre-school children compared to a 5% fall across Scotland. Also the number of older people, 65 years and over will grow by 7% with the number of people over 75 growing by 12%.

## The Partnership

### Partners pledge to:

- Develop an Implementation Plan to deliver the strategy.
- Use resources efficiently and effectively.
- Promote communication, consultation and information sharing.
- Facilitate partnership working across local areas, key Higher and Further Education Networks, private sector and national agencies.
- Work together to attract additional funding.
- Consider the impact of national agendas on the delivery of Community Learning and Development activities.

### How will we measure and report our progress?

The Partnership will measure progress by adopting "How Good is our Community Learning and Development" which is the recognised quality framework for Community Learning and Development. We will set out clearly in the Implementation Plan, key actions, resources, targets and timescales to deliver on the agreed outcomes.

We will report progress in the following ways:

- Reporting at a local level through Learning Neighbourhoods and Community Planning Fora.
- Reporting to the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership through the Learning and Work Group.
- Reporting through Education and Leisure Services' planning process.
- Reporting to the Scottish Executive on progress made on the Renfrewshire Community Learning and Development Strategy.

During the period of the strategy the Partnership has made considerable progress in providing a range of learning and development opportunities to meet the identified needs of local communities. A combination of Renfrewshire Council and partner's resources augmented by additional funding from Europe, Lottery, and Scottish University for Industry, Better Neighbourhood Services Fund, Social Inclusion Partnership and Communities Scotland has resulted in the following key achievements:

- Development of a network of high quality, easily accessible community based learning centres across Renfrewshire providing a range of learning opportunities for adults and young people.
- Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan, which has resulted in the delivery of high quality services to residents who have some difficulty with reading,

writing and numbers. This has led to the further development of the Buddies for Learning project, which has achieved national prominence for its effective practice model.

- Establishment of Renfrewshire Learning Link, which is a strategic partnership between Adult Services and libraries, to develop a joint approach to community based learning.
- Establishment of the Learning Neighbourhood concept, which enabled the development of geographic Community Learning Plans in Foxbar and West Johnstone and development of plans in Cart Corridor and Ferguslie focusing on the needs of young people and a Renfrewshire wide plan focusing on the needs of people with disabilities. These plans will continue to be developed and implemented in line with the new strategy.

- The successful restructure of the previous Community Education function to meet the needs of the new guidance for Community Learning and Development, into the three service areas of:
  - Adult Learning Services
  - Youth Services
  - Community Capacity Services

- Creation of a Youth Strategy Team, which includes youth workers and sports development staff, to deliver targeted services to young people.

Networking between partners has facilitated the success of the partnership and stakeholders, sharing information and experience, and supported by partner staff training.

The previous Community Learning Strategy has laid firm foundations to take forward our new Strategy.

Over the coming years the Community Learning and Development Partnership will develop a systematic approach to engage and support individuals, groups and communities. This will be delivered through our Implementation Plan that will progress the outcomes detailed below.

### Achievement through learning for adults

Raising standards of achievement in learning for adults through community-based lifelong learning opportunities incorporating the core skills of literacy, numeracy, communications, working with others, problem solving and information communications technology (ICT).

(Source: Scottish Executive - Working and Learning Together To Build Stronger Communities)

#### Outcomes

- Barriers to learning are reduced and Community Based Adult Learning is accessible to all.
- Excluded individuals, groups and communities participate in more learning opportunities which assist in accessing employment.
- Improved skill levels in reading, writing, numeracy and ICT of Renfrewshire adults.
- Adults have access to information and guidance about learning opportunities.
- Additional Community Based Adult Learning funding and resources are brought to Renfrewshire.

### Achievement through learning for young people

Engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society.

(Source: Scottish Executive - Working and Learning Together To Build Strong Communities)

#### Outcomes

- Renfrewshire Youthlink Partnership will be developed, representing an effective and meaningful partnership for services for young people.
- Young people feel safe and are engaged in an environment of mutual respect within their communities.
- Young people are aware of and have equal access to training, learning and employment.
- Young people will be supported to be physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy.
- Young people are encouraged and supported to take part in the political, economic and social life of their communities and their contributions are valued and recognised.

### Achievement through building community capacity

Building community capacity and influence by enabling individuals, groups and communities to develop the confidence, understanding and skills required to influence decision making and service delivery. This could include enabling communities to provide and manage services to meet community needs.

(Source: Scottish Executive - Working and Learning Together To Build Strong Communities)

#### Outcomes

- Representation and engagement from communities of place and interest in the community planning process.
- A wider range of people being engaged with public services.
- Raised awareness within communities of the planning and operations of public service agencies and the opportunities to become actively engaged.
- Improved and increased articulation of the views and opinions of communities and evidence that this is taken account of in the planning and delivery of services.
- Increase and build on the capacity of communities to access and manage greater levels of funding to establish community-led projects.
- Raised awareness of community-led action around environmental sustainability.

Successful implementation of this strategy will rely on the continuous development of a strong and effective Partnership. This will be achieved through the production of an Implementation Plan, which will identify the key actions, resources and targets to deliver our outcomes alongside the identification of joint training and development opportunities for representatives within partner organisations.

In addition the Scottish Executive guidance identifies Community Learning and Development Action Plans as the main delivery mechanism for the Community Learning and Development Strategy. It clearly identifies that communities should be involved in identifying proposals for dealing with community needs, aspirations and priorities.

Community Learning and Development Action Plans will be produced for each of the 16 Learning Neighbourhoods, along with Renfrewshire wide thematic plans, detailing the key actions that will be required to address identified needs and issues. These plans will also address the required action to meet the agreed outcomes detailed in this strategy. Once agreed, these plans will represent joint action plans for all partners at a local and thematic level.

This will be done by:

- Agreeing with local communities a set of objectives and a way of achieving these, through a set of Community Learning and Development Action Plans.
- Targeting our resources at the issues that most need to be addressed and in the areas that have the greatest need, as identified through Community Learning and Development Action Plans.

Through the Community Learning and Development Action Plans we will develop the means to:

- Equip communities with the confidence and skills they require to engage effectively in community planning processes.
- Improve the learning and skills of both young people and adults.
- Build the capacity of local people to contribute to the regeneration of their own communities.

This will equip communities of place and interest to exert real influence over the planning, delivery and quality of mainstream services and efforts to achieve community regeneration and social inclusion.

### Community Learning and Development Action Plans should:

- Include important information about the area or theme
- Provide baselines for current support
- Identify gaps in current provision
- Identify local/thematic priorities
- Set targets in relation to identified priorities
- Detail contributions from partners

### Key features of Community Learning and Development Action Plans:

- Based on analyses of issues identified with communities
- Demonstrate major community involvement
- Influence and reflect the Community Plan, Community Learning and Development Strategy and other local plans
- Information will be easily accessible to communities, enabling accountability and transparency.

A key part of the delivery of the action plans will be the development of a Good Practice Guide and Stakeholders Pack which will be issued to lead officers to enable them to establish Stakeholder Groups.

## Integrated planning

Integrated Community Learning and Development planning structures will establish a clear link between the Community Learning and Development Partnership, the Adult Literacies Partnership and the Youthlink Partnership. It will streamline the planning process to eliminate duplication and provide a sharper focus on action planning and delivery. Widening ownership of the strategy and its priorities will improve management, quality assurance and promote best practice.

Diagram 2



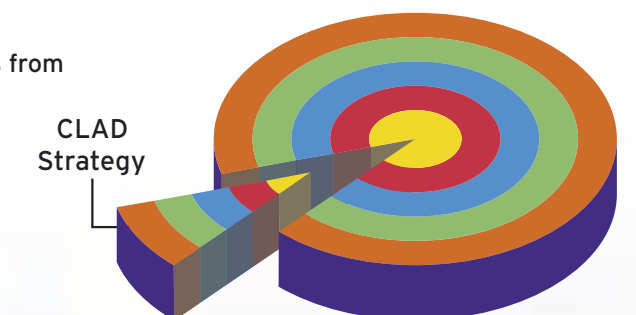
## Key Strategies and Plans

The Renfrewshire Community Learning and Development Partnership provides a planning framework that will support the development and implementation of community learning and development elements of a range of key strategies and plans, led by other agencies and partnerships. The lead partnership agencies are committed to embedding their support for the delivery of the outcomes within their own planning frameworks. It is expected that these strategies and plans will also impact directly on all Community Learning and Development Action Plans.

They include:

- The Renfrewshire Community Plan
- The Council's Corporate Statement
- The Community Safety Action Plan
- The Children's Services Plan
- The Health Improvement Plan
- The Economic Regeneration Plan

Diagram 3



- Learning Neighbourhoods
- CLAD action plans - thematic and geographic
- 6 local fora - Paisley South, Paisley North, Riverside, Renfrew, Johnstone and Lochwinnoch, Linwood
- 3 themes - housing, neighbourhoods and community safety, learning and work
- Community plan