



EAAL Scotland Impact Forum

1.30pm – 3.30pm, 26 October 2016

Moray House Campus, Edinburgh

Notes of Meeting

1. **Present:** Mark Ravenhall (Learning & Work Institute); Stewart Beck (North Ayrshire Council); Alasdair McKinlay (Scottish Government); Jackie Howie (Learning Link Scotland); Elizabeth Kwaw (EPALE); Lynn Tett (Emeritus Professor Edinburgh University); Eleanor Gordon (Renfrewshire Council); Derek Catto (West Lothian Council); Maggie Sherrit (Angus Council); Jim McHarg (North Ayrshire Council); Ian Shaw (North Ayrshire Council); Mia Perry (University of Glasgow); Phil Denning (Education Scotland); Cath Hamilton (Education Scotland); Carol Marr (Central Library); Maggie Sherrit (Angus Council); Tim Randall (Crisis); Clark Whyte (Clackmannanshire Council); Bonnie Slade (University of Glasgow); Jim Crowther (University of Edinburgh); Graham McLellan (Inverclyde Council); Ann Swinney (University of Dundee); Morag Grant (SWCLD); Fiona Boucher (SLP); Lee Callaghan (SLP); Tracy Waddell (SLP).

2. **Apologies:** Margaret Allan (National Learners Forum); Loretta Mordi (Museums Galleries Scotland); John Field (Emeritus Professor University of Stirling); Adele Hill (Access to Industry); Oonagh McGarry (Scottish Borders Council); Ian Leith (Associate); Chris Fairgrieve (National Learners Forum).

3. **Welcome and introduction**

Cath Hamilton welcomed representatives to the meeting as Phil was running late and introduced the topic of the third Scottish impact forum - Communities.

4. **Community Involvement/Empowerment: Plans for Scotland (Annexe 1)**

Alasdair McKinlay from the Scottish Government presented background on the Community Empowerment Act and talked about its aim to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings, and strengthen their voices in the decisions that matter to them. The Act does a number of things including: extending the community right to buy, making it simpler for communities to take over public sector land and buildings, and strengthening the statutory base for community planning. The act is located on the Scottish Government's website as follows: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>.

The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015 and received Royal Assent, becoming an Act, on 24 July.

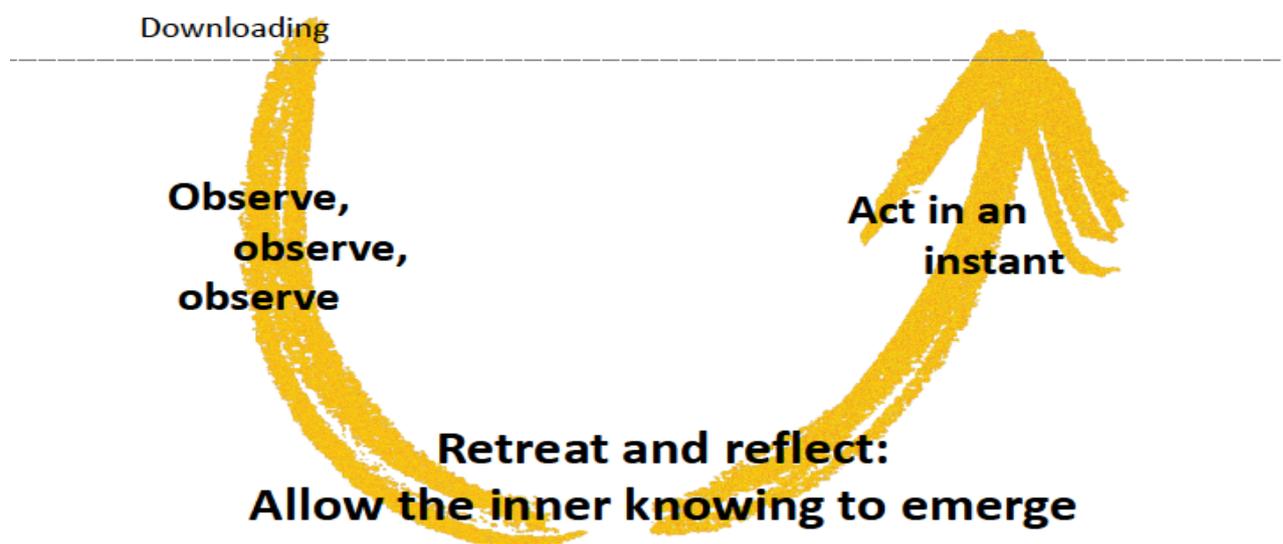


Alasdair explained that the Scottish Government supports Participatory Budgeting (PB) as a tool for community engagement which sits alongside the objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and is seen as an important resource to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland. The Act includes a new regulation making power which will enable Ministers to require Scottish public authorities to promote and facilitate the participation of members of the public, in the decisions and activities of the authority, including in the allocation of its resources. The legislation does not refer specifically to PB but it will be one of the tools used in the allocation of resources.

The role of the Scottish Government is to support communities to enable PB to happen. Alasdair highlighted an increased sense of cohesion and increased levels of volunteering as some of the initial impacts of the new programme together with an increase in Local Authorities taking on board PB.

Finally Alasdair introduced the new ULab Scotland programme run by MIT under the leadership of Otto Sharma – the Scottish programme is looking at Prototyping a U.Lab Movement in Scotland for social change. It is an introduction to leading profound social, environmental and personal transformation.

3 Movements of the U



Presenting Institute - Dito Scharmer - www.presenting.com/permissions/



The Impact Forum is considering the development of a prototyping group for adult learning and communities to plan for future projects that use impact data for the benefit of adult learning. *Action: First Meeting of prototyping group to be held on the 27th January 2017.*



Scotland's Learning Partnership



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5. Empowering Communities through Adult Learning (Annexe 2)

Helen Chicot Rochdale Borough Council (by Skype)

Helen introduced the Rochdale project, set up as a pilot for the Citizen's Curriculum - a multi agency programme working across police, health, education, mental health, adult learning & community development.

The group engaged in a multidisciplinary training programme building on their respective assets and skills to support peer learning. The initial engagement process included working with 115 people in the most deprived area of Rochdale, involving everyone in a personal programme of learning.

Outcomes included –

- Increase in participation in learning opportunities not just in the programme but also in their neighbourhood.
- Increase in skills through accreditation
- Reduction in crime and anti social behaviour
- Reduction in domestic abuse by 14%
- Reduction in addiction
- Reduction in arrears
- Increased take up of preventative services

A cost benefit analysis was used to measure and evaluate the programme.

The second phase is moving the programme into 2 new areas, one a high rise development and the other a low rise development, and by adding in a vocational element including digital, care, leisure sport & construction.

Mark informed the group about the Citizen's Curriculum, which the Learning & Work Institute has piloted. There were 17 across England. The website has each one detailed with case studies written about them.

<http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-resources/life-and-society/citizens'-curriculum-case-studies>

6. Communities Research (Annexe 3)

Mark Ravenhall, Research Fellow at LAWI described the current research programme being undertaken by LAWI in the impact of adult learning on work. One of the aims is to produce a State of The Nation Report 2017.

To support this development there will be three research papers focussing on Health, Work and Communities. At the moment Mark is in the process of commissioning the research for



the paper on communities and he asked the group for their views on the focus for the research on communities and what the overall report should look like?

Action: Cath suggested that the group feedback comments via Fiona to Mark to allow Scottish examples to be included in the shaping of the project. Comments to Fiona by 18th November.

7. Adult Learning, Changing Challenges

Discussion Questions

What needs to change to allow adult learning providers to support community empowerment?

Who needs to be involved?

Where are the gaps?

- Recognising that Local Authorities are still the largest player in delivering Adult Learning
- In terms of community empowerment, there is a need to widen the terms
- A stability in funding so that Adult learning can continue
- A comprehension of the legislation and the challenging wording, so as to reengage the community
- A need for a programme to help communities understand the meaning of Asset Transfer and their capacity to take this on.
- The Scottish Government is providing guidance but no resources.
- The 3rd sector can only seek funding through limited choice.
- The broad purpose of Adult Learning is no longer recognised in own right.

Action: Further planning is needed to establish clear process for adult learning in the future recognising its role as an independent entity alongside its role in supporting other policy priorities.

8. Update of EPALE

Elizabeth Kwaw, EPALE

EPALE is the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, it includes news, resources, events and discussion form the adult learning community in Europe. In the last 2 years the EPALE platform has gone from 5000 to 15000 users. There are 18 Communities of Practice with a range of interests including staff mobility opportunities to equestrian interests.

The EPALE Conference - EPALE in Action: Share, learn, collaborate will bring the virtual community to life. It will be a showcase of UK content and an opportunity for UK stakeholders to share their knowledge and expertise. It is on 17th November 2016 in Birmingham with a range of creative spaces, community and market spaces, thematic discussions, key themes of the priorities of the 4 nations and an EPALE Hub.

Action: If you wish to attend please contact Fiona Boucher in the first instance.





In early 2017, EPALE plan to hold a workshop on Adult Learning in Scotland it will focus on the Statement of Ambition. Jackie Howie will be the contact for further information and will also send out details about the event to group.

9. Agenda for the Future

FB asked the group to discuss the following Impact information question

“What do we want to use impact data for?”

- Influence politicians and policy makers and make a coherent case for funding. If we do not do this NOW then local government will choose to cut adult learning even further.
- Messages need to be strengthened at a local level and need to find a way for Education Scotland and other organisations to support this.
- We need to build a base of support with all agencies and organisations building a strategy with communities of interest to feed this and recognise this. Including a ground swell of support
- A skill set that adult learning practitioners have can be invisible and needs purposeful intervention with a range of toolkits
- National & Local profile raising. Practitioners see what they are doing, share good practice, knowledge and information.
- A succinct statement with key statistical information, which supports Adult Learning funding.
- Research space is needed to critically look at Adult learning practice

Action: Prototyping Adult Learning meeting on Monday 23 January 2017.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Friday 27 January 2017, 10.30am – 12.30pm.