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Dear colleague,

**Invitation to Education Scotland Senior Community Learning and Development (CLD) Stakeholder Engagement Sessions**

We would like to invite you to one of several upcoming engagement sessions with senior community learning and development (CLD) stakeholders from across Scotland (details below).

Education Scotland’s role is changing as part of the ongoing [education reform](https://www.gov.scot/policies/schools/education-reform/) process. A refocussed Education Scotland has been asked to concentrate on curriculum improvement, and will also have an important role in supporting professional learning.

While this is happening, there is a growing body of international and Scotland-based evidence highlighting the needs of learners and communities that CLD contributes to tackling. The Scottish Government commissioned an [independent review of CLD](https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-life-report-independent-review-community-learning-development-cld/) as part of the education reform process and has recently established a Strategic Leadership Group to consider the review recommendations. Education Scotland’s HM Inspectorate has recently published its [evaluation of CLD in Scotland](https://education.gov.scot/news/hm-inspectorate-publishes-evaluation-of-community-learning-and-development-in-scotland/) which reports on findings from progress visits to Scotland’s local authorities in 2023/24.

In these engagement sessions, we are keen to explore how a changing Education Scotland can improve how it supports the planning, delivery and impact of high-quality community learning and development with learners and groups of all ages.

We would like to explore the following areas with you:

1. What key issues and priorities for CLD learners and CLD providers should a changing Education Scotland focus on?
2. How can Education Scotland’s focus on curriculum improvement and professional learning support CLD?
3. How can Education Scotland better support CLD stakeholders to contribute to Scotland’s [Curriculum Improvement Cycle](https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/about-curriculum-for-excellence/the-curriculum-improvement-cycle-cic/)?

**In person options**

1. [**Thursday 6th March 2025, Edinburgh**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1242299313689?aff=oddtdtcreator)

Venue: Grassmarket Centre, 86 Candlemaker Row, EH1 2QA

10am-3pm. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available.

1. [**Thursday 11th March 2025, Aberdeen**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1242292553469?aff=oddtdtcreator)

Venue: Maritime Museum, Shiprow, AB11 5BY

10am-3pm. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available.

1. [**Tuesday 25th March 2025, Glasgow**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1242241149719?aff=oddtdtcreator)

Venue: Social Security Conference Room, 220 High Street, G4 0QW

10am – 3pm. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available.

[**Online options**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/education-scotland-cld-stakeholder-engagement-sessions-tickets-1242026036309?aff=oddtdtcreator)

1. Thursday 20th March, 10am – 1pm (final times tbc)
2. Thursday 3rd April, 2pm - 5pm (final times tbc)

**Taking part**

We have sent this invitation to:

* Local Authority CLD leads and CLD Managers Scotland. Local authorities are invited to nominate up to three senior officers. Additional spaces are also available for senior partners from your local CLD Partnerships.
* National organisations in the CLD sector and other key stakeholders. Organisations are invited to nominate up to 3 representatives to attend the sessions that suit them best.

We hope as many of you as possible can join us at one of the in-person sessions. We will also host two online discussions.

Please register for the session that suits you best and feel free to share this invitation with relevant senior colleagues and partners in your area or organisation.

These sessions are intended to be the start of what we hope will be ongoing and broadening engagement with our CLD stakeholders about our changing role. If you have any questions about this invitation, then please do get in touch.

We look forward to your participation and the valuable insights you will bring to these discussions.

Kind regards,

Jackie Halawi

**Head of ELC, Communities & Families**

Education Scotland