

New Economic Strategy

The Scottish Government launched its new Economic Strategy on 3rd March. In her Foreword, the First Minister says:

Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out an overarching framework for how we aim to achieve a more productive, cohesive and fairer Scotland. It forms the strategic plan for existing and all future Scottish Government policy.

So this is not intended to be one more plan but the overarching policy that sets the direction for all the Scottish Government's plans.

The Strategy is intended to “combine work to boost economic growth and increase competitiveness **with a drive to tackle inequality.**”

Investing in people and communities

The summary of the Strategy is here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00472392.pdf>

You will see from the summary that one of 4 Priority Areas identified in the Strategy is “Investing in our people, infrastructure and assets in a sustainable way.” Within this, 2 of the 5 key actions are:

- “Invest in Scotland's people at all stages of life to ensure that we have a well-skilled, healthy and resilient population and an innovative, engaged and productive workforce;” and
- “Invest in strengthening the success and resilience of local communities.”

Contributing - or shaping agendas?

Try putting those actions from the Strategy alongside the focus for CLD activity identified in the Strategic Guidance on CLD:

- ⇒ Improved life chances for people of all ages, through learning, personal development and active citizenship.
- ⇒ Stronger, more resilient supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

The comparison makes clear that the relevance of CLD in this context should be a “given.” Can we go beyond this to help shape what the Strategy means in practice?

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Here are some starting points for working out how we can do this:

- **Who will be leading on the strategy in your area?**
- **What do they need to know about CLD?**
- **How can you help them find out?**
- **Can CLD partners help to shape the “drive to tackle inequality”?**
- **Do the strategy's commitments to invest in people and communities offer opportunities to work collaboratively with new partners?**
- **What opportunities are there for communities and people who take part in CLD activities?**



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About us:

The Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland is the body responsible for the registration of CLD Practitioners, the approval of training courses and the continuing professional development of the sector workforce.

Help shape our future, today

This policy commentary has been developed for members of the CLD Standards Council for Scotland. To receive the commentary direct to your mailbox, register with us today.

The registration scheme is open now for all practitioners including volunteers. True to our collaborative approach, the scheme has been developed for the sector, by the sector.

Shaped by the views and experiences of a wide range of CLD practitioners, the CLD registration scheme will continue the culture of dialogue and debate, championing a shared sense of identity amongst practitioners, providing a national voice for the sector, and reaffirming the importance of CLD in Scotland.

Become a member and you can:

- Engage in professional dialogue, nationally and locally
- Drive forward new developments in our sector
- Support and evolve peer-led learning opportunities
- Be involved in Standards Council events and activities
- Play a lead role in shaping the future of the Standards Council
- Have a key influence on policy initiatives and responses

The Register is open to all CLD practitioners who demonstrate the values, principles, competences, Code of Ethics and commitment to CPD that underpin the sector, with two types of membership, based on qualifications and experience: Registered associate members and Registered members.

