South Lanarkshire Adult Literacy and Numeracy Strategy and Strategic Plan
2015 - 2018

South Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development Partnership
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Background

The purpose of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) Strategy and Strategic Plan is to further develop the ways in which Community Learning and Development (CLD) partners can work together to plan and develop ALN provision in South Lanarkshire. The strategy and supporting improvement plan set out the activity that will support the Scottish Government’s vision of ensuring that by 2020,

“Scotland’s society and economy will be stronger because more of its adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners.

The ALN Curriculum Framework 2009 and Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland 2020 documents highlight the importance of adult literacy and numeracy provision in “creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth”. Scotland’s National Performance Framework also recognises its importance where one of the National Indicators is to “reduce the number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems”.

Policy Context

One key policy document informing ALN practice is the Literacy Action Plan: An Action Plan to Improve Literacy in Scotland (Scottish Government 2010), which highlights the following:

“Our overarching vision is therefore to raise standards of literacy for all from the early years to adulthood. This will require sustained commitment and continuing action at all levels of government, and through support at all points of the education system and wider public services. There will be a particular focus on those with the lowest levels of literacy”

The Literacy Action Plan outlines a number of priorities:
- Breaking the link between poor literacy levels and deprivation
- Improving the skills of the few who have difficulties with basic literacy, particularly those who are vulnerable
- Ensuring young people progress successfully from basic to advanced literacy skills
- Raising advanced literacy skills for all

The Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies 2009 reinforced this, stating that adults with literacy and numeracy issues are more likely to have low income and lower level employment. In South Lanarkshire, our shared ambition is to break this link in order to create more successful communities, with opportunities for all of South Lanarkshire to flourish. Within our anti-poverty strategy we focus on targeted action to ensure people in deprived areas get the support they need to develop literacy and numeracy skills, which will help them to improve their own circumstances and those of their families and communities.

Another important document is Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020: Strategic Guidance (Scottish Government 2011) (ALIS)

ALIS has four overarching outcomes:
- Improved access to literacies learning opportunities
- High quality learning and teaching
- Improved infrastructure and
- Evidence of impact
The Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development promotes a more integrated approach to supporting active community participation in the planning and delivery of services including literacies activity that contributes towards the key outcomes of:

- improved life chances for people of all ages, including young people in particular, through learning, personal development and active citizenship
- stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities

In addition South Lanarkshire’s CLD partners acknowledge the Curriculum for Excellence, which aims for young people and adults to be confident individuals, effective contributors, responsible citizens and successful learners.

South Lanarkshire’s commitment to producing positive outcomes for the local economy is underpinned by its key priorities of learning, skills and employability and outlined in: Promoting Growth and Prosperity: An Economic Strategy for South Lanarkshire 2013-2023. The key message of this strategy is that to “compete effectively and meet the needs of a modern economy, South Lanarkshire needs to have a well trained and qualified labour supply”. The ALN strategy is fully compliant with the aspiration of making further progress in skills development, through partners working with individuals and groups using a range of formal and informal learning methods to enable positive change through participation in learning and community action.

Within South Lanarkshire, the Community Learning and Development Partnership is committed to (where appropriate) ensuring that these key areas are an integral part of our planning for Adult Learning provision in general and ALN activity in particular.

Additionally within South Lanarkshire there is a range of strategies and plans that we take cognisance of in refreshing the ALN strategy and supporting actions.

These are:

- Children’s Services Plan
- Tackling Poverty Strategy
- South Lanarkshire Council Literacy Strategy
- South Lanarkshire Council Numeracy Strategy
- South Lanarkshire’s Single Outcome Agreement and supporting community plan
- Literacy in the Early Years
- Promoting Growth and Prosperity: Economic Strategy for South Lanarkshire 2013-23
South Lanarkshire’s Vision

In South Lanarkshire all CLD partners will provide our learners with a high-quality learning experience throughout their learning journey that includes the following commitments:

- commitment to help each learner fulfil their potential
- learning delivery tailored to meet individual learning needs
- clear information, guidance and support for all learners throughout their learning journey

As a result we aim to “ensure South Lanarkshire’s communities and local economy will be stronger because more of its adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners.”
Definition of adult literacy and numeracy

The Scottish Government’s Adult Literacy and Numeracy Report, published in 2001, set out what has become the key definition of adult literacy and numeracy in Scotland:

The ability to read, write and use numeracy, to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners. (ALNIS)

This definition formed the basis of a new vision published by the Scottish Government in 2011 in the form of Adult Literacies in Scotland 2020: Strategic Guidance:

By 2020 Scotland’s society and economy will be stronger because more of its adults are able to read, write and use numbers effectively in order to handle information, communicate with others, express ideas and opinions, make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners. (ALIS 2020)

Research carried out in 2009 as part of the Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies revealed that around a quarter of learners have reduced opportunities because of weak literacy skills. Within this group around 4% (1 in 28), face serious difficulties. The research also highlighted a strong link between poverty and poor literacy skills. Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies 2009. (SSAL 2009)

Literacy is firmly rooted in the social practice model, which recognises that literacy and numeracy are complex capabilities rather than a simple set of basic skills involving reading, writing and numbers. Learning should be set in the learners context, with a focus on the development of skills and knowledge which are relevant to each learner’s everyday life. This approach is integral to the work of CLD partners in South Lanarkshire.
Who is ALN for?

Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) provision is designed to support any adults who need support to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. Learners have different needs and circumstances and there will be key transition points in their lives when the provision of support will be of increased importance, e.g. leaving school, accessing employment, re-entering the community after a period in prison, becoming a parent etc. Our aim is to reach a diverse range of learners through provision of a range of learning opportunities with flexible learning methods and learning styles.

Literacy and Numeracy provision in South Lanarkshire extends beyond the acquisition of the skills of reading, writing and using numbers. We believe it is most successfully taught using a “social practice” model of delivery (making learning more relevant for everyday situations e.g. social media, budgeting, shopping etc) highlighting the importance of a learner-centred approach and individual goals. The focus is always on how the learner will use the skills, knowledge and understanding of reading, writing and numbers in their everyday lives: with their families, at work, gaining qualifications to progress towards a job (or a better job) and in their communities.

We aim to do this via highly skilled, trained and motivated staff to ensure the learning experiences are relevant to learners’ lives. As part of this commitment we aim to support staff and volunteers to achieve Professional Development Awards (PDA’s) in Tutoring Adult Literacies (TAL) and Supporting Adult Literacies (SALL) as a minimum standard of qualification.
Where does ALN happen?
ALN activity happens throughout our communities in a range of settings, wherever learners are or feel comfortable. Partners are committed to ensuring that learning opportunities are made accessible to all who need or want to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

The following list is intended to be neither exclusive nor exhaustive:
- Libraries
- Community Centres and Halls
- Churches
- Schools
- Community Flats
- Workplaces
- Colleges
- Youth Learning Centres (Universal Connections)

Who are the partners?
The delivery of ALN provision in South Lanarkshire is the responsibility of the Community Learning and Development Partnership and a range of key partner organisations deliver services on behalf of the partnership.

These partners are:
- Community Learning and Home School Partnership Service
- Further Education Colleges (South Lanarkshire College and New College Lanarkshire)
- Workers’ Educational Association (WEA)
- Youth Learning Service
- South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
- Employers
- Learners
- Scottish Prison Service
- Social Work Resources (Criminal Justice Services, Adult Services)
- Referring agencies (e.g. NHS Lanarkshire, Schools, Housing, Job Centre Plus etc)
- Hamilton Information Project for Youth (HIPY)
- Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN)
Guiding principles of ALN

The key principles in the delivery of ALN services are:

- **Inclusiveness** – Provision which supports all potential learners irrespective of which section of society and the local community they identify with.
- **Quality** – Provision which strives to deliver the highest quality learning experience for all learners.
- **Achievement** – Provision which contributes to the wider national literacies targets and promotes attainment and personal and social achievement.
- **Progression** – Provision which supports and encourages routes into further learning, employment and community life.
- **Accessibility** – Provision that enables all potential learners to participate in the learning experience irrespective of where they live, language, mobility and confidence barriers.
- **Relevance** – Provision of learning experiences that allow learners to benefit in circumstances relevant to them e.g. economic and social inclusion, health and well being and family learning that improves the life chances of individuals.
- **Entitlement** – Learners are entitled to high quality tutoring and learning experiences, resources and venues and are entitled to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

Strategic Plan

The following areas of activity will be prioritised by South Lanarkshire’s Community Learning and Development Partnership over the next three years.

- Awareness of ALN provision
- Targeting of learners
- Quality of ALN provision
- Progression of learners
- Joint planning and delivery of learning
- Digital and financial inclusion
# Outcome 1: Improved awareness of ALN provision.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Lead</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Continue to roll out use of the ALN DVD to a range of learning community settings.</td>
<td>Increased awareness of ALN provision amongst service users and potential service users.</td>
<td>CLHSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Produce improved PR materials for use in learning communities.</td>
<td>Better communication, understanding and trust relationships between service providers and service users.</td>
<td>LAPG’s</td>
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# Outcome 2: There is improved targeting of learners.

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<tr>
<td>2.1 Local CLD Action Planning Groups embed ALN in their joint planning.</td>
<td>Better communication and understanding between service providers at a local level.</td>
<td>LAPG’s</td>
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# Outcome 3: Improved quality of ALN provision.

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<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.1 Provide regular opportunities for partners to share good practice in ALN.</td>
<td>Improved networking and communication between ALN partners.</td>
<td>LAPG’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Evaluate the impact of PDA TAL/SALL training for staff and volunteers.</td>
<td>Improved delivery of ALN provision in South Lanarkshire.</td>
<td>CLHSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Deliver appropriate training opportunities for partners, staff and volunteers from the Professional Development Framework for Adult Literacy and Numeracy staff.</td>
<td>Improved delivery of ALN provision in South Lanarkshire.</td>
<td>CLHSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Increase opportunities for learners to achieve accreditation for completing SQA Core Skills unit and bite size modules</td>
<td>Improved access to accredited learning opportunities.</td>
<td>All</td>
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# Outcome 4: Improved progression of learners

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<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.1 Produce a Learning Pathway for adult learners within South Lanarkshire that supports progression in learning.</td>
<td>Provision of learning opportunities for people who want to improve their reading, writing and number skills.</td>
<td>CLDP</td>
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### Outcome 5: The effectiveness of strategic and local partnerships to plan and co-ordinate delivery of learning provision is improved.

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<tr>
<td>5.1 Co-ordinate two meetings per year of the ALN Partnership</td>
<td>Better communication and understanding between ALN service providers.</td>
<td>CLHSP</td>
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### Outcome 6: Digital and financial inclusion is increased.

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<th>Measure</th>
<th>Lead</th>
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<tr>
<td>6.1 Provide learning programmes that target adults who are digitally and financially excluded. (e.g. Basic IT Bite Size Managing Your Money)</td>
<td>Targeted Community Learning and Development support to most deprived areas of South Lanarkshire.</td>
<td>CLDP</td>
</tr>
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**Key:**
- **CLDP** - Community Learning and Development Partnership
- **CLHSP** - Community Learning and Home School Partnership
- **LAPG** - Locality Action Planning Groups
Further Information

The following contact information is intended to help you find out more about Adult Literacy and/or Numeracy provision within South Lanarkshire.

Locality CLHSP Offices

Clydesdale/Larkhall: 01698 452501
Cambuslang/Rutherglen: 0141 630 2520
Hamilton/Blantyre/Bothwell and Uddingston: 01698 452154
East Kilbride/Strathaven: 01357 528719

WEA: WEA Scotland – 0141 221 0003
South Lanarkshire College: East Kilbride – 01355 807780
New College Lanarkshire: Motherwell – 0300 555 8080
South Lanarkshire Libraries: Leisure and Culture – 01698 476262

Youth Learning Services

Clydesdale: 01555 751818
Hamilton: 01698 456680
East Kilbride: 01355 221829
Cambuslang/Rutherglen/Uddingston and Bothwell: 0141 641 6530
Hamilton Information Project for Youth: 01698 891687

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
Phone: 0303 123 1015 or email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk