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24 January 2012

To: Chief Officers of national voluntary organisations with a role in community learning and development

Dear Colleague,

### **Scottish Government refreshed Strategic Guidance for Community Learning and Development (CLD)**

The Scottish Government announced in the post-16 education pre-legislative paper *Putting Learners at the Centre* that it will work with local authorities, the Third Sector and others to develop strategic guidance for community learning and development (CLD). Education Scotland has taken on the role of promoting a discussion to inform this strategy. The Scottish Government expects to publish the refreshed strategic guidance in May, and recognises the significant role CLD can play across a wide range of national outcomes.

As you know, the Scottish Government's existing framework for CLD, *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities (2004)*, was issued as guidance to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and, given the cross-cutting role of CLD in relation to a range of key policies and outcomes, we expect the new strategy to call on CPPs to take on a similarly central role. We have arranged 4 regionally-based events and CPPs have been invited to arrange representation to these reflecting their own particular ambitions for CLD. We hope that the third sector will be significantly represented at these events.

We also recognise that a range of national voluntary organisations have an essential role in CLD and we are very pleased to be organising an event specifically for them, supported by Learning Link Scotland and Youthlink Scotland, which along with the regional discussions will play a key part in informing the refreshed strategic guidance.

This event will take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** at the Grosvenor Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh (starting 10 for 10.30 a.m., finishing at 3.30 p.m.). We are able to offer your organisation one place at the event; please feel free to nominate a second person and we will accommodate them if at all possible.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Colin Ross by email [colin.ross@educationscotland.gov.uk](mailto:colin.ross@educationscotland.gov.uk) or telephone 0141 282 5252. You should also find attached further information from Youthlink Scotland and Learning Link Scotland; Youthlink will be co-ordinating bookings. There will of course also be an opportunity to provide a written response to the issues for discussion.

The refresh of Strategic Guidance for CLD is an important opportunity to drive forward essential aspects of key agendas including Curriculum for Excellence, the Literacy Action Plan, 16+ Learning Choices, regeneration and community empowerment. The Scottish Government also sees the discussion as a way of developing our shared thinking on key issues including post-16 education, college regionalisation and the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill.

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We look forward to working with your organisation to take this discussion forward and ensure that the strategy for CLD plays a key part in delivering positive outcomes for our communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Jardine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Jardine".

**Anne Jardine**  
**Director of Learning and Community**