

Adult Learning and COVID-19

Learning Link Scotland Zoom Meeting 6th May 2020



Ministerial group

- Richard Lochhead, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science established a high level leadership group across the sectors as a key part of the response to managing the Covid-19 situation.
- The purpose of this group is to bring together stakeholders from across the college, university and community learning sectors to consider both the ongoing response and planning for the future
- Chair of CLD Standards Council Alan Sherry is a member of the Group
- To support and inform Alan, there is a CLD Stakeholder Reference Group membership of which includes sector representative from YouthLink Scotland, Learning Link Scotland, the CLD Standards Council, College Development Network, CLD Managers Scotland and Education Scotland.

Learning Link Scotland's contributions

Learning Link Scotland consulted members and partners about the impact on adult learning of the current COVID-19 crisis.

Adult Learning and COVID-19

- The first survey we carried out found that adult learning opportunities are providing a real life line for a lot of people, especially the most vulnerable and isolated learners.
- There are many challenges in maintaining contact and delivery under the current circumstances, the main challenge is that many learners have no access to digital technology or use of the internet and are not confident in using digital technologies.
- In addition, not all staff and tutors have access to or the skills to use appropriate technology. When asked what support is required, respondents identified that they needed extended and flexible funding that will enable organisations to have more flexibility with how to use funding to best meet learners' needs and give staff the security they need during this period.
- You can read more in the full report: [Adult Learning and COVID-19](#)

Third sector response

- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) established an emergency response team to source equipment, train individuals and support households which lack access to the internet. They are working in partnership with SG, Scotland IS, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Disability Alliance and others.
- SCVO Website has lots of useful information about getting online:
[Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub](#)

Future of Digital Learning

- The CLD Stakeholders Reference Group is currently contributing to discussions around creating a coherent and cohesive digital learning offer to support learners throughout their journey.
- The Adult Learning Strategic Forum for Scotland (ALSFS) Group are contributing to the development of this offer.
- The offer aims to make a case for building connected learning communities that link our prisons, communities, colleges and universities around supported learning for vulnerable young people, adults and families.