

Dundee Partnership Community Learning Strategy Group

CULTURAL COMMISSION RESPONSE

The Dundee Community Learning Partnership operates under the auspices of the Dundee Partnership and brings together representatives from the University of Dundee, University of Abertay, Dundee College, the Job Centre Plus, Careers Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, a range of Council Departments and a range of voluntary sector organisations.

The Dundee community Learning Partnership would wish to add emphasis to some of the submissions already made and copied to us.

- 1 We welcome the broad definition of cultural rights.

We would, however, prefer to see the following:

The right to explore, express and extend **their** culture identity.

Under the right to literacy we would prefer to see the following:

Every citizen in Scotland should have the right to access facilities which provide informal learning, access to reading material, information services which promote literacy.

- 2 Having had access to both Dundee City Council and the CoSLA interim position statements, we are broadly in support of the changes they are advocating.
- 3 Under the head Local Entitlements, we think it is critically important to **include Libraries** in the list of access to essential communities facilities, along with halls, community centres, schools etc.
- 4 In point 9 of the same list, **delete manuscript**, this appears somewhat dated.

- 5 **Governance at a Local Level**

In Dundee, the Community Learning Strategy for the City has been developed on a partnership basis but is anchored by the Local Authority and is taken through the Local Authority decision-making process as a means of ensuring support for the strategy from democratically elected local members.

The establishment of "formal partnership arrangements" under the Community Planning Partnership for the delivery of community learning provides a model which could be adopted for local cultural strategies. In fact, there is the potential for both models to work on a complementary and potentially integrated basis.

We do not, however, see any benefit in creating formal structures on a regional basis - where appropriate, community planning partnerships and local authorities should be expected to collaborate.

6 Summary

At the heart of our Community Learning Strategy for Dundee is a set of actions which seek to improve the quality of life and to create articulate, literate and confident citizens.

We have a vision of Dundee where "every citizen contributes to community life and community learning in order to dream, to discover and to develop" (Community Learning Partnership Vision).

The realisation of **this vision will be assisted by the development of a cultural strategy**, which is not driven by agency or sectoral interests but which puts the citizens of Scotland at the centre, which gives them a sense of their own cultural heritage and future, and which speaks directly to them in terms of their aspirations for their own quality of life and that of their families.

Copies of Dundee's Community Learning Strategy can be accessed through www.dundee.gov.uk under 'What we Do' - 'Council Publications'.

Stewart Murdoch - Chair
on behalf of the Dundee Community Learning Partnership