

**Learning community inspection
Follow-through**



A report by HM Inspectors

**Inspection of the learning community
surrounding Kinlochbervie High School
The Highland Council
16 July 2013**

We published a report on the learning community surrounding Kinlochbervie High School in January 2010. That report set out key strengths of the learning community and areas for improvement. We carried out follow-through inspections in March 2011 and April/May 2012 and published reports on those visits in May 2011 and June 2012.

This follow-through report is based on an inspection visit which was carried out in June 2013. It tells you about improvement since the original inspection in the quality of learning opportunities provided. It also comments on how providers are getting on with the main points for action. We describe how learners are doing and how good the learning community is at helping them to learn. We comment on how well staff, learners and groups work together and the difference they are making in the learning community. Finally, we focus on how well the learning community is led and how leaders help the learning community achieve its aims.

If you would like to learn more about our original inspection of the learning community, please visit www.educationscotland.gov.uk. You will also find a report on the secondary school.

Contents

- 1. The learning community**
- 2. Particular strengths of the learning community**
- 3. How well do participants learn and achieve?**
- 4. How well are communities developing and achieving?**
- 5. How effective are providers in improving the quality of services?**
- 6. Does the learning community have a clear sense of direction?**
- 7. What happens next?**

1. The learning community

The learning community around Kinlochbervie High School includes the villages of Kinlochbervie, Durness, and Scourie and other small settlements including Achfary and Eriboll. Since the last follow-through inspection, key vacancies in the area have now been filled.

2. Particular strengths of the learning community

- Strong and effective community organisations.
- Improving provision for adult learners and young people leading to good outcomes.
- Improving partnership working across the learning community.

3. How well do participants learn and achieve?

Participation in adult learning and youth work continues to improve. North West Training Centre (NWTC) continues to deliver well-structured adult learning and accredited courses based clearly on community need. They make good use of trend information to plan their work. Young people gain an increasing range of accreditation including Sports Leader and The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Partners are beginning to use data more effectively to plan and develop their work. There is scope for High Life Highland to embed this further into their practice.

Young people

Young people enjoy access to an increasing range of quality activities. The recently opened portacabin youth café offers an attractive, well-resourced and welcoming environment for older young people. Opportunities for young people to have a voice in decision making are improving. Youth Reps meetings help young people actively contribute to youth work programme design. Young people participate well in the Active Schools programme. Many are applying skills gained to the benefit of the local community. Young people regularly participate in Highland Youth Voice events. Support from the Youth Development Officer (YDO) and school is effective. Local Youth Fusion events are well attended. Cash Back for Communities funding enables more young people to participate in activities. The sessional youth worker vacancy for Kinlochbervie has now been filled. This is increasing support for youth work locally. Young people actively participated in the planning of North Coast Youth Day workshops on internet safety, sexual health and drugs. The recently established Youth Network (YN) is improving joint working across partners around the theme of employability.

Adults

Opportunities for adults to learn and achieve continue to improve. New provision in Durness and Scourie established since last year is attracting new learners. Through commissioned classes, learners successfully apply their learning in other settings, for example, in speaking French and Gaelic. A strong focus on improving skills in using information and communications technology is helping adult learners to be more competitive in the jobs market. A few adults are gaining qualifications such as first aid, food hygiene and European Computer Driving Licence. NWTC continues to support learners well to enhance skills that help them run small businesses. These include healthy cookery and computing. In conjunction with Kinlochbervie High School, NWTC is working with parents to help them improve their mathematical skills which support their children's learning. The recently appointed Adult Literacies Worker is beginning to make an impact through collaboration with NWTC.

4. How well are communities developing and achieving?

Local Development Trusts in Durness and Kinlochbervie continue to be confident and active. Both Kinlochbervie and Durness Development Trusts are well supported by local Community Project officers. A derelict property being renovated in Kinlochbervie will provide much needed accommodation for local people. The Durness community is supported effectively by Durness Development Trust in their attempt to purchase the Cape Wrath lighthouse and surrounding land. As a result of secured funding, the Kinlochbervie After School Club is increasing provision. Targeted support and funding from the Ward Manager is benefiting the local community. A major youth conference organised by Sutherland Partnership in November 2012 helped identify key gaps in the provision for young people around health and employability. In response to issues relating to fishing rights, Kinlochbervie Community Council is establishing civic and economic links with a similar fishing community in the Faroe Islands. Future funding of the Sutherland Partnership remains unclear and this may affect its sustainability in the longer term.

5. How effective are providers in improving the quality of services?

Self-evaluation and planning is improving across the learning community. NWTC includes regular reviews as part of its ongoing work and it regularly seeks the views of partners and learners. The Active Schools coordinator works well with a range of partners to improve provision for young people. Joint funding applications are being progressed as a result. Partnership working at a local level is improving. The YN is beginning to improve joint working although there is more to do. Partnerships between the YDO, Active Schools coordinator and the headteacher of Kinlochbervie High School have developed well since last year. There is now a genuine sense of joint working and planning to improve outcomes for learners.

6. Does the learning community have a clear sense of direction?

There is a much improved sense of direction across the learning community. Kinlochbervie High School, the YDO and Active Schools coordinator show a strong sense of shared purpose. The YDO has been proactive in developing a local network for key youth work partners. Not all local youth work providers actively engage in the YN and this could be improved. Third sector organisations are not yet fully engaged as equals in partnership working. There is scope to understand their respective roles better and to capitalise on contributions from all partners more effectively.

7. What happens next?

We are satisfied that since the original inspection there is good progress in terms of outcomes for learners and partnership working. CLD providers now have a much better understanding of strengths and areas for improvement. As a result, we will carry out no further inspection visits in connection with this learning community.

HM Inspector: Sheila Brown
16 July 2013

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