



Navigating Change: Developments in CLD Practice

A Report on the 2025 Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance (TFPLA) Conference



Tayside and Fife
CLD Professional Learning Alliance



Navigating Change: Developments in CLD Practice, a conference for CLD practitioners across Tayside and Fife was held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at the Michelin Innovation Parc in Dundee. The programme was jam-packed with keynotes from Steven Grieg ([Gannochy Trust keynote](#)) and Keren Hadden and Laura Cooney from CAMHS ([CAMHS keynote](#)), and five workshops held across the day; some running twice. The day closed with a panel question and answer session with representatives from University of Dundee, the CLD Standards Council, Dundee City Council and Education Scotland.

The themes for the day's learning were identified through [questions asked to CLD practitioners across Tayside & Fife about their professional learning needs](#).

Keynotes:

'What if we collaborate?'

**Steven Grieg, Development Manager
The Gannochy Trust**

Steven Greig worked for Youth Scotland for 25 years supporting 1,200 voluntary run youth groups. Steven established the Hi5 Awards, Dynamic Youth Awards, Scottish Youth Achievement Awards, and managed the creation of the Awards Network in Scotland. He moved to a new post within the Gannochy Trust in 2017 as Development Manager to maximize the impact of the Trust's grant-making, assets, and resources for the benefit of people, communities, and organizations. The Strategic Youth Work Partnership was established in 2019 through collaboration between The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council. Its purpose was to shift the competitive nature of funding youth work towards encouraging cooperation among third sector youth work providers, creating a strategic partnership for universal youth work provision throughout the region, and providing longer-term funding for sustainable third sector youth work provision. At the end of the first five-year contracts, the number of young people receiving youth work provision doubled, delivery localities increased, more staff and volunteers were involved, and youth work charities reported increased resilience and sustainability.



‘Supporting Young Minds: Shaping the Future Through Collective Action’

Laura Cooney & Kerren Hadden, Mental Health Education Officers.

NHS Tayside CAMHS (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service).

Laura and Kerren explored the importance of prioritising the mental health of children and young people. While conflicting headlines and debates often surround how best to approach their needs, they focused on what truly matters: supporting their growth, resilience, and wellbeing, providing insights into current efforts, what’s working, and offering an opportunity for participants to collaborate and brainstorm innovative ways to strengthen our collective action. By coming together, we can create a future where every young person’s mental health is nurtured, and they are empowered to thrive.



Workshops

Turning Numbers into Compelling Narratives

Steven Grieg, Development Manager

The Gannochy Trust

With a devastating decline in youth work for decades, this workshop showcased how data can be used to make a compelling case for effective change, simply by working differently. A story of genuine collaboration between a Council, a funding Trust, and third sector youth work agencies.

Digital in CLD: Tools, Tips and Trends

Darran Gillan

SCVO Digital

This workshop explored innovative digital tools for CLD practice, their benefits and challenges, and best practice for effective integration.

Community Development in Action

Sarah Boath

Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC)

Exploring enablers and barriers to community engagement practice. This workshop aimed to help practitioners increase their skills and confidence in working alongside communities.



Career Pathways in CLD

Dr Alan Mackie, University of Dundee, and Dr Mei-Li Roberts, University Highlands & Islands

This workshop encouraged participants to reflect on their career journey so far and consider the barriers and catalysts that have supported development. The available pathways to CLD accreditation were discussed alongside how we might better support and develop the workforce.

Planet Youth – a Preventative Approach

Jennifer Miller, Angus Council

The aim of Planet youth is to build and strengthen positive protective factors in and around young people's lives to try and prevent or delay the onset of risk-taking behaviours in their teenage years such as vaping. This workshop took participants through some key data from Angus, the methodology used with Planet youth and lessons learned so far.

Participants

79 people attended on the day, with a breakdown of local authorities/organisations below

Dundee City Council	12
Fife Council	17
Angus Council	12
Perth & Kinross Council	9
National Organisations	8
Local third sector	10
Unknown	6
HE/FE (inc. students)	5

Feedback

Feedback was gathered using Menti. Six questions were asked across the day, a snapshot of the responses are shown below:

1. In your existing collaborations what would make them more effective?

- *Strong communication between partners*
- *Other sectors develop an understanding of CLD.*
- *Turning a negative (wicked!) issue into a positive!*
- *Trust*

2. What is one practical way we can work together to strengthen how we support young minds?

- *Providing hope for the future for young people - youth work*
- *Providing opportunities for young people's voice to be heard*
- *Provide education and support for parents, caregivers and families.*
- *Training and communication with CAHMS.*

3. What was the most useful part of today's event?

- *Networking and sharing ideas*
- *Being face to face*
- *Coming together to share knowledge and experience. And the laughter.*

- *Interesting inputs and workshop themes*

4. How would you rate today's event (19 respondents)

- *The discussion was relevant to me and my work – 95% strongly agreed or agreed*
- *Time was well managed – 79% strongly agreed or agreed*
- *The topics were interesting – 100% strongly agreed or agreed*
- *It was pleasant and enjoyable – 89% strongly agreed or agreed*

5. Is there anything you wish we'd talked about more

- *Sharing good practice*
- *Community Wealth Building*
- *Community Development*
- *National KPI's*

6. What other CLD professional learning priorities would you like us to focus on in future?

- *Capacity building*
- *Joint external funding and sharing resources*
- *Third sector focus*
- *How to write case studies*
- *Planning and evaluating*

Next Steps

Along with the priorities identified by practitioners prior to the event, the priorities identified here see many parallels. As such, discussions amongst the Tayside and Alliance members at the meeting subsequent to the event focused on potentially running sessions on *Community Engagement* and *Impact* at our next event. Both these themes are appearing consistently in feedback from practitioners as areas of interest.



Tayside and Fife Professional Learning Alliance

The Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance is a professional learning forum for community learning and development workers and volunteers working across Angus, Dundee, Perth and Kinross and Fife.

- Our [wakelet](#) site includes a range of links and resources, including videos from the day.
- Email tfpla@dundeeclld.scot to join our mailing list and stay up to date on future professional learning events.
- Find out more about CLD at the [CLD Standards Council for Scotland](#) website.