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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DISCUSSION

**Title: LEARNING AND INCLUSION**

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#### **Purpose**

To discuss with the Board our work on Learning and Inclusion and look ahead to the focus for this work in our next corporate plan period.

#### **Recommendations**

**The Board are asked to**

- a) Note progress to date delivering work on learning and inclusion;**
- b) Consider how to make the most of our strategic partnerships in learning and inclusion.**

#### **Executive Summary**

This paper outlines our work with partners over the past three years in encouraging a wider range of people to enjoy and learn about the National Park and our approach to developing outdoor learning. A summary of key outputs over the period is provided. The proposed focus and partnership programme for the next three years of the Corporate Plan is outlined and the Board are asked to consider how best to make the most of our strategic partnerships in learning and inclusion in the context of the current programme for government.

## LEARNING AND INCLUSION - FOR DISCUSSION

### Strategic Context

1. Work on outdoor learning is identified as a priority in the National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2012-17:

#### *10. Outdoor learning*

*This programme is about making sure the opportunities to learn about and learn from the Park are promoted, supported and co-ordinated as effectively as possible. The various ranger services around the Park as well as visitor management staff at sites and centres support this programme through their work.*

#### *10a. Using National Parks in the curriculum*

- a) *Continue to develop and support outdoor learning in National Parks through the Curriculum for Excellence in schools near the Park and throughout Scotland.*

#### *10b. Learning from the Park*

- a) *Support for community-based and adult learning opportunities that use the Park.*
- b) *Support for schemes such as the John Muir Award and Cairngorms Junior Rangers to provide structured ways of developing skills and knowledge based around the Park.*

2. It is a key principle in NPPP is that Scottish National Parks are ‘Parks for All. National Parks are for all of Scotland’s people..... They should offer opportunities for all, regardless of physical ability, age, income or background. ‘
3. A key outcome under our public equality duties (2013-17) is, ‘by removing barriers, more equality groups, including young people, will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the Park.’
4. The current Programme for Government in Scotland places significant emphasis on ‘Building a fairer Scotland and tackling inequality through passing power to people and communities’. One of the most significant contributions the National Park can make to this is through opening up opportunities for people of all backgrounds across Scotland to enjoy the Park, and for it to support their personal development.

### Summary of Work to Date

5. In recent years our work developing learning and inclusion has focused on:-
  - a) Building strong partnerships that can deliver specific programmes of activity that directly relate to the special qualities of the National Park.

- b) Reducing the barriers to people enjoying and learning about the National Park by; providing information and raising awareness, building confidence and commitment, and providing practical support.

6. Our key partners are:

- a) Education Scotland
- b) Five Local Authorities
- c) EnFor Group – CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Loch Lomond and Trossachs NPA, Historic Scotland, SEPA, Royal Botanic Gardens.
- d) Ranger Services and Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA)
- e) Europarc Federation
- f) John Muir Trust
- g) Backbone (Celebrating Diversity through Adventure)
- h) Inclusive Cairngorms

7. Table I below summarises outputs against key areas of **partnership** work over the last three years

Table I Summary of Outdoor Learning and Inclusion Activity 2012-15	
Activity	Output
Learning and Curriculum resources	Resource sheets & case studies for four sites (inc. 2 NNR's) Cairngorms Learning Zone website updated National 4/5 and Higher Geography resources developed.
Training Courses and Workshops for Teachers and Leaders	12 attending impacting on approximately 250 leaders
Senior Pupil National Parks Residential	192 pupils from 26 secondary schools
Education Projects (Media Project, Outdoor Learning Competition and IMBY Planning)	Media Project – 10 schools, 150 pupils IMBY- 8 Primary Schools OL Comp. – 11 schools participated
John Muir Award	8198 Awards (25% from socially excluded groups)
Europarc Junior Ranger Scheme	148 Junior Rangers 24 attending European camps & events
Travel grants	44 schools & 10 under-represented groups 1,771 people with 50% first time visitors from 'deprived' areas.

Table I Summary of Outdoor Learning and Inclusion Activity 2012-15	
Activity	Output
Targeted work with underrepresented groups	Over 350 people from multi-cultural communities attended the 2014 Festival for All in Blair Atholl 48 community leaders trained from marginalised communities leading to 869 people engaging with their environment
Equalities work – Inclusive Cairngorms	Consultation and advice on:- 14 CNPA projects & policies 13 planning applications

8. It is important to note that the vast majority of the ‘face to face’ delivery of activity is undertaken by partners. Our role is in supporting and influencing the work of partners and demonstrating the value of linking their work to the National Park.
9. We are confident in the last three years that the Cairngorms National Park is recognised by Education Scotland and teaching professionals in and around the Park as being a valuable resource capable of enhancing their work.
10. The delivery of nationally and internationally recognised learning awards (John Muir Award and Junior Ranger) is a continuing success.
11. Much of the work is targeted towards young people and this is helping to develop confident and informed ambassadors for the area.
12. Good progress has been made on reducing barriers to people enjoying and learning about the National Park but further work is required going forward.

### **Recommendation**

13. **The Board are asked to note progress to date on our work on learning and inclusion.**

### **Forward Look**

14. The CNPA Corporate Plan 2015-18 continues to recognise Learning and Inclusion as key way of engaging with people with the National Park, supporting delivery of priorities across conservation, visitor experience and rural development. This work is a key to delivering significant parts of both Active Cairngorms and Cairngorms Nature strategies.

15. Our focus for the coming three years is on continuing to position the National Park as a national asset for learning and inclusion for people across Scotland, delivering:
- Outstanding learning opportunities both within and about the National Park that deliver both the Curriculum for Excellence and other recognised programmes of attainment.
  - Inspiring and engaging learning opportunities about the National Park that creates a new generation of informed and responsible advocates for the area's natural and cultural heritage.
  - Accessible learning opportunities that encourage a wider cross section of society to enjoy, learn about and care for the National Park.
16. Table 2 below summarises our focussed programme of activity over the life of the next Corporate Plan.

Activity	Partner	Output
Learning & curriculum resources	Site managers EnFor Education Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 NNR packs developed</li> <li>Materials for Tomintoul &amp; Glenlivet</li> <li>N4/5 &amp; Higher materials for two curriculum areas</li> </ul>
Teaching in Nature – GTC approved course.	Education Scotland EnFor	20 Teachers trained
Planning awareness training for Primary Pupils	Local Authorities	Programmes delivered to four schools per year with P6-7 pupils
Physical activity for inactive groups	Education Scotland Active Schools	6 Secondary Schools piloting Nordic walking programme with teenage girls
John Muir Award	John Muir Trust Delivery Partners	2,500 awards per year (25% from disadvantaged groups)
Junior Ranger Scheme	Europarc Federation SCRA CNP Ranger Services	75 Junior Rangers per year
Junior Ranger 18+	Europarc Federation SCRA CNP Ranger Services	Four 18+ Young Rangers per year
Travel Grant	EnFor	35 travel grants to schools and underrepresented groups per year
Community Leadership Programme	Backbone EnFor	14 Leaders trained engaging with 500 people in marginalised communities
Equalities work	Inclusive Cairngorms	Consulted on 10 projects, policies or planning applications

17. This work builds on the foundations developed over the last three years and delivers a structured programme of activity designed to encourage even more engagement with the National Park.

### **Recommendation**

18. **That the Board consider how to make the most of our strategic partnerships in learning and inclusion.**

### **Resource Implications**

19. The programme of activity has been developed to be coordinated using existing CNPA staff resources. Funding support is within the 2015-18 Corporate Plan.

### **Next Steps**

20. The Board will be updated on progress through the National Park Partnership Plan and Corporate Plan reporting processes and the Equalities Action Plan.

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