

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 14 JANUARY 2009

LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROGRESS REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress and continuing developments in relation to literacy and numeracy support for children, young people and adults within educational establishments and the local community.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Early Intervention was a national initiative launched in 1997, aimed at raising standards of literacy and numeracy in pre school education and in the early years of primary schools. As the initiative progressed in East Ayrshire the focus developed to promote support across Early Years, Primary and early stages of Secondary education provision. The Early Intervention Programme delivered a wide range of initiatives which resulted in raised attainment in literacy and numeracy. Curriculum for Excellence now provides the opportunities to develop a continuous focus on literacy and numeracy and allows for these developments to be mainstreamed.
- 2.2** The Future Learning and Teaching (FLaT) Projects in Literacy and Numeracy were focused on improving the transition between primary and secondary school and on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- 2.3** In August 2005 the Authority started a comprehensive Continual Professional Development (CPD) Programme of support to raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy. This programme included CPD for teachers and Head Teachers, a focus on assessment and direct support to schools. Each Primary School identified a Leader in Literacy who was provided with specific training in literacy development to enable them to develop and lead literacy initiatives in their individual schools. Some Secondary Schools have appointed Principal Teachers of Literacy and Numeracy to take forward developments.
- 2.4** Improving standards of Literacy and Numeracy are part of East Ayrshire's Priority to Improvement and are key targets identified in the Single Outcome Agreement: National Outcome 4 and our local outcome 'Educational and Skills Attainment in schools increased'. Curriculum for Excellence provides the opportunity to develop a continuous focus on literacy and numeracy and allows for these developments to be mainstreamed.
- 2.5** East Ayrshire's Community Learning and Development Partnership are responsible for implementing and monitoring community based adult literacy and numeracy projects.

2.6 The current Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2006 -2008 sets out the priorities for the Community Learning and Development Partnership. The production of the Action Plan was a funding requirement by the Scottish Executive at the time.

2.7 Adult Literacy and Numeracy is also one of the aims contained in the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Educational Establishments

3.2 The current staffing to support the final phase of the Early Intervention Initiative is: 2 Literacy Developers and 4 Early Intervention Early Years Workers. The Literacy Developers' work this session will focus on supporting a research project, in partnership with Strathclyde University, aimed at raising attainment in literacy at the Primary 5 stage. A Steering Group will review the impact of the programmes and set out plans for future developments in literacy and numeracy in line with Curriculum for Excellence and Journey to Excellence.

3.3 There has been a continued and sustained focus on literacy and numeracy development. Continuing Professional Development has been made available for staff, direct support to schools has been provided and guidance and support materials have been disseminated. The Closing the Literacy Gap Initiatives, which promote active learning and learning through play, has been extended to all early stages and the work of the FLAT projects have been shared across the authority. The Authority facilitated CPD on Closing the Literacy and Numeracy Gap through links with Strathclyde University, resulting in teachers being trained to offer intervention programmes for pupils identified as requiring additional support in literacy and numeracy.

3.4 The Progress in International Literacy Study (PIRLS Research Project) is being carried out by the Literacy Developers, in partnership with Strathclyde University. This assessment and intervention programme is being piloted in 7 control schools and 7 intervention schools across the authority. The results will be collated in the Summer Term. The results of this research will inform practice in intervention strategies in reading across the authority

3.5 Community

3.6 The undernoted services and projects are funded by the Community Learning and Development Partnership to deliver literacy and numeracy programmes to learners.

- East Ayrshire's Community Learning and Development's Essential Skills Project including Youth Literacies
- Kilmarnock College Building Learning Capacity
- Auchinleck Learning Partnership Family Learning

- Doon Learning Partnership Family Learning
- East Ayrshire Libraries Literacy Resources
- ALLIES Return to Learning Project
- East Ayrshire, Educational and Social Services, The Learning Project

3.7 Significant progress has been made in relation to community based adult literacy and numeracy in 2007/08. This includes:

- An increase in the number of learners involved in adult literacy and numeracy programmes. In 2007/08 a total of 2050 learners participated in community based adult literacy and numeracy programmes. This figure included family learning learners who completed Group Learning Plans. In 2006/07 the number of learners was 1870.
- In 2007/08, 203 calls were made to the adult literacies Help at Hand Freephone number.
- The Community Learning and Development Partnership approved permanent funding for the Essentials Skills Project including Youth Literacies and Kilmarnock College's Learning Project.
- Two successful Pan Ayrshire Learners' Conferences have been held. The first was held in East Ayrshire and the second in North Ayrshire. Both were a great success with 26 learners from East Ayrshire attending each conference. The conferences provided an opportunity for learners to share their learning experiences and discuss the impact the conference had on them.
- National recognition of the innovative work being undertaken by the New Directions Project. A youth literacies worker with the project received the National Youth Work Bronze Award for the impact of his work on improving the literacies skills of young learners in East Ayrshire. This staff member was also asked to deliver workshops on youth literacies work in East Ayrshire at a National Conference of Literacies Practitioners in Galway.
- 161 young people supported as part of the youth Literacies work within the Essential Skills Project using innovative approaches to literacy learning.
- An innovative radio marketing campaign to raise awareness of the support available within East Ayrshire. Five different adverts were played throughout March 2008 on West FM and West Sound. These adverts used Learners and volunteers stories to illustrate how participating in literacies learning had made an impact on their lives.
- Raising awareness of English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) support through a multi lingual poster campaign on local buses. This proved a great success with a marked increase in the number of people coming forward for help.

- The development of workplace literacy learning with local employers. Kilmarnock College worked with Diageo to improve the basic ICT skills of a number of their employees. This had an impact on the skills of these workers and resulted in direct benefits to the business.

4. FUTURE PROPOSALS

4.1 The new Promoting Lifelong Learning theme of the Community Plan will reflect the work with both young people and adults in relation to literacy and numeracy. This will also focus on partnership working and continuing to develop approaches for the innovative learning and teaching in literacy and numeracy in line with the Curriculum for Excellence.

4.2 Within Educational Establishments future proposals to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy include:

- Continue to develop systems, policies and practice to optimise early identification in children 3-18, who might need support with literacy and numeracy, including adopting aspects of the West Dumbartonshire Model which has been widely reported in the national and educational press.
- Consolidate and extend existing good practice at transition points including refreshing the Profile of Skills and Baseline Assessment Guidance.
- Continue to deliver support to non-readers and children experiencing difficulties with numeracy skills, through intervention programmes
- Further embed into everyday practice the interactive approaches to numeracy modelled in all schools.
- Support the development of Literacy and Numeracy across the Curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence by producing a Support Pack for Schools. These packs will provide practical strategies to support CPD and professional reflection.
- Develop 'Learning Passports' to reflect attainment and achievement and aid transitions
- Consolidate Assessment is for Learning (AiFL) approaches and further develop these in line with Curriculum for Excellence and the Assessment Framework.
- Ensure the potential of ICT is fully utilised to support literacy and numeracy development

- Continue to encourage partnerships through involvement in family literacy and numeracy initiatives
- The Single Outcome Agreement reported that at primary level our present performance in Reading is 79%; Writing 71% and Mathematics 83.9%. Performance at secondary level is: Reading 67%; Writing 50% and Mathematics 69%. Our target through the initiatives listed is to improve the averages by up to 5% by 2011.

4.3 Within community based adult literacy and numeracy future proposals include:

- Identifying future priorities for the Community Learning and Development Partnership in line with the new Promoting Lifelong Learning theme of the Community Plan.
- The development of new promotional materials to raise awareness of the adult literacy and numeracy support available across partner agencies.
- Further develop the individual and group learning plans for learners
- Continuing to develop innovative approaches to support both young people and adults across East Ayrshire to develop their literacy and numeracy skills
- Funding has been secured from Learning Connections to raise awareness of how the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework could be used in community learning and development settings. It will also be used to support partners to benchmark or credit rate their learning programmes.

5. PERSONNEL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 NIL

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The literacy and numeracy work with children, young people and adults will be integral to the new Promoting Lifelong Learning theme of the Community Plan. The support provided to young people is also reflected in the Children and Young Peoples Service Plan 2008-2011.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 All financial requirements for literacy and numeracy development will be met from existing budget allocations.

7.2 Funding for the community based adult literacy and numeracy is managed by the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

7.3 The Essential Skills Project including the Youth Literacies has been mainlined and funding secured from the Community Learning and Development Partnership.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Community Learning and Development Partnership has financial and statistical monitoring arrangements in place for community projects receiving funding and each project attends an annual review.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Members of Cabinet:

- (i) approve the continued developments in literacy and numeracy
- (ii) invite the Executive Director to report on progress in due course
- (iii) otherwise, note the content of this report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

December 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Education Committee Report 6 May 1997: Early Identification and Intervention
2. Education Committee Report 28 August 1997: Early Intervention and Identification
3. Education Committee Report 16 April 1998: Early Intervention and Identification
4. Education Committee Report 1 June 1999: Early Intervention and Identification
5. Education Sub-Committee Report 31 October 2000: Early Intervention and Identification
6. Education Committee Report 3 September 2001: Early Intervention and Identification
7. Education Committee Report 28 May 2008: Early Intervention and Identification
8. Education Committee Report 24 May 2005: Early Intervention and Identification
9. Education Committee Report 23 May 2006: Early Intervention and Identification
10. Education Committee Report 12 September 2006: A Curriculum for Excellence in East Ayrshire
11. Curriculum for Excellence, Building the Curriculum 1,2, and 3 (2004-2008)
12. Education Committee Report 12 September 2006: Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2004-2006 Annual Report
13. Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2006-2008
14. Promoting Community Learning Theme of the Community Plan
15. Children and Young Peoples Service Plan 2008-2011.

Members wishing further information should contact Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service : Schools, Tel: (01563) 576126 or Kay Gilmour, Head of Service : Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICERS

Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service : Schools
Kay Gilmour, Head of Service : Community Support