

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 14 JANUARY 2009**

### **PROPOSED SECONDMENT FOR MORE CHOICES: MORE CHANCES**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** To seek approval for the 23 month secondment of a More Choices: More Chances (MC: MC) Coordinator to lead and manage the MC: MC partnership programme across East Ayrshire.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The More Choices: More Chances (MC:MC) agenda focuses on young people in the 14 – 19 age group in East Ayrshire Council who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).
- 2.2** The success of the MC: MC strategy is based on partnership working between East Ayrshire Council, the local colleges of Ayr and Kilmarnock, Careers Scotland, Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and third sector partners, including the Princes Trust XL, Yip World and Rathbone.
- 2.3** Each of the partners has a responsibility to meet the MC: MC challenge of helping to secure positive and sustained destinations for the cohort of young people aged 14-19 at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training (NEET). The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) identifies the importance of this target under National Outcome 4, 'our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'. To meet the challenge, the Colleges deliver training and education places; the Council offers extended schooling until aged 18; Careers Scotland, SDS and Jobcentre Plus support and ensure training and/or employment. The Princes Trust XL and Rathbone both manage training and personal development programmes for the cohort of young people most at risk of not being in employment, education or training (NEET). Yip World focus on participants re-engagement, capacity building and developing initiative. An MC: MC Strategy Group chaired by the Head of Service: Schools is in place to coordinate the work of the partners and ensure a shared, strategic approach matches best practice and resources to the needs of the identified young people in East Ayrshire.

#### **3. PROPOSALS**

- 3.1** A More Choices: More Chances co-ordinator is necessary to manage the strategic and operational priorities driving the partnership working and to ensure that activities are coherent and consistent, give best value for resource

and are available to the cohorts who most need the support. The successful seconded candidate will have the following responsibilities outlined below:

- 3.2 Tracking:** It is imperative that all of the partner agencies have a robust tracking system in place which facilitates collective identification of success and next steps in the programme. This requires ICT solutions, agreements on data handling and agreement between the partner agencies on how to categorise the information. The appointed coordinator will work closely with Scottish Government, neighbouring local authorities and partner agencies to ensure a robust tracking system is established and maintained across East Ayrshire.
- 3.3 Achievement/attainment and retention:** Increased attainment and achievement lies at the heart of young people's successes. The Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) is a key driver in this and the work carried out by the MCMC partnership must sit within the CfE and all related initiatives, including Determined to Succeed (DTS). The successful candidate will work closely with the seconded CfE Development Officer and DTS Officers to ensure that the MC: MC programme articulates with best practice in CfE and DTS. The coordinator will also closely monitor and report on the impact of the 'one to one' mentoring of looked after and looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) in educational establishments funded through the MC: MC programme.
- 3.4 Employer engagement:** It is essential that local business works closely with the partner agencies to ensure employment opportunities are at the end of all training and education programmes. East Ayrshire has a challenge retaining young people and the MC: MC strategy recognises the importance of employer engagement through the participation of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce in the partnership. The MC: MC coordinator will have a key role liaising with employers through the Chamber and coordinating best practice and employment opportunities for the cohort. This will also include working with other departments and sections within the Council to realise the role of the Council as a 'Corporate Parent', employer and provider of work experience for all looked after, and looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) who require such support. The coordinator will also liaise closely with the Council 'Skills Development and Employability Service' to maximise opportunities for the cohort of young people identified as 'not in education training or employment' (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET.
- 3.5 Links with Scottish Government and neighbouring local authorities:** The successful candidate will have a responsibility to regularly liaise with the MC: MC department in Scottish government and also with MC: MC partnerships in neighbouring local authorities to ensure that best practice is being shared and disseminated.

- 3.6 Financial management and reporting:** The MC: MC Strategy Group has an allocation of £370,000 from the Fairer Scotland Fund. In addition there is potential funding available from partners in the Colleges, Careers Scotland and SDS, and there is the opportunity of joint funding for particular initiatives with NHS Ayrshire and Arran. CPP/ESF funding is also available for agreed programmes linked to employability. The MC; MC coordinator will have a responsibility to manage the Fairer Scotland Funding allocated to MC: MC work and ensure that effective procedures are in place to report best use of resource to the MC: MC partnership group and to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). In addition the coordinator will aim to secure additional and matched funding from partners and ensure all resources are deployed effectively to meet the agreed targets.
- 3.7 Partnerships and communication:** The MC: MC strategy sits within national priorities and East Ayrshire community planning. Success in this initiative depends on all service providers within East Ayrshire working in a holistic manner with a shared vision and pooling resources to maximise efficiency. The coordinator will be tasked to ensure that operational plans and success as well as challenges are widely communicated to ensure there is no repetition of activity and that all partners and other services within the Council are aware of what is working well and what needs to be reviewed.
- 3.8 Inspiring Scotland liaison:** The Scottish Government has funded, under the title of Inspiring Scotland, a 7-10 year investment programme in charitable ventures that work with vulnerable 14-19 year olds across Scotland with the aim of helping up to 56,000 young people. Twenty four ventures have been successful in securing up to £20million of funding over the period to lead on these initiatives. Seven of them will work directly with East Ayrshire. These are: Action for Children Scotland; East Ayrshire Carers Centre; Enable Scotland; Impact Arts projects Ltd; Tomorrow's People and the Venture Trust. The appointed coordinator will have a responsibility to work closely with these seven successful third sector organisations. The coordinator's role will be to ensure East Ayrshire receives best value from their work and that their activity is effectively utilised across the authority without overlap or repetition.

## 4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The MC: MC programme has an allocation of £370,000 from the Fairer Scotland Fund. Part of this funding has been provisionally allocated, subject to Cabinet approval, to fund a co-ordinator. In addition there is additional funding available from partners in the Colleges, Careers Scotland and SDS. There is also the opportunity of joint funding for particular initiatives from NHS Ayrshire and Arran. The funding breakdown is as follows:

	£
One to one mentoring support for looked after and looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) - P5-S4	100,000
Funding for Rathbone Project	40,000
Princes Trust XL Programmes	40,000

Leadership Academy Programme with Kilmarnock College	50,000
Careers Scotland Active 8 Programme	22,000
Support Enterprise Projects	33,000
MC:MC Co-ordinator (including travel and additional costs)	50,000
Summer Academy	5,000
Goals Programme	10,000
Balance for Additional Projects	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>370,000</b>

## **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no policy or legal implications.

## **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The MC: MC strategy sits within the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) national priorities and community planning. Success in this initiative depends on all service providers within East Ayrshire working holistically with a collective shared vision and pooling resources to maximise efficiency. The MC: MC strategy has a key role in the new Improving Lifelong Learning Community Plan presently being finalised. The MC: MC Coordinator once appointed will have a major responsibility to co-ordinate and report on the targets defined in the SOA and new Lifelong Learning Plan.

## **7. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Nil

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) support the appointment of a MC:MC co-ordinator on a secondment basis for 23 months.
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
 Executive Director of Educational and Social Services  
 JS/MC  
 5 December 2008

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools (01563) 576126 or Janice Shaw, HR Manager (Schools), (01563) 578114

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