

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE CABINET – 18 JUNE 2007

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the progress of the partnership between East Ayrshire Council, **sportscotland** and NHS Ayrshire & Arran, and provide detail on the changes to the Active Schools Secondary Coordinator programme and proposed subsequent staffing structure.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Active Schools programme has been operating in East Ayrshire for three years.

Active Schools is a key component of the Scottish Government drive to get Scotland more active; a commitment outlined in the National Physical Activity Strategy, Let's Make Scotland More Active. The fundamental aim of the Active Schools Network is to offer children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles, now and into adulthood.

- 2.2 The National Strategy for Sport, "Reaching Higher", highlights Active Schools as one of the key successes of Sport 21, the previous National Strategy. Going forward the Active Schools Network in East Ayrshire has a critical role to play in realising the vision laid out within "Reaching Higher" and in providing a major contribution to the roles and actions laid out for the authority.

- 2.3 The programme is supported by a multi disciplinary Steering Group, which includes representatives from **sportscotland**, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Leisure Development and schools.

3. ACTIVE SCHOOLS UPDATE

- 3.1 A new phase of Active Schools planning has begun with the establishment of a new three year Partnership Agreement which outlines the basis for **sportscotland**'s Active Schools' investment in East Ayrshire Council and incorporates a staffing allocation, investment profile and staffing structure from 2008-2011.

- 3.2 The Active Schools Partnership Agreement sets out the national objectives of the Active Schools Network for 2008-2011 and details how these objectives will be implemented in East Ayrshire Council.

- 3.3 The Active Schools programme in East Ayrshire will be focussing on four key aims in the period 2008-2011
- o To build a sustainable volunteer network

- To provide opportunities for all children and young people to participate in physical activity and sport to enable the creation of pathways from the school to the community
- To increase participation amongst “hard to reach groups” by adopting a targeted approach
- To embed effective integration, planning, management and delivery of Active Schools within Local Authorities

4. ACTIVE SCHOOLS SECONDARY COORDINATOR PROGRAMME

- 4.1** Following extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders during an eighteen month review of the Active Schools Secondary Coordinator Programme, a number of changes to the programme will be introduced in the new academic year 2008-2009.
- 4.2** The Scottish Government, supported by sportscotland have decided that all Active School Secondary Coordinators who are predominately Physical Education teachers allocated six hours per week to carry out the duties of an Active Schools Secondary Coordinator will move to APT&C or equivalent conditions from the start of the new academic year. This brings the secondary model in line with the successful primary model and allows greater flexibility to carry out all areas of the Active School Secondary Coordinator remit, including holiday programmes, school to club links, partnership working, training and networking.
- 4.3** From the new academic year all Active School Secondary Coordinators will be line managed by the Active Schools Manager.
- 4.4** A new generic Active School Coordinator Job Profile and Candidate specification has been reviewed, updated and distributed by **sportscotland**.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1** The Partnership Agreement has been developed by **sportscotland** to shape and inform East Ayrshire Council’s Active School Annual Action Plan. East Ayrshire Council will be responsible for the implementation of the Annual Action Plan. The annual Action Plan is due for submission to **sportscotland** by 31st May, 2008.
- 5.2** The conditions described in paragraph 4.2 raise some issues related to the Council’s internal personnel arrangements. These are currently under discussion with **Sportscotland**. Implementation of the proposals in this paper are conditional on the resolution of these matters

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Significant support has been provided over three years for the Active Schools Programme from **sportscotland**. **Sportscotland** have confirmed that they will continue to invest the following finances to the Active School’s Programme for the next three years, 2008-2011:
- £30,000 per Active School Coordinator post in primary schools and/or joint primary and secondary Active School Coordinator posts.

- Funding for Secondary Active School Coordinator posts will remain at £3210 per 0.1FTE allocations, with the condition the East Ayrshire Council must match fund the post.
- £27,000 funding will be provided towards the Active School Managers post.
- An operational budget of £13,500 will be provided.

6.2 As a condition of the investment agreement the authority must provide some match funding. As sportscotland will provide funding for 1.8FTE investment, match funded by the authority if agreed, it is proposed that the authority consider match funding the 1.8FTE and fund an additional 0.2FTE to allow for two full time Secondary Active School Coordinators to coordinate extra curricular provision for specific targeted groups, including additional support need pupils, young girls, young people residing in areas of multiple deprivation and inactive young people.

6.3 The cost to the authority in funding these two full time posts would be **£34,806** in year 2008-09, **£39,386** in year 2009-10 and **£41,458** in year 2010-11. This is a considerable saving to the authority in comparison to the current and previous finance contributed to the current secondary programme model.

6.4 Initially, the posts mentioned in 6.2 will be funded for the session 2008-09 and will be reviewed thereafter.

7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NIL

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Active Schools Programme supports the increasing participation of young people in sport and physical activity, in learning and active citizenship via the themes of Health, Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 All activities are risk assessed as per the Council's revised Risk Assessment Guidelines and Procedures.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Members:

- agree content of the Active Schools Partnership Agreement;
- agree a new staffing structure and financial contribution in relation to the Secondary Active Schools Coordinator posts, subject to the outcome of the discussions with **Sportscotland** highlighted in paragraph 5.2 of this report; and
- be kept informed of future developments.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JW/JW
4/6/08

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Education Committee Paper
Update on Active Schools Programme
13th September 2005
7th November 2007
EAC Active Schools Partnership Plan
Financial summary for 2008-2011

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017 or Cheryl Brady, Active Schools Manager, Tel: (01563) 555650.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services