

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 OCTOBER 2010

CREATIVE MINDS CULTURAL CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME AND CREATIVE LEARNING NETWORK

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the development of a Creative Learning Network in East Ayrshire following the allocation of £9,600 additional funding and to highlight the work and impact of the Cultural Coordinator Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire has been successful in accessing funding (£9,600) from 'Children in Scotland' to support the formation of a Creative Learning Network.
- 2.2 The aim of the fund is to develop new and existing Creative Learning Networks, to champion the arts, culture and creativity in schools and communities within the overarching context of Curriculum for Excellence and for the long-term benefits to children and young people.
- 2.3 The Network will be key to empowering Learning Communities to take a proactive role in developing future arts and cultural opportunities, be fully aware of key local and national partners and funding opportunities and further enhance the key work of the Cultural Co-ordinator Team in relation to supporting Curriculum for Excellence and the Community Planning process.
- 2.4 The Creative Minds Learning Network will potentially involve all educational establishments in the authority and will be supported through three geographic Learning Community Hubs. It also aims to be proactive, open, informative, inclusive, multi-disciplinary and be a motivator for improving creative practice, enthusing and inspiring participants. Key to supporting this work will be the use of Glow.
- 2.5 The Specific priorities of the Network are to:
 - Raise the profile of creative and cultural learning and teaching within Curriculum for Excellence
 - Strengthen links between the education and cultural sectors at local and national level
 - Extend the reach of a Creative Learning Network to be inclusive of community and school contexts
 - Develop sustainable local and national partnerships
- 2.6 The development will encourage a range of people to become part of the Creative Minds Learning Network in East Ayrshire. Initially teaching staff will be

approached but there will also be an important role for pupils, parents, voluntary/third sector partners and a variety of national and local arts and cultural providers.

- 2.7 A series of initial twilight meetings has taken place and over 50 teachers have now joined the network. To support the network, a variety of national and local arts and cultural providers have been engaged to support a range of CPD sessions for teachers and experiential opportunities for children and young people.
- 2.8 The funding is short-term and the programme will be evaluated in February 2011. Children in Scotland then will report to Creative Scotland.

3. CULTURAL CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The Cultural Co-ordinator programme contributes towards enhanced levels of attainment and achievement for young people and works to widen participation and access for children and young people by encouraging, guiding and supporting schools and arts and cultural organisations to work together. There is a particular focus on providing opportunities for young people from our most disadvantaged communities.
- 3.2 The CCiSS Programme supports learning and teaching by:
- offering and developing a broad range of quality arts and cultural activities, opportunities and experiences for all children and young people
 - developing a greater awareness of arts and culture, enhancing and promoting creativity and life-long learning
 - developing pupils' interpersonal skills, enhancing self-esteem and motivation leading to raised overall levels of educational achievement
 - creating a quality learning experience to support and enhance the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes
 - providing planned CPD and on-going staff development opportunities
 - creating a range of sustainable resources
 - identifying, promoting and disseminating good practice
 - developing the role of ICT as a medium to access the arts
 - developing strategic partnerships with national bodies, external arts agencies and practitioners
 - liaising with others involved in developing initiatives in the arts in the community, in particular in other council departments
 - fostering international artistic and cultural links.
- 3.3 The Team was re-structured in 2006 and currently consists of 1 FTE Cultural Co-ordinator (Heritage, Museums & Creative Arts) 0.4 FTE Cultural Co-ordinator (Drama, Literature & Media) and 1 FTE Dance Motivator.
- 3.4 Over the past eight years, these posts have led to a dramatic increase in participation in a variety of quality creative experiences that young people enjoy as part of their learning and teaching experience. The new curriculum

framework is full of potential for learning and teaching in and through arts and cultural activity. The Cultural Co-ordinator Team has years of experience in working in and through cultural activity in schools and through their local and national cultural contacts and partners the team is ideally placed to enhance and enrich partnerships supporting the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.

- 3.5 The team also generates significant additional partnership funding for schools' programmes, advises on school curriculum development plans and delivers a creative perspective to developing the creative and confident learner, the artists, innovators and entrepreneurs of the future. A key element of this is the close liaison with colleagues from the Arts & Museums Service further supported by a range of partnerships with national and local organisations.
- 3.6 The CCiSS programme is a key element of a wider programme of National Initiatives in schools working closely with Determined To Succeed, Eco Schools, Health Promoting Schools, Youth Music Initiative and Active Schools as well as linking with other Council Departments and supporting Community Planning.
- 3.7 Current projects include the National Music Festival "Love Music" involving over 2,000 pupils, a range of projects supporting the Kilmarnock Townscape Heritage Initiative, an Artist in Residence Programme supported by the Eden Trust, Masterworks in partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Creative Identities supported by Cashback for Communities and State of Emergency supported by Learning & Teaching Scotland and Glow. Further details of these and other projects can be found in the latest edition of *Arts Focus*, which is available on the council's intranet.

4. NATIONAL CREATIVITY PORTAL

- 4.1 Designed to inform, inspire and encourage debate around creativity, the National Creativity Portal has been developed by Creative Scotland, in partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland to support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 4.2 The resource presents a menu of cultural sector education opportunities and, for the first time, will allow Scotland's 54,000 teachers to browse through the offers, shows, and experiences offered by the national companies, national collections, galleries, and cultural organisations across Scotland, all in the one place.
- 4.3 The Creativity Portal is both public facing and integrated with Glow (Scotland's national intranet for schools). The site hosts a range of articles, links and case studies related to creativity and education, to view the entire case studies and to join Glow groups and forums, a Glow log in is required. The site also includes a number of presentations from key figures in the sector expressing their views on creativity.
- 4.4 A project from East Ayrshire has been selected to feature on the Creativity Portal as one of only four Local Authority case studies representing best

practice across Scotland. The project is aimed at consolidating Gaelic language learning with P3 pupils by introducing new vocabulary using storytelling, music and visual art.

- 4.5 GIANT Gaelic Arts Project was delivered by award-winning visual artist Eòghann MacColl and supported by Vocal Coach, Mary MacLeod. The artists, both well-respected Gaelic speakers, in consultation with the Cultural Co-ordinator, worked collaboratively with the Headteacher and Class Teacher to agree the final project.
- 4.6 Each class was introduced to the story, created their own storyboards, made GIANT puppets and props and learned 2 Gaelic songs – artists communicating with pupils in Gaelic throughout. This culminated in a final class performance, embracing visual art and language elements of the project, to convey their very own interpretation of this traditional story, which they performed at their school assembly with invited guests.

6. ARTS FOCUS

- 6.1 **Arts Focus** is the arts and education information magazine produced by the Educational and Social Services Department Creative Minds Team. It aims to keep schools abreast of current developments and opportunities in the arts. It is also hoped that it will be a vehicle for the exchange and dissemination of arts and cultural information and the sharing of good practice.
- 6.2 Recognising the current guidance relating to the publishing and distribution of such documents, the council's Graphics Section has produced this issue using the revised corporate template. *Arts Focus* is available through the council's intranet and through Glow and as a result, a reduced number of hard copies will be produced.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 £9,600 has been received from Children in Scotland to support the development of a Creative Learning Network in East Ayrshire. This funding will be used to support group activity, release staff and establish projects.

8. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 NIL

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The above programmes support the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the themes of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Current funding for the Cultural Co-ordinator Programme is time-limited to 31 March 2011. A strategy to maintain the high quality of the service is presently being reviewed through the Strategic Review of the Revenue Budget (SRRB2) process.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) approve the development of a Creative Learning Network in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) note the work and impact of the Creative Minds Cultural Co-ordinator programme;
- (iii) be kept informed of future developments; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JW/AS
29 September 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Creative Minds Update, Cultural & Music Partnership Awards & Projects Education Committee – 7 November 2006

Arts Focus 2010/11 is available through the council's intranet.

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017 or Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education