

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET : 25 JUNE 2008

DEVELOPING CPD ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING LITERACY

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform members of details of a Development Project aimed at undertaking a small scale action research project through practical classroom application proposed to be undertaken in Auchinleck Academy and supported by Learning Teaching Scotland (LTS).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A Curriculum for Excellence highlights the importance of developing a range of learning and teaching methodologies which will enhance pupils' experiences. It also sets out a clear focus for raising attainment and achievement in literacy and developing literacy across the curriculum. This is contextualised in the publication of the Consultation on the Next Generation of National Qualifications in Scotland. (Scottish Government 2008)
- 2.2** In order to support local authorities in building capacity for developing and enhancing literacy skills LTS are commissioning 12 development projects across Scotland. Each project will focus on a different aspect of developing literacy. The outcome of each project will be the production of a Support Pack based on research and findings that will be suitable as a flexible and accessible online CPD opportunity for teachers. These packs will be accessible by all teachers and will help them in exploring and reflecting on key issues.

3. ACTIVITY IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.1** It is proposed that Auchinleck Academy will develop functional literacy skills in order to equip pupils for life and work in the 21st century. Functional literacy texts will include web pages, emails, administrative forms, instructions, timetables and charts as well as persuasive texts like adverts and promotional leaflets. The project will enable pupils to access basic information, support and meet the needs of all learners, demonstrate the relevance of language skills to their everyday lives and allow pupils to see the power and influence of texts. The project will have an interdisciplinary approach allowing staff from English, Administration/Computing, and Support for Learning Departments to collaborate. The school librarian and Principal Teacher of English will also be involved. Methodologies will build on the development of enterprising classrooms and the critical skills approach. The project will help develop the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence and raise attainment and achievement in literacy across the curriculum.

3.2 This project will build on the existing work being undertaken by the Leaders in Literacy and the Literacy Development Working Group lead by the Early Intervention Co-ordinator.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 LTS will provide funding of £7,000 (paid in two instalments) to support this project.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This Development Project is designed to raise attainment and achievement in literacy and contributes directly to Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Members
(i) approve this project to be undertaken in Auchinleck Academy
(ii) invite the Executive Director to report on progress in due course
(iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

LF/MR
12 June 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. A Curriculum for Excellence, Building the Curriculum 1, 2 and 3.(2003-2008)
2. Consultation on the Next Generation of National Qualifications (2008)

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Officer, Quality Improvement Team