

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 25 JUNE 2008

RECOGNISING WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform members of details of a Collaborative Enquiry Project aimed at recognising wider achievement proposed to be undertaken in East Ayrshire and supported by Learning Teaching Scotland (LTS) and to inform them of other related developments.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A Curriculum for Excellence highlights the importance of the need to give recognition to a broader range of the achievements of all young people. 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 and schools to develop systems for recognising wider achievement LTS have set up a Collaborative Enquiry Network. This is a forum where ideas can be shared, support given from LTS and funding made available to help groups carry out their collaborative enquiry project. There are 12 pilot projects from local authorities across Scotland. Each project will focus on a different aspect of recognising achievement. There will be regular opportunities for the Network Group to meet during the course of next session to discuss and share information and progress.

3. ACTIVITY IN EAST AYRSHIRE

3.1 It is proposed that Doon Academy in partnership with Kilmarnock College will undertake a project during the course of next session whereby accreditation will be awarded to the Leadership Academies that the young people attend. These Leadership Academies are aimed at developing the four capacities of a Curriculum for Excellence and a set of core values. The Leadership Academies will be delivered by school staff, college staff and a range of other professionals and organisations. Through giving greater recognition to the 'distance travelled' by young people who participate in this learning activity we can build self-esteem, improve motivation and engage young people in their learning. The experience is valuable in encouraging young people to reflect on their learning – where are they and where do they want to go – and can help them articulate their achievements to others, including future employers. The work builds on existing good practice by further developing leadership at all levels and embracing the Columba 14000 experience. These examples of good practice were recognised during the Ministerial visit by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary on 19th May 2008. This work will be fully evaluated

and the success shared across the authority and nationally as part of the ongoing work with LTS.

- 3.2** As part of the wider Curriculum for Excellence programme an Accreditation of Achievement Group has been convened to look at how greater recognition can be given to young peoples' achievements beyond formal learning. This group chaired by a Quality Improvement Officer, will begin a major audit of school activity in August 2008, to gather information and ideas from practitioners in schools, local colleges, Community Learning and Development, and partner agencies including SQA, Rathbone and Careers Scotland. Further discussions will be held later in the session during the Quality Improvement Team's phased visits programme, to supplement the information gathered during the audit. The Group will then evaluate the evidence and views gathered to develop their work and make appropriate recommendations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** LTS will provide funding of £5,000 (paid in two instalments) to support this project.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The Collaborative Enquiry Project is designed to recognise wider achievement 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 Doon Academy in partnership with Kilmarnock College.
 - (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