

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 4 MARCH 2009

ADDITIONAL IN-SERVICE DAY FOR CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE SESSION 2008-09

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To inform Cabinet of an additional in-service day allocated by the Scottish Government to support schools implement the Curriculum for Excellence and to seek approval to use this day on Thursday 21 May of this session (2008-09).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Curriculum for Excellence programme began in 2004-05 and is now at the stage of implementation. In recognition of this, the Scottish Government has allocated an additional in-service day to all educational establishments in Scotland for this session, and an additional day for sessions 2009-10 and 2010-11. The purpose of these days are to help schools focus on the key elements of the Curriculum for Excellence and to prepare and embed the values, aims and principles of the programme.
- 2.2** At present, educational establishments in East Ayrshire are allocated 5 in-service days per annum. Three of these are school based days and two are allocated to authority activities. The authority days are normally utilised in October and February of each session. The allocation of the additional day would mean that from this session and over the next two sessions, there will be authority in-service days in October, February and May.
- 2.3** At present, one of the two authority days would normally be allocated to the Curriculum for Excellence, the allocation of the additional day will allow the work done on this day to be further built upon and for establishments to share best practice and prepare for the implementation of the new Scottish Qualification Authority's examination structure in 2012-13.
- 2.4** There is an opportunity with the allocation of the additional in-service days over the next three years to begin to develop pan-Ayrshire programmes and the Head of Service: Schools and Curriculum for Excellence Development Officer have already been in preliminary talks with South and North Ayrshire colleagues to consider such programmes. It will not be possible to deliver a pan-Ayrshire programme this session as South Ayrshire have identified the 20th May as their date. This date did not suit our schools and parents as described in Section 6.1, but early planning should allow an accommodation for session 2009-2010.

3. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** There are no policy implications emanating from this paper.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The work carried out by schools and staff during the in-service day programmes will impact directly on the updated community planning priorities being finalised in the new Community Plan: Improving Lifelong Learning, particularly in relation to key elements of literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing within the Curriculum for Excellence.

5.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.2 Part of the school's Continuous Professional Development budget will be allocated to support travel expenses, materials and preparation time for any programme developed. The existing school's budget will be able to meet these costs.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Head of Schools consulted with Head Teachers of all sectors. The date favoured by schools for this session was May 21st. Head Teachers, particularly in the secondary schools, although supported by colleagues from primary, special and early years, favoured this date as senior pupils from fourth to sixth year would be on study leave and this would therefore negate any impact on pupils' preparation for Scottish Qualification Authority examinations. All Parent Councils were consulted through the Parent Strategy Group and their responses favoured this date as it preceded a local holiday on the 22nd May.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no risks associated with this paper.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) approve the Scottish Government proposal to allocate the additional in-service day on Thursday 21 May for session 2008-09;
- (ii) approval is given to the Educational and Social Services Department to incorporate the additional in-service day into our programme over the next two sessions;
- (iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Service
AS/EO'N
11 February 2009

List of Background Papers Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Andrew Sutherland, Head of Service: Schools, Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: ANDREW SUTHERLAND