

EAST AYRSHIRE**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD: 17 MARCH 2011****SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND – SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT****Report by Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on plans to develop a Service Delivery Agreement between Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership for 2011/12.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The first Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) for 2010/11 was developed between the Council and Skills Development Scotland. As discussed at the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group (JOG) meeting of 22 February 2011, the process for 2011/12 will build on the 2010/11 Agreement and involve the wider Partnership.
- 2.2 The Service Delivery Agreement has seen Skills Development Scotland make progress in partnership working by committing to a process of jointly developing an agreement for each local authority area linked to local priorities. It also allows SDS to clarify the resources which are deployed and allows partners to ensure that resources are responsive to local priorities.
- 2.3 SDS is determined to work nationally and act locally to ensure greater alignment between national programmes and local priorities. Real progress in this approach can be seen from the structure put in place to support the delivery of ESF Priority 5 funding for Local Training Opportunities (L-TOPS), which places Community Planning Partners at the heart of the decision making process in relation to how the Get Ready for Work and Training for Work Programmes are deployed at a local level.
- 2.4 The commitment that SDS displays as a national organisation delivering in a local context with locally focused agreements has been recognised as part of the refreshed Skills Strategy and has been highlighted as part of the Enterprise Enquiry as good practice. The refreshed Skills Strategy "Skills for Scotland: Accelerating the Recovery and Increasing Sustainable Economic Growth" clearly identifies a renewed focus through the delivery of the SDS Corporate Plan on improved local service provision through Service Delivery Agreements.

3. WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 The SDA will be the strategic agreement between SDS and the Community Planning Partnership and will be the overarching high level agreement in the area, ensuring links with the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The individual school /college agreements will be consistent with and complement the SDA. This approach allows SDS to focus its resources where there is greatest need and provides a structure for local accountability.

- 3.2 The SDA will link directly to and explicitly target the contribution to the Strategic Skills Pipeline in the local area; this will ensure that SDS activity fits with the pipeline and will ensure a strategic fit at a local level. It will help to capture the resources that SDS deploys in the local area. The delivery of the L-TOPS activity is an integral part of the agreement.
- 3.3 To facilitate this process, a workshop with attendance from the main Community Planning Partners has been convened for 11 March 2011. The objective of the workshop is to produce a draft partnership agreement that captures the needs of the local area and will help improve local delivery.
- 3.4 The discussions on the day will focus on the following themes:
- Support for Individuals
 - Support for Employers
 - Partnership Activity.
- 3.5 The workshop will be facilitated by SDS' Strategic Relations Team. The session will last no more than three hours and will be focused to deliver a draft agreement at the end of the workshop. The workshop will provide the opportunity to review the SDA for 2010/11 to identify any outstanding or ongoing actions to be carried forward to the new agreement and to agree any new actions to target local priorities.
- 3.6 The Community Planning Partnership Board is asked to remit the JOG to review the draft SDA and ensure sign off for implementation early 2011/12.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:
- i) note the current position in respect of developing a Service Delivery Agreement with Skills Development Scotland;
 - ii) receive an update on the issues arising from the workshop;
 - iii) agree to remit the JOG to agree the SDA on behalf of the CPP to ensure sign off and implementation early in the new financial year; and
 - iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

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4 March 2011