

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22 OCTOBER 2010

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT FOR 2009

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To advise Elected Members of the on-line publication of the Standards and Quality Report for the Department of Educational and Social Services for 2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 placed a requirement on Education Authorities to publish annually a report on the standards and quality of provision as measured against the Department's Annual Statement of Local Improvement Objectives
- 2.2** Initial Standards and Quality Reports reflected the performance of mainstream education services only. However, since 2004 the Report has encompassed the work of all of the services within the Department and records activity in Education Services, Social Work Services, Early Years Services, Community Learning and Development Services and in Facilities Management.
- 2.3** Over the years the various reports have evolved to describe performance against comparator authorities and national averages using quantitative performance measures as well as quality indicators. Most recently the reports have been written in such a way as to highlight the impact that the services have on children, young people and their families, the services staff and on the wider community. They have always been in traditional hard copy format. East Ayrshire continues to be one of the few authorities that produces such a report for Social Services.

3. HEADLINE MESSAGES

3.1 EARLY YEARS

Strengths:-

- In terms of its overall impact, building parenting and family capacity pre and post birth using the Solihull Approach has significantly improved practice both on an individual level and multi-agency level. The assessment tool has enabled consistency through structured intervention, improvements in care planning and a good quality information resource pack.

- As at 31st March 2009, **92%** of the early education and childcare workforce has a recognised qualification to allow them to register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).
- Training has been available from the beginning of 2009 to allow all early years staff who deliver pre-school education to feel confident when presenting the new curriculum in our nurseries. They have accessed information on the Curriculum for Excellence and used this information to inform their practice
- Nurseries continue to be at the heart of their local communities. Inspection reports routinely highlighted very positive aspects of nursery life within their local community.
- **13** Family Care Workers attached to 5 nursery and family centres supported **216** families with **368** children aged 0-8 years. Direct work with parents included support in managing children's behaviour, play, Fit Ayrshire Babies and parents groups.

Area for Improvement:-

- Support managers of registered services to access qualifications leading to the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework level 9 qualification i.e. ordinary degree or work-based equivalent to meet the registration requirements of the Scottish Social Services Council

3.2 SCHOOL EDUCATION

Strengths:-

- Literacy leaders in primary schools continue to facilitate and disseminate good practice leading to improved approaches in the teaching of reading and writing. Staff have participated in a wide variety of high quality CPD events and opportunities.
- Pupils have benefited from well planned programmes linked to the experiences and outcomes of a Curriculum for Excellence. Across schools and early years centres resources are carefully targeted to support individual learners. Well planned literacy transition activities are in place in all schools.
- Children and young people who require support have been identified earlier providing enhanced opportunities to receive the right help at the right time. This has helped the authority to move closer towards the target of ensuring that each child and young person has one assessment, one plan and one review process.
- All schools have established 16+ Learning Choices teams and are working with Skills Development Scotland careers officers, colleagues and other partners to plan provision for young people. Special supports are being put in place for those most at risk of going into negative destinations.
- Over 6,500 children and young people have participated in Youth Music Initiative programmes and activities such as Sounds of Singing, ABC Creative Music, Global Citizenship through Music and the Scottish

Traditional Music Centre in partnership with Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Area for Improvement:-

- Continue to focus on raising attainment in upper primary and early stages of secondary.

3.3 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Strengths:-

- The CLD Service encouraged young people to participate in a range of programmes that led to a recognition of their achievements. In 2009 a total of 380 certificates were awarded to young people, an increase of 33 (10%) from the previous year.
- In 2009, East Ayrshire was the first local authority CLD Service to be awarded Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered (LGBT) Charter Mark status.
- The CLD Essential Skills Project assisted 364 adults with literacy and numeracy skills including 168 learners who were helped with English as a second or other language in 2009. Youth Literacies supported 201 literacy learners, a 25% increase from the previous year.
- The Children and Young People Representative Forum had a very successful year of meetings and events that included a joint Seminar on drugs and alcohol. MSYP Mark Rodger was one of a group of young people “who took over the House of Commons” for a day in November 2009. This was described by the Commons Speaker, John Berkow as “an historic moment”.
- A number of activities took place in 2009 aimed at strengthening the capacity of Community Associations, including the development of a Service Level Agreement.

Area for improvement:-

- To further develop and improve the use of Community Capacity Building Practice resources.

3.4 FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Strengths:-

- A key challenge from 2008 onwards has been to focus on the further improvement of school meals and encouraging children to adopt healthier eating patterns from an early age, with the introduction of the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007 to promote healthy eating in Scotland.
- The school meal incentive scheme ‘Get Stuck In’, raised 75,000 points for Save the Children in 100 days.

- Onsite Services has maintained its Investor's in People accreditation for a further 3 years, with a successful annual review being completed in October 2009.
- The 'Close' cleaning pilot scheme from April 2009 to April 2010 led to a dramatic improvement in the cleanliness of the 'closes' over the last year. The close cleaning project was created following an approach by Housing to work with them. The principle is a mobile cleaning team (2 men and a van) who on a weekly basis visit a number of flatted Council houses and clean the communal areas. The project has seen very positive responses from tenants and I understand housing have also seen an increase in rental income from these blocks as more people are willing to take out tenancies as the general appearance has improved.
- The North West Area Centre Facility Management team was the first winner of Education and Social Services 'Aspire to Excellence Award'.

Area for Improvement:-

- Substantial funding allocations have been identified over the next five year to recognise the need to invest in educational establishments to ensure the Council delivers on the aim of the Better Schools: Better Learning – A Strategy for Developing the School Estate.

3.5 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Strengths:-

- A The SWIA Performance Inspection of Social Work Services identified many examples of good practice within Social Work.
- Our performance in relation to putting services in place to facilitate hospital discharge is amongst the best in Scotland.
- We established a multi-agency Adult Support and Protection Implementation Committee in line with the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.
- Social Work Services hosted East Ayrshire's first Corporate Parenting Event.
- The percentage of Social Enquiry Reports submitted to the courts within timescales was just over 99%.

Area for Improvement:-

- We require to improve our performance in relation to the delivery of reports to the Children's Reporter within timescales.

4. PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT

- 4.1** In previous years The Standards and Quality Report was printed at some considerable cost for distribution to our stakeholders. In 2007 the report was made available on-line with a one page "flier" for widespread distribution indicating the website addresses where the reports can be accessed. Committee agreed that future Reports would be accessible in the same way.

4.2 The various service reports are available on:

www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/ess-publications.asp
www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/socialwork/sw-publications.asp
and on the Elected Members' portal.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The priorities of the Department of Educational and Social Services are explicitly cross-referred and contribute to the delivery of all aspects of the Community Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- (i) note the positive progress made by the various services within the Department of Educational and Social Services against previous performance;
- (ii) invite the Executive Director to continue to report to Committee on an annual basis; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

5 October 2010

Members requiring further information should contact Kenneth McKinlay, Principal: Quality Improvement, (01563-555650).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Implementation Officer: Kenneth McKinlay.