

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 JUNE 2011**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT FOR 2010**

##### **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 2010.

### **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/EARLY YEARS**

- 3.1 Strengths:
  - Multi-agency approach to developing universal parenting support through the Solihull Approach.

- Review of services for children under 3 which sought to better integrate and streamline the assessment, planning and review arrangements for very young children. The review also recognised a key tenet of the Early Years Framework of providing better support to parents/carers of very young children.
- Positive inspection reports both from the Care Commission and HMIE.
- Continued commitment from the early years workforce to undertake formal qualifications and to access continuous development opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills.
- Support for children and young people who are vulnerable or who have additional support needs to access out of school care or childcare services.

### 3.2 Areas for Improvement:

- A bespoke training programme which marries Nurture principles alongside the Solihull Approach will be designed and delivered to all staff working in the 5 nursery and family centres across East Ayrshire during 2010/2011.
- A suite of documents will be developed to support assessment, planning and tracking in relation to children in early education establishments for use in academic year 2010-2011.

## 4. SCHOOL EDUCATION

### 4.1 Strengths:

- 12-23% of pupils in primary 1 nurture classes achieved 5-14 Level A mathematics, where previously in the control schools there was no evidence of P1 children in this category of need achieving this level. Pupils in Primary 2 involved in the programme recorded a noticeable increase in Level A reading and mathematics attainment. At the Primary 3 stage, one school recorded the highest attainment of Level A reading in four years. Where Nurture has been in place in a school for two years the Nurture class children made demonstrable gains both academically and socially and emotionally.
- Session 2009-2010 is the last session when 5-14 data will be available for collection, given the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). Nevertheless, the figures for session 2009-2010 in all aspects of 5-14 reporting are positive with evidence of consistent improvement across all sectors in reading, writing and mathematics.
- The More Choices: More Chances and 16+ Learning Choices programmes continue to offer additional resources and guidance to young people requiring support to access education, training or employment. In session 2009-2010, 52 young people who were in P7-S4 and who were looked after at home were supported by a 'Youth

Advocate' in partnership with the East Ayrshire Youth Advocacy service. 100 young people in S3-S5 were supported in schools with their academic attainment. This support was provided in the form of mentors, additional supported study, tutoring or additional resources.

- The number of young people who are unemployed and seeking has fallen from 11.8% to 10.1% - this is the lowest level recorded. The number of young people who are unemployed and not seeking has also fallen from 1.7% to 1.5%. The number of young people whose destination was unknown has fallen to 0 as compared to 24 last session.
- During the past session over 3,000 children and young people have had the opportunity to participate in authority-wide initiatives including ten authority bands, choirs and ensembles, performance events such as Instrumental Music Service Gala Concert, Spring Spectacular, YMI Platform Concert; and curricular partnership experiences including Scottish Chamber Orchestra Masterworks, ABC Creativity, Scottish Ensemble Musical Hats, Scottish Opera Baby 'O', and Drake Music Scotland projects in Special Schools and units.

#### 4.2 Areas for Improvement:

- To support young people who may be vulnerable or missing out on opportunities to fulfil their potential specific targets and actions will be directed towards raising the attainment of looked after and looked after and accommodated children and young people.
- Educational establishments will focus on progression and continuity of learning for all children and young people aged 3-18 by ensuring that accurate information in personal learning plans and pupils' profiles regarding attainment and achievement is transferred appropriately.

## 5. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Strengths:

- The CLD Service encouraged young people to participate in a range of programmes that led to a recognition of their achievements. In 2010, a total of 489 awards were achieved by young people, an increase of 29% from the previous year.
- The Service delivered seventeen Parenting classes in 2010 with 101 enrolments. 32 Family Learning courses involving 367 young people enrolments and 296 adult enrolments also took place. This represented a significant increase in the Service's early intervention work with parents, grandparents and carers.
- The CLD Essential Skills Project assisted 343 adults with literacy and numeracy skills including 117 learners who were helped with English

as a second or other language in 2010. Youth Literacies supported 250 literacy learners, a 24% increase from the previous year.

- A number of activities took place in 2010 aimed at strengthening the capacity of community groups including Community Associations. This included the development of a Community Capacity Building Toolkit.
- 158 Voluntary organisations were supported by the Service in 2010.

## 5.2 Areas for improvement:

- Further develop youth achievement programmes for young people.
- Improve the usage of performance management information to help plan and shape our services for young people, adults and community groups.

## 6. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Strengths:

National Awards won in 2010 include:-

- APSE UK Service Level Award for Public/Voluntary Partnership
- Working for the School Meal Incentive Scheme
- Educatering UK Marketing Award for the School Meal Incentive Scheme
- APSE Healthy Accolade Award for Outstanding Excellence in Building Cleaning and
- runners up for Outstanding Excellence in Catering
- COSLA Bronze Award for Promoting Sustainability.
- The Gold Award for the Food for Life project from The Soil Association was maintained for a second year running.
- Onsite Services has maintained their IIP accreditation achieving the standard across a range of areas including, Business Strategy, Learning and Development, Involvement and Empowerment, Performance Measurement.
- Central to the success of Onsite Services approach to developing services is the commitment and quality of our staff. The Aspire to Excellence Awards provide an opportunity to recognise individuals and teams within the service and demonstrate clearly how employees of the organisation contribute to the values of the service.
- The results from the primary and secondary pupil survey indicated a positive attitude towards the school meals services and healthy eating awareness. The children from both primary and secondary schools do try to eat healthily and follow a healthy lifestyle message by adopting healthier options, eating more fruit and vegetables and being more active.

## 6.2 Area for Improvement:

- In line with the Council's Community Plan and the Department's wider facilities management agenda closer links with Health and Education will further drive the catering service, while new asset management arrangements and the environmental agenda will drive the Janitorial, Cleaning, and Property Development. Community Safety remains the focus for School Crossing Patrol and Transport services.
- Further development of internal key performance indicators, within ePMS and the development of self assessment systems for the monitoring of quality assurance of all Facilities Management Services.

## 7. SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

### 7.1 Strengths:

- The service worked with partners in the Community Health Partnership to establish a forum for carers.
- The service exceeded Scottish Government/COSLA Concordat targets for the delivery of respite care.
- Community Care services completed 97% of assessments within 6 weeks compared to 91% in 2008/09.
- The service continued to deliver over 99% of Social Enquiry Reports to the courts within timescales.
- The service put in place an action plan to improve performance in relation to the submission of reports to the Children's Reporter within timescales. This resulted in an upward trend in performance with 37% of reports submitted within timescales compared to 17% in 2008/09.

### 7.2 Area for Improvement:

- The service needs to continue to improve performance in relation to the submission of reports to the Children's Reporter within timescales.
- The service needs to continue to increase the number of carers' assessments undertaken.

## 8. PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT

- 8.1 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.

8.2 The various service reports are available on:

[www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/ess-publications.asp](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/ess-publications.asp)  
[www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/socialwork/sw-publications.asp](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ess/socialwork/sw-publications.asp)  
and on the Elected Members' portal.

## **9. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Nil

## **10. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 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 Plans.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Nil

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 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

May 2011

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

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Kenneth McKinlay**