

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE 02 FEBRUARY 2006**

### **COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES & PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS IN THE CUMNOCK AREA**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Cumnock Area Local Committee of (i) the outcome of the inspection of Community Learning and Development Services in the Cumnock area and (ii) the progress made in relation to Community Learning Plans in the Cumnock area and to update members on the future arrangements for Community Learning and Development Plans.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) is empowered under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to inspect the further education provision of local authorities. Under the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act (2000) HMIE also inspects the education functions of local authorities. The scope of inspections of Community Learning and Development accordingly covers the work of local authorities themselves, and the work contracted by them to community, voluntary and public sector partners.
- 2.2** The basis for inspections is set out in the self evaluation framework published by HMIE in May 2002 as "*How Good Is Our Community Learning and Development*"?
- 2.3** The inspection of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in the Cumnock area took place in April 2005. The report, which was published in September 2005, focuses on the delivery of services and the operational management of CLD in the Cumnock area.

#### **3. KEY STRENGTHS AND MAIN POINTS FOR ACTION**

- 3.1** A number of key strengths were identified in the report. Overall, CLD provided a good service to the communities in the Cumnock area. Commended was the variety of consultation methods with young people and partnership working which had resulted in a number of innovative and effective approaches to providing services within the area. It was identified that these services were having an impact on combating social exclusion.
- 3.2** The report set out that the local management of CLD was playing a key role in maintaining and developing services in a period of change for the service.

### **3.3 Key strengths identified in the report are:**

- The commitment of staff to the local area
- The use of the “*Dialogue Youth*” initiative in the area. This was having a positive impact in developing active citizenship amongst young people through effective engagement, consultation and empowerment
- The focus on literacies work for local residents
- The imaginative use of new resources such as the “*CHIP Van*” to address issues of health and wellbeing
- The good and effective training offered for community representatives
- The development of good collaborative working to build community partnerships

### **3.4 Main points for action**

The report highlighted a number of areas for further development. This included the challenge facing community facilities to be appropriate for learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There also required to be more imaginative and creative approaches to both youth work and adult learning that would provide participants with sufficient challenge and raise aspirations.

#### **The main points for action identified are:**

- The CLD Team and its partners should improve the co-ordination of services and the provision of quality information and advice for young people in the Cumnock area
- The CLD Team and its partners should develop creative and challenging programmes with clear educational outcomes within youth and adult provision in the Cumnock area
- East Ayrshire Council should address the access, reception, security and health and safety aspects of its facilities in the Cumnock area
- The CLD Team should further develop and embed its staff development, planning and self evaluation systems in the Cumnock area

**3.5** The Service, along with its partners have developed an action plan to take forward the main recommendations contained within the report.

## **4. COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS**

**4.1** Community Learning Plans have proved to be very successful in bringing together statutory, voluntary and community representatives to plan for, and develop local learning opportunities in local areas. Although Community Learning Plans are developed on the basis of partnership working with key stakeholders, the lead remains with the Community Learning & Development Service.

**4.2** On 8 November 2005 the Education Committee considered a report presented by the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services on Community Learning & Development Services. Amongst other issues, this provided an update on Community Learning Plans and their future development.

## **5 PROGRESS TO DATE**

### **5.1 Cumnock Community Learning Plan**

A Community Learning Plan covering the Cumnock Area was published in June 2004. A Progress Report is currently being prepared and will be published early in 2006. This will summarise the progress made by partners and community groups in relation to the Action Points contained in the Community Learning Plan. Copies of the Progress Report will be distributed widely throughout the Cumnock Area.

### **5.2 Young Peoples Community Learning Plan (Cumnock Area)**

A Community Learning Plan for young people living in the Cumnock Area was published in August 2005. Thirteen young people were closely involved in drawing up the plan which covers the period 2005/2008. They consulted with a wide range of partners and with over 500 other young people. A report on how the Activities for Action contained in the Plan have been progressed will be published in the autumn 2006.

## **6 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

**6.1** Following the Best Value Review of the Community Learning & Development Service, a new team structure is now in place. There are three geographic teams covering the Authority, namely

- Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Area
- Kilmarnock North and Northern Area
- Kilmarnock South, Kilmarnock Central and Irvine Valley

Senior Practitioners are also in post to support the operational management of the service and secure continuous improvement. The reduced number of teams in the Authority and subsequently the number of Team Leaders has required the Service, along with the Community Learning & Development Partnership, to review its arrangements for the development of Community Learning Plans.

**6.2** To reflect the new structure, it is proposed to reduce the number of geographically based Community Learning Plans from seven to three, plus two thematic Plans. A single Community Learning Plan will be produced to cover the Cumnock Area & Doon Valley Area Local Committees.

This will require an approach to Community Learning Plans which ensures that local communities' needs are both reflected and easily identified by the local community. Representatives from partners and community organisations will continue to actively participate in the formation of these Plans.

**6.3** In line with the recommendations in "*Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities*", Community Learning Plans will be renamed Community Learning & Development Plans.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1 None**

## **8 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**8.1** The Community Learning and Development Service delivers services in line with priorities as set out in the Community Plan.

**8.2** The development of Community Learning Plans is integral to the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**9.1** It is recommended that Members of the Cumnock Area Local Committee:

- (i) Note the outcome of the HMle inspection of Community Learning and Development services in the Cumnock Area;
- (ii) Note the proposals regarding Community Learning Plans; and
- (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

22 December 200

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities: Scottish Executive Feb 2004.
2. East Ayrshire – The Community Plan
3. Cumnock Area Community Learning Plan
4. Education Committee 8 November 2005: Community Learning and Development Services.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel (01563) 576104 or Dot Grieve, Principal Officer (Community Learning and Development), Tel (01563 578127)

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