

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2006

CAREERS SCOTLAND ENHANCED RESOURCE PILOT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Education Committee of a pilot programme to enhance the resources provided by Careers Scotland to two schools within East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive is committed to reducing the proportion of young people who leave school and who do not enter either education, employment or training (NEET). Thus, the Scottish Executive is funding a small scale pilot scheme with Careers Scotland on a national basis. The aim of the pilot is to improve school leaver destinations in targeted areas by means of enhancing the resources from Careers Scotland in selected schools.
- 2.2** A pilot programme will operate in five local authority areas – East Ayrshire, Dundee, Glasgow, North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire. Two schools from each local authority will participate in the pilot scheme.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAMME

- 3.1** The Scottish Executive have selected Auchinleck Academy and Kilmarnock Academy as the pilot schools within East Ayrshire based on the leaver destination statistics.
- 3.2** An initial briefing meeting for each Head Teacher and senior staff within the Authority with representatives from Careers Scotland and the Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department of the Scottish Executive took place in early December 2005. A further briefing was held for all Head Teachers participating in the national scheme in Glasgow on 22 December 2005.
- 3.3** Careers Scotland will provide an enhanced resource to each school within the pilot. This will take the form of a named Careers Scotland individual as the lead contact and this person will be available in each school for a maximum of 3 days per week. Additional pupil support materials and packs will be provided to each school. This approach is based on the “Full Employment and Learning Schools” approach used in a number of Glasgow schools.
- 3.4** The main target group will be those pupils most at risk of not entering education, employment or training. Each school will agree targets related to reducing the number of pupils in this category, with the targets being specific

to the context and situation of each school. The baseline data for these statistics will be based on an average over the previous 3 or 5 years

- 3.5** The longer term issues include those of changing culture, attitude and aspirations in the young people. Each school will meet with Careers Scotland staff and authority staff to prepare their action plan and submit this by the end of January 2006.

4. FINANCIAL LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** All costs of this pilot scheme will be centrally funded by the Scottish Executive. There will be no additional costs to the schools or the authority.

- 4.2** The project will commence for 2 years from 1 April 2006.

5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) support this initiative to further support young people in Auchinleck and Kilmarnock Academies;
- (ii) request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to provide an annual report on the project; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563) 555642 or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education (01563 555650)

Implementation Officer: John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support