

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 March 2004

### LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS – CORE SUPPORT TEAMS

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

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide elected members with (i) information on the proposed temporary continuation of Children Service Co-ordinators and the further development of Community Link Workers in each Learning Partnership and (ii) to seek approval for recommendations.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Nine Learning Partnerships were established in East Ayrshire in 2002. They bring together the main partners who deliver services to children and young people in each of the nine secondary school catchment areas. Their overall aims are to raise attainment and achievement and to better integrate service delivery, for children and young people.
- 2.2 There are four guiding principles for Learning Partnerships, namely:
- putting children first
  - working together
  - intervening early
  - devolved management
- 2.3 The main partners involved in Learning Partnerships include Education Services (Education Establishments and Community Learning and Development) Social Work Services, Community Services and N.H.S.Ayrshire and Arran.

#### 3. LEARNING PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 There has been positive comment by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education on Learning Partnerships and in 2003 there was an external evaluation following their first year of operation, which highlighted key strengths as:
- the leadership at both senior management and Partnership level
  - the willingness of all parties to work to the four guiding principles
  - examples of redirection of services following assessment of children's needs
  - the agreement of shared outcomes.
- 3.2 The evaluation of Learning Partnerships progress report is the subject of a separate Committee report to both Social Work Committee (18 March 2004) and Education Committee (23 March 2004).

- 3.3** Consultation has taken place with Learning Partnerships following the publication of the evaluation about how best to further support Learning Partnerships meet their aims.
- 3.4** It is proposed to establish a core support team for each Learning Partnership, which will comprise Community Link Worker, Social Work Assistant, and continue the temporary posts of 0.5FTE Childrens Service Co-ordinator. Further membership of the core support team will be determined by Learning Partnerships from within their existing staffing.
- 3.5** The Education Committee will have as a particular interest, the posts of Community Link Workers and Children's Service Coordinators. It is intended to further develop Community Link Workers by establishing one in each Learning Partnership with a remit, which includes:
- promotion of a community development approach in establishments which enhances community learning and development activities
  - conduct needs analysis as part of the development planning process to ensure consultation with families and the wider community
  - establishing and supporting breakfast club activity, targeting the most vulnerable
  - working to develop and promote educational establishments as focal points within the community and encourage usage outwith traditional times
  - developing and facilitating innovative programmes that promote family learning, personal development, build community capacity and community learning, particular with young people
  - support parent access to lifelong learning and encourage adult returners
  - involvement in after school and school holiday learning

There are currently three existing permanent posts and three existing temporary Community Link Worker posts. It is intended to establish a further three temporary posts bringing the total to nine. The six temporary posts will be funded until March 2006 through the Changing Children's Service Fund.

#### **4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The proposals contained in this report are entirely consistent with the objectives set out in the Children and Young Persons Service Plan, Priority to Improvement 2004/2005 and Community Plan.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The full year costs of funding the six temporary posts of Community Link Worker is £160,293 and can be met from East Ayrshire settlement of the Changing Children's Service Fund 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. In addition, travel costs of £8,000 have been set aside. This fund is allocated to support the better integration of children's services.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1** Members are asked to:

- i) Approve the proposals set out in section 3 of the report
- ii) Remit the staffing implications to Corporate Governance Committee for consideration
- iii) Ask the Director of Education and Social Services to return to Committee with a progress report
- iv) Note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew  
Director of Education and Social Services  
24 February 2004

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Evaluation of Learning Partnerships in East Ayrshire: Learning Unlimited

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, Tel (01563) 576104 or Hugh Carswell, Integration Manager Childrens Services, Tel (01563) 549280

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**