

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2006

20:20 VISION: CHALLENGE AND CHANGE IN CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education Committee of an initiative to further support the Cumnock and Doon Learning Partnerships. This initiative, entitled 20:20 Vision, is being supported by the Scottish Executive and The Hunter Foundation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This proposal resulted from discussions led by the Scottish Executive Education Department with a number of education authorities, leading to an invitation to submit this project. In taking this forward, the Council will be working collaboratively with Edinburgh City Council.

Whilst this proposal intends to raise the levels of attainment and achievement for all, it will target the lowest achieving twenty percent (691 children and young people), those underachieving and the inequalities experienced in health, to ensure they are engaged with services which will support them to close the gap between them and those who are achieving.

- 2.2 There are many complex factors which are affecting why young people face challenges. The aim is therefore to build on the existing multi-agency approach in Learning Partnerships, and further challenge services and agencies to deliver services in a more imaginative way.

3. PROJECT PROPOSAL

- 3.1 20:20 Vision is designed to develop vibrant communities within the Cumnock and Doon Valley area where the gap is closed in educational, social, and health inequalities between the most and least advantaged within their populations. Through effective consultation and engagement we aim to work with, and support communities to raise their aspirations. Leadership development at all levels in communities will be central to this. Our vision will be achieved through:

- securing the commitment of all partners
- partnership working involving all sectors and the community of children, young people and adults
- the development of a culture focussing on community capacity building
- developing and sharing leadership across all agencies
- effective and efficient delegation of pooled resources

- viewing the school as a focal point for the delivery of services within the community
- rigorous accountability and quality assurance of service delivery

3.2 There are a number of key targets within the project. These targets are challenging but are also attainable over the 3 years of the project:

- Engage with and support the most vulnerable and disaffected families within these communities
- Educational establishments or, where appropriate, community facilities will provide a one door approach within the first year. Within each Learning Partnership the secondary school will be open 52 weeks per year.
- The school day will become more flexible to accommodate before, after and other extended day learning and activities
- Young people will have access to a range of vocational education courses and experiences, delivered locally by Further Education and other qualified professionals and skilled personnel by August 2006
- Two health/learning drop-in centres will be opened in key educational/ community sites by August 2006
- Leadership development for staff and young people and community representatives
- Reduce exclusions. These will be reduced by 4% each year over the period of the project. (The base figure is the average number of half days lost to exclusion over the last 3 years).
- Children and young people will be actively involved in physical activity for a minimum of 5 hours per week
- The lowest achieving 20% of young people (based on the average Unified Points Score in S4) will make a 10% improvement in performance
- All Looked After and Accommodated pupils will attain at least a SCQF Level 4 in English and a SCQF Level 3 in Mathematics over the project
- Reduce the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figure for school leavers. This will be reduced by 50% (the base figure is the average NEET figure over the last 3 years). This is equivalent from 31 to 15 young people in Cumnock and from 13 to 6 in Doon
- There will be an increase in performance in 5-14 attainment and in certificate level attainment
- Develop joint initial training for education, health, social work and leisure staff with Scottish Executive (this requires further discussion with representatives from external agencies)

3.3 There will be significant challenges to a wide range of individuals and agencies within the system. This will include challenges to the Scottish Executive, the General Teaching Council for Scotland, Community Planning partners, further and higher education, Social Work services, health and businesses. There will also be a challenge to young people to participate in their own learning and to become fully engaged in providing leadership to other young people. Parents will also be challenged to become more involved in learning and in taking responsibility for their community. The Authority and

the schools will be challenged in terms of working more closely to provide integrated service delivery and to change existing practices.

- 3.4** Included within this initiative is financial support for the young people in the Cumnock and Doon Valley to make use of Glaisnock House. As previously reported to the committee, the former outdoor centre is now being gradually redeveloped as a Centre for creativity. The ground floor is nearing completion and will soon be open to use for educational purposes. In particular, a focus on the needs of the not in education, employment or training group (NEET) through the planned use of the house and garden areas for vocational education purposes is planned and being taken forward. In addition to the funding which will be allocated within this 20:20 Vision project, it is noted that Cumnock Academy staff and pupils are enthusiastic about the use of Glaisnock. A sum of £38,572 from European Funding identified by Kilmarnock College is available and should now be allocated to support the developments at Glaisnock House. The effectiveness and the related planned programme of activity at the house in support of East Ayrshire's young people will be evaluated. Glaisnock House has the clear potential to be a vital resource in East Ayrshire, not least for use by pupils and for staff professional development.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The temporary appointment of a Lifestyle Development Officer (Children and Young People) and two Community Link Workers were part of the submission approved by the Scottish Executive. The Community Link Workers will be appointed and line managed within the Education Department, while the Lifestyle Development Officer will be appointed and line managed via Leisure Services of Neighbourhood Services. The proposals contained in this report, if approved, will have staffing implications for both departments. Accordingly, the report should be submitted to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration of the staffing matters. The staffing implications will be subject to consultations with the Trade Unions.
- 4.2** Teaching staff will be paid for additional hours worked outwith contract in evenings and weekends. Senior Staff in both secondary schools will be paid for additional hours for managing the extended opening of the school. This has been discussed at the Informal JCC (Teachers).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The project will be funded jointly by the Scottish Executive and the Hunter Foundation, although this will be channelled through the Hunter Foundation for contractual purposes. The full cost of the proposal over its 3 year implementation is £1.695m. This funding will be ring-fenced for the purposes of this project.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The project will support the Community Plan themes of Promoting Community Learning, Improving Opportunities and Improving Health. There are implications for joint working with Community Plan partners as outlined above. Partners have been involved from the initial discussions and participated fully in the development of the project. They will continue to have a vital role in implementing the project.

7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are recommended to:

- (i) note these developments for the Cumnock and Doon Learning Partnerships.
- (ii) Remit any staffing proposals to the Corporate Governance Committee
- (iii) Agree the aspects of this report in support of the redevelopment of Glaisnock House, Cumnock for use by East Ayrshire young people
- (iv) request the Executive Director to provide progress reports as appropriate and,
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

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Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JMcC/EO'N
12 January 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563) 555642 or Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support (01563) 576104

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