

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2007

### DETERMINED TO SUCCEED - WORK BASED VOCATIONAL LEARNING FUNDING

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members of the Education Committee on the recent Determined to Succeed Supplementary Funding Award to support the development of work based vocational learning opportunities.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2003 East Ayrshire was invited to be one of a number of pathfinder authorities supported by the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning department (SELLD) to enable East Ayrshire to meet the 21 recommendations outlined in the ministerial paper Determined to Succeed.

2.2 Key to the success in meeting these recommendations is the link with the “Creative Minds” Arts and Education Strategy, which also contributes to enhancing levels of self-esteem, self-confidence and motivation in young people. The development of skills such as creativity, innovation, project management and planning are clearly linked to developing enterprise skills for all school pupils in the authority.

2.3 Local Authorities were invited to apply for supplementary funds to support work based vocational learning opportunities and East Ayrshire was awarded £50,000 over two years to develop four specific programmes.

#### 3. WORK BASED VOCATIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMME (WBVL)

3.1.1 Supplementary funding will be used to enhance a range of opportunities, while linking with the local economic priorities within the Council’s Community Plan. This will be achieved within an integrated framework linking across a range of vocational experiences based on the theme of ***Tourism, Hospitality and Healthy Lifestyles***. This will provide added value to the traditional programme of work experience and will dovetail with provisions for flexibility in the curriculum.

3.1.1 As well as supporting existing programmes such as Schools of Ambition and 20:20 Vision, the proposal also demonstrates best value through building on existing business partnership working. Accessing significant partnership funding also ensures sustainability beyond the funding period. The specific projects are outlined below and are based on work that had already been commenced at individual school level.

## **4. THE PROJECTS**

### **4.1 The Culinary Challenge (Business Partners: Local Hotels)**

With the increase from tourists visiting the area, employment opportunities across Ayrshire hotels are exciting and varied. The partnership between industry and education can open up opportunities for future employment and/or education. This would provide access to learning opportunities for pupils and an improved awareness of the business sector. Accreditation could include Food Hygiene and Preparation.

Initially pupils will work in Kilmarnock College to develop skills in food preparation. They will design and create a menu for approximately 40 people including parents, teachers and college personnel. They will develop skills in communication and teamwork as well as cooking. They will then be involved in other aspects of the hospitality industry involving local hotels and restaurants.

### **4.2 Heritage and the Environment (Business Partner: Gibb of Galston)**

This project allows pupils to fully engage in the design and development of a range of integrated activities such as planning a Covenanter's Trail, planning and constructing wildlife hides and ponds as well as a series of information boards. The ultimate aim is to open the area for educational projects emphasising healthy and sustainable lifestyles for the benefit of the wider community; and to engage young people in developing ownership of this initiative and the processes involved.

### **4.3 Outdoor Lifestyles (Business Partner: Craigengillan Estate)**

Pupils will be actively involved in land-based experiences such as organic agriculture, the designing of a wildlife garden, Christmas tree cultivation and the planning and running of a Farmer's Market Stall and information point. Along with the enhancement of WBVL, these opportunities and activities will focus on the development of pupils' creativity, leadership and team-building skills.

### **4.4 Glaisnock House (Partners: The Glaisnock Trust and Kilmarnock College)**

Glaisnock House is currently being developed as a Centre for Enterprise and Creativity. In partnership with Impact Arts, a range of WBVL experiences will be available at the centre, including interior design and decoration.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The Scottish Executive has provided ring-fenced funding totalling £50,000 to support the projects outlined above.

## **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** Nil

## **7. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** The Determined to Succeed programme particularly supports the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the theme of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1** Full risk assessment procedures will be followed for the participation of pupils in these WBVL activities.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note the progress being made within the Determined to Succeed programme
  - (ii) be kept informed of future progress and be provided with annual monitoring reports; and
  - (iii) otherwise, note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JW/JMcC/EO'N  
28/2/07

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Determined To Succeed Enterprise in Education Progress - Education Committee – May 2006

Members requiring further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563 576126) or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education (01563 555634)

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