

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005

ARTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update Members of the Education Committee on the recent invitation by the Scottish Arts Council to be one of only seven participating local authorities in the innovative 'Arts at the Centre of the Curriculum' programme funded by the Scottish Executive Education Department through the Future Learning and Teaching (FLaT) initiative.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The programme, which uses and builds on the research findings from the Chicago "Arts Impacting Achievement" project, posits the notion that: by using arts as an interventionist partnership with, and methodology for, other subject areas; by building working relationships between teachers, pupils, artists, arts organisations and community; and by threading the creative process throughout the school curriculum, measurable benefits can occur in teaching, learning, school and community ethos and communication, attainment, achievement and school attendance, along with raised awareness of, and improved practice of, the arts themselves.

3. THE PROGRAMME

- 3.1** Increasing the performance of pupils is the central rationale underpinning the whole programme. The Chicago model has shown that achievement in all curriculum areas (including, but not exclusively, in the expressive arts) improved when artists were involved in well-planned team teaching with the class teacher.
- 3.2** Partnership working, thorough training for teachers and artists, quality planning time as well as rigorous evaluation mechanisms will be key to the success of the programme.
- 3.3** The aims of this programme are to:
- Increase pupils' achievement, particularly in understanding, in identified subject areas across the curriculum.
 - Increase pupils' motivation to learn.
 - Support and develop the skills of teachers to work collaboratively and creatively.
 - Encourage links between different areas of learning.
 - Enhance the ethos of the school.
 - To explore the efficacy of the expressive arts as a delivery mechanism across the curriculum.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1** The programme will run for a total of three years on the basis that it will require one year to set up and start running, one to embed and one to be fully functional. Activity in schools will commence at the beginning of session 2005/2006. The FLAT will oversee the evaluation process.
- 4.2** The Doon Learning Partnership reflects the particular focus of the programme at a national level and Head Teachers within the Learning Partnership are currently working to identify four participating teachers. These teachers will work with the selected artists on developing the programme.
- 4.3** The programme will be delivered through a series of integrated curricular lesson units. These units use art and culture to motivate students and deepen their understanding of a content area while exposing them to an artform integrating the core curriculum with an artistic process.
- 4.4** The recruitment of the artists will be on a part-time temporary self-employed basis and this is subject to further discussion with Corporate Personnel. These artists will not be employees of the Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Income from the Scottish Executive through Future Learning and Teaching and the Scottish Arts Council is £104,000 and is ring-fenced for the activities outlined in sections 3 and 4 above.
- 5.2** Over the three-year period, each participating local authority will contribute £10,000 per annum in cash and £15,000 in kind. This funding will come from within the Enterprise in Education funds at no additional cost to the Council.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note this innovative project; and
 - (ii) be kept informed of progress on an annual basis.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JMcC/JW
5 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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

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