

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the publication of the annual Standards and Quality Report for the Department of Educational and Social Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire was one of the first Councils to publish a standards and quality report for its services. Since that time, a document has been published annually as part of the framework for public performance reporting. The report has also played an important part in the improvement planning cycle, since it represents a clear statement of the progress and achievements within the service.

3. THIS YEAR'S REPORT

- 3.1 In the early part of 2004 senior officers of the Department of Educational and Social Services met as a Quality Forum. It was the view of the group that upto this point Standards and Quality reports had served a useful purpose. However, the particular and traditional focus (notably educational achievement and school based services) no longer reflected the integrated nature of the Department. On the other hand a report that covered all aspects of the Department's work would be unwieldy. What was needed was a document that was simultaneously comprehensive while still being specific enough to be of interest to both practitioners and service users.
- 3.2 In order to meet this need, a report has now been produced. It uses an innovative format. The key feature of this new document is that it is presented in special-to-purpose folder. Thereafter, reports have been produced which are specific to the various service areas within the Department. A copy is available in the Member's Information Point.
- 3.3 Of particular note is the fact that within this structure there now exists separate reports for both Community Learning and Development and Social Work. It is believed that these two are the first such documents in Scotland, representing a significant development in public performance reporting for both services. Moreover, it means that information is now available on these services which is linked to an overall improvement process. Therefore, public accountability has also been improved.

- 3.4** A report has also been compiled for Onsite services, recognising the significant contribution made by this service unit to the lives of people in East Ayrshire and the Department. This also reflects the role that Onsite plays in the delivery of initiatives that have strong educational and social dimensions – most notably “Hungry for Success”.
- 3.5** In addition to the general report on school-based education, there is a specific report on Early Years’ Services. This reflects the distinctive place of this service in the life of the Department. In the past early years has been contained within the general educational report. It was felt though, that a clear and distinct statement on early years would be of specific interest to parents and staff.
- 3.6** These individual reports are concise, readable and contain a wealth of factual information. They will be of interest to workers within the services of the department and to their colleagues. Most importantly there is information that will be of interest to particular service users. Individually, and as a whole, they describe the considerable achievements within the Department. They provide an opportunity to celebrate success.

4. POLICY/LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Nil

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report contains considerable information which is of direct relevance to areas of progress within most themes of the Community Plan.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members :

- (i) note this report has also been considered by the Social Work Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/MG
3 May 2005

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement, (01563-576089).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS Nil.

Implementation Officer: Graham Short