

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2006

SKILLS FOR WORK 2006/07

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform Members of the Authority's participation in Phase 2 of the Skills for Work Pilot Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) launched the Skills for Work programme on a pilot basis in August 2005. East Ayrshire participated in a Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) course in Early Education in Childcare being offered in Kilmarnock College; pupils from James Hamilton, Kilmarnock and Stewarton Academies participated.
- 2.2** SEED now wish to extend the pilot programme into 2006/07 and have expanded the SQA courses on offer. Kilmarnock College are willing to participate further in the programme as part of the partnership agreement with the Authority.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN 2006/07

- 3.1** The Skills for Work programme will offer SQA courses in the following areas:
- Practical experiences: construction and engineering – Access 3
 - Rural skills – Intermediate 1
 - Hairdressing – Intermediate 1
 - Financial Services – Intermediate 2
 - Early Education and Childcare – Intermediate 1 & 2
- 3.2** The above courses are available to all secondary schools within East Ayrshire as part of the partnership agreement with Kilmarnock College. These courses have been incorporated into the Kilmarnock College programme being offered to pupils in 3rd and 4th year in all secondary schools within the Authority.
- 3.3** The development of these courses provides a vocational education alternative for pupils interested in such development. It forms a part of the Authority's support to curriculum flexibility and the alternative curriculum in secondary schools.

4. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The development of this initiative fully supports the themes of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Skills for Work programme is fully supported by SEED and funding is provided to Kilmarnock College for such.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) support the Authority's participation in the Skills for Work programme
- (ii) endorse this approach to Curricular flexibility in secondary schools
- (iii) note the further progress in working with Kilmarnock College and;
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short

Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

16 May 2006

Members requiring further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support, Tel: (01563) 576126; or Dave Farrow, Quality Improvement Officer Tel: (01563) 555650.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Education Committee – 13 September 2005 – School College Partnership: Activities and Developments between East Ayrshire Council and Kilmarnock College.

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