

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

ACTION PLAN ON ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY 2004-2006: ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Members of the Education Committee of the Annual Report relating to the East Ayrshire Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2004-2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The East Ayrshire Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2004-2006 was endorsed by the Education Committee of 4 February 2004.
- 2.2** As part of the Scottish Executive's monitoring arrangements annual reports require to be submitted to the Scottish Executive at the end of June each year. East Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Partnership continues to be the main vehicle for implementing and monitoring the detail of the Action Plan.
- 2.3** The Scottish Executive specify that Plans require to show:
- Effective partnership approaches to the delivery of adult literacy and numeracy programmes
 - Targets based on previous baseline information regarding the number of learners participating in programmes
 - Evidence of continuous improvement
 - Clearly defined outcomes for learners
 - Details of local monitoring arrangements

3. 2004/05 ANNUAL PROGRESS

- 3.1** The undernoted services and projects continued to be funded to deliver adult literacy and numeracy programmes to learners:
- East Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development Essential Skills Service
 - Kilmarnock College Building Learning Capacity
 - East Ayrshire Council Community Network/Kilmarnock College Learning Project
 - Ayr College Learning Online
 - Kilmarnock College Next Steps Project
 - East Ayrshire's Princes Royal Trust Carers Centre: Learning For Carers Project
 - Allies/Blue Triangle Return to Learning Project
 - KULOC Bridging the Learning Gap Project

3.2 There has been significant progress in the aims set out in the Action Plan for 2004-2006. This includes:

- Workplace learning has continued to be a priority for the Community Learning and Development Partnership. Good links have been established with one of the largest local employers Diageo to develop learning opportunities for employees. This has led to an increase in the opportunities available in the Company's learning suite. This experience will be built on to work with other local businesses within the area.
- A Practitioners Support Group continues to support the range of full time and sessional staff across partners delivering services. The support group exchanges good practice and is also being used to identify training needs which are developed on a strategic basis. Training has been delivered in relation to First Class, an interactive communication system available through the Call Ayrshire website for tutors, learners and volunteers.
- Family learning is supported throughout the Authority area and Learning Partnerships have been successfully used as the vehicle to deliver family learning. This has resulted in not only improved interaction in relation to parent/carer support for children's learning but also in terms of adults coming forward who have identified in a confidential manner their own literacy needs. Family learning has been delivered to 732 parents/carers.
- Access to ICT learning opportunities has been a significant and major growth area through the online learning projects delivered by colleges. These facilities were accessed by 95 learners.
- The range of learning opportunities has continued to increase and in 2004/05 support has been provided to organisations to support those who may be particularly vulnerable within the East Ayrshire area. This has included materials purchased for women who are temporarily living in Women's Aid Refugees; the opening of a new learning suite in Allies, which supports people who have been homeless and support to carers who have literacy needs.
- The Community Learning & Development Partnership continues to develop & support an East Ayrshire wide learner's which has proven to be an excellent vehicle with which to consult and inform learners. Many of the projects funded by the Partnership have their own learner's forums and representatives from these attend the East Ayrshire Learners Forum. To date learners have been consulted on:-
 - Individual Learning Plans
 - Adult Literacy & Numeracy Action Plan 2004/06
 - Marketing Strategy for the Partnership
 - The national 'Big Plus' campaign
 - Partnership priorities for literacy and numeracy
 - The "Call Ayrshire" website
 - The development of listening to learners events

The 2004-2006 Action Plan set out a target number of 620 adult learners participating in adult literacy and numeracy programmes. This figure has been exceeded and 823 learners were participating. This figure does not include those involved in Family Learning Projects.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan is critical and the temporary Team Leader continues to have this central role.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan is integral to the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan. The support provided to young adults is also reflected in the Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2005-2008.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Funding from the Scottish Executive in 2005/06 for adult literacy and numeracy is £436,000.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** Members of the Education Committee are asked to:
- (i) ask the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to return to Committee with the next annual update; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

19 July 2005
KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular No. ELLD1/01 Action Plans on Adult Literacy and Numeracy
2. East Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2001-2004
3. Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy : Education Committee 5 February 2002
4. Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2004-2006: Education Committee 4 February 2004.

Members wishing a copy of the Annual Report should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR