

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

A CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Education Committee of the progress made with regards to A Curriculum for Excellence developments in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** One of our aims as an education authority is to enable all children to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.
- 2.2** A Curriculum for Excellence (ACfE) was published by the Scottish Executive in 2004. This document challenges us to achieve this aim. It establishes clear values, purposes and principles for education from 3 to 18 in Scotland. The document has profound implications for what is learned, how it is taught and what is assessed. It enables us to anticipate changes and challenges which young people will face in the future, to take account of advances in education and to tackle the aspects of the current curriculum which must be improved.
- 2.3** A Curriculum for Excellence is fully in harmony with National Priorities, and will provide an important impetus to achieving our vision for children and young people, that all children and young people should be valued by being safe, nurtured, achieving, healthy, active, included, respected and responsible. East Ayrshire's "Priority to Improvement" reflects the key priorities of ACfE.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.1** A Curriculum for Excellence Steering group has been established in East Ayrshire. This group is chaired by the Head of Service: Schools Support and consists of representatives from a wide range of backgrounds and sectors. All schools in East Ayrshire have been encouraged to participate in ACfE development work through the ACfE national register of interest. An information leaflet will shortly be distributed to all teaching staff in East Ayrshire to ensure that they are aware of all current developments. An action plan for ACfE has been developed, outlining the way forward in East Ayrshire over the course of this session – there will be a focus on the Critical Skills Programme, inservice briefings for key staff, inservice for all school staff, and an audit of school development needs.

3.2 The three Ayrshire Councils have been successful in securing additional ACfE funding, which will enable joint working across the Authorities. Joint initiatives include:

- Inter-Authority Steering Group
- Joint Critical Skills Institutes
- Post Graduate Certificate in Primary Physical Education delivered jointly
- Inter-Authority Secondary Principal Teacher Conferences
- Inter-Authority Leadership Conference
- Curriculum Development work across the three authorities
- Assessment is for Learning Network groups

4. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The developments in ACfE will directly contribute towards the themes of “Promoting Community Learning” and “Improving Opportunities”.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Ring-fenced funding of £79,193 has been received from the Scottish Executive to meet the costs of the ACfE developments within East Ayrshire as outlined in Section 3.1. The joint Ayrshire working is being funded separately from the above allocation; additional funds of £79,193 have been allocated to East Ayrshire to support the Authority’s participation in the activities outlined in section 3.2.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- (i) approve these developments to support A Curriculum for Excellence
- (ii) approve the joint initiatives in cooperation with North and South Ayrshire
- (iii) note the funding allocated to support a Curriculum for Excellence
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report

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JMcC/EO’N
28 August 2006

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