

2EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN 2004-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is 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's Community Learning and Development Partnership continue to be the main vehicle for implementing and monitoring the detail of the Action Plan.
- 2.3** A report on the 2004/2005 End Year Report was presented to Education Committee on 13 September 2005.
- 2.4** 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. 2005/2006 ANNUAL PROGRESS

- 3.1** The undernoted services and projects continue to be funded to deliver literacy and numeracy programmes to learners.
- East Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development's Essential Skills Project and New Directions Projects
 - Kilmarnock College Building Learning Capacity
 - East Ayrshire Council Community Network/Kilmarnock College Learning Project
 - Ayr College Learning Online
 - Kilmarnock College Next Steps Learning
 - Allies/Blue Triangle Return to Learning Project

- KULOC Bridging the Learning Gap Project
- Auchinleck, St Josephs and Doon Learning Partnerships, Family Learning Projects

3.2 There has been significant progress in the aims set out in the Action Plan for 2005-2006. This includes:

- An increase in the number of calls to the East Ayrshire 'Help at Hand' Freephone. In 2005/06 there were 249 calls to the freephone number.
- An increase in the number of learners involved in adult literacy and numeracy programmes. The 2004-2006 Action Plan set out a target number of 1000 learners. In 2005-2006, 1859 learners participated in programmes. This figure included family learning learners who completed Group Learning Plans.
- A pilot project for young people called 'New Directions'. The project which is part of the Essential Skills Service, targets young people aged 16-25 years and uses alternative approaches to learning to engage with them within a literacy and numeracy context. The Project works in partnership with existing organisations to identify and support young people.
- A successful bid to Communities Scotland from the Community Learning and Development Partnership for funding to undertake Workplace Literacy research. This will be used to progress workplace literacy initiatives. Workplace learning continues to be developed and in addition to workplace learning taking place within DIAGEO, links have also been made with ASDA and Morrison's Supermarkets.
- An expansion of family learning programmes focussing on literacy and numeracy within the Doon, St Josephs and Auchinleck Learning Partnerships. In 2005/06, 825 adult learners participated in family learning programmes.
- The Essential Skills Project winning the East Ayrshire Councils Equality Excellence Award. The Project was nominated for the prestigious award in recognition of the service delivered to learners within the community.
- A 'Listening to Learners' day at which learners using electronic voting recorded the impact that learning was having on their lives. This information will help to shape and direct services for learners. The Essential Skills Learners Forum launched their own newsletter so that learners could share experiences, be consulted on project developments and be informed of local and national events.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Funding from the Scottish Executive in 2006/07 for adult literacy and numeracy for all partners is £438,000.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** 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 Peoples Service Plan 2005-2008.

7. POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil**

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** 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.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/DG
22 August 2006

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 on Adult Literacy and Numeracy: Education Committee 5 February 2002
4. Acton Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy 2004-2006: Education Committee 4 February 2004
5. Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2004-2006 Annual Report: Education Committee 13 September 2005

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR