

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2004**

### **COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to respond to the Local Committee enquiry regarding the role of Community Learning and Development within the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee area.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** In July 2000 the Department of Educational and Social Services was established. This brought together the services of education and social work which resulted in the integration of Community Education and Community Development to form the Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.2** Community Learning and Development comprises of seven teams managed by team leaders who have a responsibility for service delivery across East Ayrshire. Three of the teams have a geographical focus i.e. Kilmarnock, Irvine Valley and Northern area and Cumnock & Doon Valley. The other four teams Community Development, Active Citizenship, Resources and Literacies have an East Ayrshire wide focus.

#### **3. THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 3.1** The role of the Community Learning and Development is determined nationally and detailed in the Scottish Executive Communities Scotland document: Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities. (Guidance for Community Learning and Development)
- 3.2** Within East Ayrshire, Community Learning and Development have produced their Service Plan for 2004-2006. The Service Plan strategic aims are:-
- Achievement through learning for young people and adults.
  - Community achievement
  - Continuous improvement of the service.
- 3.3** Community Learning and Development work with young people, adults and community groups to increase skills, confidence and community involvement in issues that affect their lives using a range of formal and informal approaches. The Service does this by

- Supporting community/voluntary organisations
- Developing opportunities for young people
- Co-ordinating and facilitating community based learning opportunities.
- Management of a range of facilities and resources.

**3.4** Within the Central Local Committee area, Community Learning and Development are working with local organisations and examples of the work currently being supported and delivered are noted below.

**3.5** Supporting Community and Voluntary Organisations

Allies, an organisation working and providing meals to homeless people are supported to organise, manage and access funding opportunities to provide access to learning opportunities.

Community Learning and Development supported the Kilmarnock Forum and the South Forum on Disability to organise a one day Conference in October 2003, to highlight the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act. Representatives from both Forums continue to receive support in the planning and coordination of a Team Building training event.

Community Learning and Development staff also provide information and assistance to groups on funding opportunities and carry out appropriate grant assessments for Community Grant applications on behalf of all Local Committees.

**3.6** Developing opportunities for young people

Community Learning and Development offer and deliver training opportunities to adults who work with young people; this includes youth work skills training, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and peer education training. Support and advice is also given to committees on how to setting up voluntary youth groups, programming and accessing Disclosure Scotland checks.

Crosshouse Community Association and Gatehead Youth Group are currently receiving support to develop voluntary youth groups for 7 – 11 years olds. Crosshouse Association is also being supported to develop a youth group for the older age group.

**3.7** Co-ordinate and Facilitate Community Based Learning Opportunities

Community Learning and Development deliver a range of community based learning opportunities including the promotion and development of Gaelic through classes and an annual Conversation Event. The Conversation Day is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004 this year and will be held in Crosshouse Community Centre. Adult learning courses are offered in conjunction with a range of partners and courses offering access to technology are organised in partnership with the Community Association including Computers for the

Terrified. Parenting programmes are delivered to parents from Crosshouse Nursery.

The Essential Skills Project, which is an East Ayrshire wide initiative, is based in the Bonnyton Community Centre. The project provides free and confidential support to adults who require assistance with reading, writing and numeracy. Learners receive support on a one to one basis or as part of a small group. Adults requiring further information about this service can call the freephone helpline on 0800 032 1454.

Community Learning and Development also lead the Community Learning Plan process on behalf of the Community Learning Partnership as part of the community planning process. This involves bringing together representatives from community groups, colleges, the health service, schools and other council services, who have an interest in community learning, to develop a local Community Learning Plan. It is proposed that a Community Learning Plan will be developed in all seven Local Committee areas.

### **3.8 Management of Facilities and Resources**

The majority of community centres in East Ayrshire are programmed and managed by locally elected bodies known as Community Associations. Community Associations receive support from the service to carry out these duties in their area. This includes direct support to the committee, support to the East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations and the opportunity to participate in appropriate training opportunities.

The service also administers in excess of 14,500 school lets annually across East Ayrshire.

- 3.9** Community Learning and Development endeavour to provide assistance and support to individuals, groups and organisations that have an interest in community learning and development and to build capacity within communities. As a whole service, staff provide a diverse range of services and support.

In light of finite resources, it is not possible to provide a universal service. It is necessary to prioritise and target resources on the basis of need and in some cases on ability to access resources.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** All costs are met from existing departmental resources.

## **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The services detailed in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Community Plan and policies relating to social inclusion and citizenship.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** To recommend that the Local Committee:

- i. Note the content of the report

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/AJ/  
23 February 2004

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Communities Tel: (01563) 576126.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**