

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 12 JANUARY 2006

PROGRESS REPORT ON NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Northern Area Local Committee of the progress made relating to the Northern Area Community Learning Plan and to update members on the future arrangements for Community Learning & Development Plans.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Community Learning Plans have proved to be very successful in bringing together statutory, voluntary and community representatives to plan for, and develop local learning opportunities in local areas. Although Community Learning Plans are developed on the basis of partnership working with key stakeholders, the lead remains with the Community Learning & Development Service.
- 2.2 On 8 November 2005 the Education Committee considered a report presented by the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services on Community Learning & Development Services. Amongst other issues, this provided an update on Community Learning Plans and their future development.

3. NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN PROGRESS

- 3.1 A Community Learning Plan covering the Northern Area was published in January 2004. A Progress Report is currently being prepared and will be published early in 2006. This will summarise the progress made by partners and community groups in relation to the Action Points contained in the Community Learning Plan. Copies of the Progress Report will be distributed widely throughout the Northern Area.

4. COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- 4.1 Following the Best Value Review of the Community Learning & Development Service, a new team structure is now in place. There are three geographic teams covering the Authority, namely:

- Kilmarnock North and Northern Area

- Kilmarnock South, Central and Irvine Valley
- Cumnock and Doon Valley Area

Senior Practitioners are also in post to support the operational management of the service and secure continuous improvement. The reduced number of teams in the Authority and subsequently the number of Team Leaders has required the Service, along with the Community Learning & Development Partnership, to review its arrangements for the development of Community Learning Plans.

- 4.2 To reflect the new structure, it is proposed to reduce the number of geographically based Community Learning Plans from seven to three, plus two thematic Plans. A single Community Learning Plan will be produced to cover the Kilmarnock North and Northern Area Local Committees.

This will require an approach to Community Learning Plans which ensures that local communities' needs are both reflected and easily identified by the local community. Representatives from partners and community organisations will continue to actively participate in the formation of these Plans.

- 4.3 In line with the recommendations in *“Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities”*, Community Learning Plans will be renamed Community Learning & Development Plans.

5. FINANCIAL/PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The development of Community Learning & Development Plans is integral to the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that members of the Northern Area Local Committee note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
 Executive Director of Educational & Social Services
 15 December 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities: Scottish Executive Feb 2004.
2. East Ayrshire – The Community Plan
3. Northern Area Community Learning Plan
4. Education Committee 8 November 2005: Community Learning and Development Plans.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel (01563) 576104 or Dot Grieve, Principal Officer (Community Learning and Development), Tel (01563 578127)

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