

Muirkirk Community Learning Plan

"To actively promote learning in all aspects of life in the village of Muirkirk"

This Community Learning Plan co-ordinates a programme of learning opportunities which will be made available to everyone living in the community of Muirkirk.

The Plan is a result of a partnership of local people working together with those who provide learning opportunities. The consultation process looked at learning opportunities already available, asked local people of all ages and community organisations for suggestions and went on to identify how existing resources might be better used. The results are contained in this Community Learning Plan.

The whole process is part of a Government initiative to improve learning opportunities in communities and to involve local people in the planning of them. Every Scottish Local Authority was required to produce a Community Learning Strategy which would lead to the development of Community Learning Plans.

Muirkirk was chosen as one of three areas in East Ayrshire to act as a pilot for this project.

What is Community Learning?

Community Learning can be described as 'taking part in any learning activity that takes place in the community'. It can be:-

- formal or informal, using a variety of methods.
- for anyone of any age.
- about learning new skills.
- about community development.
- about everyday issues, e.g. childcare, health, budgeting.

You Decide!

AIMS

Since the partners began to meet in May 2000, work has progressed towards meeting the aims outlined in this pilot Community Learning Plan.

To increase:-

- ❖ **the involvement of local people in planning the delivery of learning**
- ❖ **the quality and relevance of learning opportunities in Muirkirk**
- ❖ **partnership working to maximise resources available for learning**

When establishing the learning aims and objectives contained in this Plan, the following have been taken into consideration:-

Results of questionnaires issued to:-

- ❖ local adults
- ❖ local young people
- ❖ members of local voluntary organisations
- ❖ representatives of agencies providing Community Learning opportunities in Muirkirk
- ❖ members of the public who attended the Community Learning 'Open Day' held in Muirkirk on 25 August 2001

In the completed questionnaires, benefits of attending Community Learning activities included:-

- 'I gained confidence'
- 'I made new friends'
- 'I look forward to going'
- 'I learned new skills'
- 'I developed an interest in my local community'

From the consultation, the priorities that emerged from adults and young people were:-

- ❖ Access to computing skills
- ❖ Confidence building
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Sport and leisure courses for young people

In addition, the Council's Community Learning Strategy highlighted:-

- ❖ help with core skills of literacy, numeracy and problem solving, information technology and working with others
- ❖ increased access to learning opportunities
- ❖ informing people of options available to them

The population of Muirkirk is 1,879



Muirkirk AMICUS Group taking part in the Community Learning 'Open Day'

Targets until May 2002

The partners will carry out the following by May 2002:-

Planning and delivery of Learning

- Improve awareness of community learning opportunities in Muirkirk by producing an information leaflet or booklet. Also to submit at least five articles to 'Muirkirk Community News'.
- Ensure that innovative ways of delivering learning opportunities results in help being given to at least 10 people in relation to their core skills of literacy and numeracy.
- Assist the community to access new technology in Muirkirk by providing computer training courses using the Community Learning Centre and the local Library, for at least 30 people, including young people.
- Explore the use of computers with interest groups.
- Use CD Roms and the Internet to organise a family history workshop in Muirkirk.
- Partners will work together to provide at least one new sports and one new creative course targeted specifically at young people.
- Improve confidence and provide advice and guidance to adult learners and young people — with a target of 50 interviews and 20 C.V.'s.
- Work together to ensure 50 people participate in health related courses and initiatives. Arrange for the Community Health Information Project vehicle (CHIP van) to visit Muirkirk.
- Increase Community Safety by holding a six session course which will include advice for young people and the elderly starting in February 2002.

Quality of learning opportunities

- Continually address the local issues and ensure resources are relevant by producing a standard evaluation form for all learning opportunities. Also ensure that the new technology resources available at the Community Learning Centre and Library are relevant to the community of Muirkirk.
- Provide up-to-date resources and at least two training opportunities for workers who are involved in the delivery of Community Learning opportunities.

Improve consultation and partnership:-

- Ensure the sharing of resources (premises, staff, materials) of each of the partners results in maximising access.
- Develop new resources through improved partnership working. This will result in at least one bid for external funding being submitted.
- Increase community membership of the planning group, resulting in at least two more community members.
- Meet with at least four community groups to encourage further consultation/feedback.

Ayr College

Ayrshire & Arran Health Board

Ayrshire Electronic Community

East Ayrshire Council

- Community Safety Section
- Library and Information Services
- Support to Communities

Employment Service

East Ayrshire Action Team for Jobs

'Forge Ahead Project' Advisory Committee

Muirkirk Enterprise Ltd.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Strathclyde Police

St. Thomas' Church



East Ayrshire Council's Karen Summers highlighting Road Safety at the Community Learning 'Open Day'

Evaluation of the Pilot Community Learning Plan

In order to ensure that targets are reached successfully, the following will take place:-

- This Pilot Plan will be issued to all community organisations and interested individuals in Muirkirk.
- Reports will be given to the appropriate boards or committees of the Partners.
- A progress review will be completed by October 2002 and issued to community organisations and interested individuals in Muirkirk. A summary will be published in the Muirkirk Community News.
- The process involved in producing this Pilot Plan will inform the wider production of Community Learning Plans throughout East Ayrshire.

East Ayrshire Council's Support to Communities lead this pilot

Please contact for any additional information.

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