

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2002

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS PROGRESS REPORT ON PILOT INITIATIVE

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** This paper seeks to inform Members of the Local Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to developing Pilot Community Learning Plans in this area of the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The requirement to develop a Community Learning Strategy for each Scottish Local Authority Area was set out in Scottish Executive Circular 4/99. The development of the strategy was led by the Education Department (now Educational and Social Services Department) and consulted widely with other Council departments and agencies who deliver services to learners within the Council Area. East Ayrshire's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003 was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 28 March 2000.
- 2.2** The Community Learning Strategy required that all partners would identify their commitment to the development of community based learning opportunities. The Scottish Executive Circular 4/99 also required Councils to identify pilot areas within their boundaries for the production of Community Learning Plans.
- 2.3** Community Learning Plans detail how the Learning Strategy will translate into local meaningful action.
- 2.4** With leadership from "Support to Communities", Community Learning Plan Groups were successfully established in each of the pilot areas of Kilmarnock North, Darvel/Newmilns and Muirkirk in May 2000. The Groups consist of key partners identified in the Community Learning Strategy, including local community groups and individuals.
- 2.5** A progress report was made to the Local Committees in November 2000.
- 2.6** As part of a national programme of visits relating to the development of Community Learning Plans, the Council was visited by HMIE in June 2001 and a national report of these visits will be available in 2002.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1** Individual Pilot Community Learning Plans have now been compiled by each of the Pilot Community Learning Planning Groups. Taking a broad definition of learning, each of the plans outline both strategic objectives and specific actions and targets to be achieved by the various partners working collaboratively by summer 2002. The process has already engendered successful partnership working between the partners with the involvement of the local communities.
- 3.2** Initial feedback suggests that the time spent in the process has been reflected in the quality of the Community Learning Plans and that this investment will be beneficial to the successful development of the concept to cover the whole Council Area.
- 3.3** During the development of the pilot plans, the East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership was established with the overall aims to :
- plan, implement, monitor and review the development of an East Ayrshire Community Learning Strategy
 - ensure the development of the Community Learning Strategy compliments the Community Planning Process and other appropriate plans
 - ensure a strategic approach to Community Learning based on partnership working within the resources available.
 - develop, implement and monitor the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plans
- 3.4** The Community Learning Partnership will consider the roll out of the community learning planning process which will be integral to community planning.

4 REPORT

- 4.1** Membership of the Muirkirk Community Learning Plan Group included representatives from key partners, together with local organisations:-
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| St. Thomas' Church; | Forge Ahead Project Advisory Committee; |
| Support to Communities; | Library Services; |
| Coalfield SIPS Area Team; | Strathclyde Police; |
| Auchinleck Academy; | Muirkirk Primary School; |
| Ayr College, | Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; |
| Ayrshire Electronic Community; | Muirkirk Enterprise Ltd., |
| Strathclyde Fire Brigade, | Community Safety |
| Action Team for Jobs, Employment Services. | |

Membership remained open throughout the term of the Group meetings and although some partners left the group, others joined. The Group were keen to involve the local community throughout the process.

- 4.2** The inaugural meeting of the Community Learning Plan Group took place on 30 May 2000. Issues discussed included an introduction to East Ayrshire's Community Learning Strategy, the development of Community Learning Plans and the agreement to progress an audit of need and resources with training being available for all group members. The group also agreed the production of a development plan and mission statement.
- 4.3** Training for members was a feature of the agenda at every meeting. Two members of the Group, including a community representative, attended a two day training course on the planning and evaluation of Community Learning Plans organised by the Scottish Community Development Centre.
- 4.4** The group produced the Community Learning Plan which is circulated with the Committee papers.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Financial commitments relating to the production of the three Pilot Community Learning Plans have been provided from existing resources.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Support for the development of Community Learning Plans is compatible with the Council Plan; the promotion of social inclusion and community planning.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members of the Local Committee:-
- (i) Ask the Director of Educational & Social Services to continue to report progress to the Local Committee; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

AJ/KG/
24 December 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular 4/99.

2. East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003.

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

AGENDA