

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2000

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS PROGRESS REPORT ON PILOT INITIATIVE AT MUIRKIRK

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This paper seeks to inform members of the Cumnock Area Local Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to developing a Pilot Community Learning Plan at Muirkirk.

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 Council submitted the Community Learning Strategy 2000 - 2003 to the Scottish Executive in March 2000 following approval at Policy and Resources Committee on 28 March 2000. The strategy covered the whole Council area.
- 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 will detail how the Learning Strategy will translate into local meaningful action. In the long term, it is anticipated that Community Learning Plans will grow in numbers across the whole Council area and may reflect both geographic areas and communities of interest.

The Educational and Social Services Department has lead responsibility in the development of Community Learning Plans. Local Community Learning Plan Groups have been established to facilitate the process.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 A pilot area for the development of Community Learning Plans has been identified in each of the Council's three Social Inclusion Partnership areas. Community Learning Plan Groups have been successfully established in each of the pilot areas of Kilmarnock North, Darvel/Newmilns and Muirkirk. The

Groups consist of key partners identified in the Community Learning Strategy, this includes local community groups and individuals.

- 3.2 The three Community Learning Plan Groups were formed in May 2000. Integral to the process area audits of resources, agencies and educational needs in each community. Each group has agreed they will consult community groups and individuals in order to identify the local needs that the plans will address.
- 3.3 Membership of the Muirkirk Community Learning Plan Group consists of representatives from eleven key partners, including local organisations:- St. Thomas' Church; Forge Ahead Project Advisory Committee; Community Education Service; Library Services; Coalfield SIPS Area Team; Strathclyde Police; Auchinleck Academy; Muirkirk Primary School; Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Ayrshire Electronic Community; Ayr College. Membership will be open throughout the term the Group meet. The Group are keen to involve more people from the local community.
- 3.4 The inaugural meeting of the Community Learning Plan Group took place on 30 May 2000. There have been four meetings to date and issues discussed have 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 next stage will be the agreement of the group's development plan and mission statement.
- 3.5 Training for members has been part 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.
- 3.6 The Muirkirk Community Learning Plan Group would welcome the views of Members of the Local Committee about the structure and content of the plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial commitments arising from the implementation of the Muirkirk Pilot Community Learning Plan.
- 4.2 Council financial commitment from the Community Learning Strategy will be met from existing resources.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Support for the development of Community Learning Plans which is compatible with the Council's approach to social inclusion, community planning with an emphasis on lifelong learning and active citizenship.

5.2 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Local Committee:

- (i) support the further development of the Community Learning Plan process; and
- (ii) note the content of the report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
20 October 2000

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 Community Education Officer, Tel: 01563 576126, or Alan Patterson, Community Learning Officer, Tel: 01290 421066

AGENDA