

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE - 5 SEPTEMBER 2000

DRUGS EDUCATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE SCHOOLS

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Education Sub Committee of the progress of drugs education in schools in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Following publication of the Government's "Tackling Drugs in Partnership, Action in Partnership" and East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services Drugs Action Plan and Drugs Education Policy, a comprehensive programme of drugs awareness and training is being implemented within East Ayrshire's schools.

3. DRUGS AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

- 3.1** A Drugs Strategy Group has been established comprising 2 Quality Development Officers, Strathclyde Police, Community Education, a Head Teacher, the Support Services Manager of a New Community School, and representatives from the Health Board, the Social Work Service Officer (Addiction and Carers), Psychological Services, and a Senior Community Education Worker. This inter-agency co-operative approach underpins all the activities relating to drugs education in East Ayrshire schools.
- 3.2** A Drugs Education Policy and Action Plan was approved by Council in November 1999. In line with the Action Plan, a leaflet "Drugs Education, Partnership in Action" has been produced with ADAT, Alcohol and Drugs Area Team, Standard Circular 71A is being re-written, and a school drugs education policy is ready for implementation.
- 3.3** All schools have received a copy of the Scottish Executive's "Guidelines for the Management of Incidents of Drug Misuse in Schools", which provides comprehensive, practical and up-to-date guidelines for all members of staff. This will ensure a consistent and measured approach which takes into account the responsibilities of staff and the rights of the child.
- 3.4** Several school-based initiatives, including "Action Faction" for Primary 5 pupils, and "Choices for Life" for Primary 7 pupils have involved Police, Leisure Services, Kilmarnock Football Club and Education staff. Drama productions, school visits and parents information evenings have complemented curricular programmes of study which have been taught within a Health Promotion or Personal and Social Education programme.

- 3.5** Training for staff includes a Scotland Against Drugs supported Primary School Initiative, in which every primary school will receive 2 days training for 2 members of staff, covering a whole school approach to drugs, drugs in the curriculum, managing incidents, and the active involvement of parents and the wider school community
- 3.6** Training involves staff from Police, Health Board, the local Drugs Training Forum, Social Work Addiction Services, staff from Quality Development and schools, to ensure that schools are aware of the multiplicity of agencies involved in the co-operative delivery of the drugs education programme.
- 3.7** In-service training is also being offered to non-teaching staff in schools, including janitors, chaplains and auxiliaries, whose daily activities may bring them into direct contact with young persons who are involved in the misuse of drugs.
- 3.8** Quality Development Officers will make staff aware of new curricular materials as they become available.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Nil

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that members of the Education Sub Committee note the contents of the paper.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

DF/MTC

19 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Drugs Education – Policy into Practice Report to Education Committee (includes East Ayrshire policy and Action Plan) November 1999.
- 2 Guidelines for the Management of Incidents of Drug Misuse in Schools (Scottish Executive).
- 3 Drugs Education - ,Partnership in Action (East Ayrshire Council).
- 4 ADAT action plan (Alcohol and Drug Action Team).

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, Tel: (01563) 576118 or Kenneth McKinlay, Principal, Quality Development, Tel: (01563) 555650.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS

AGENDA