

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 1 APRIL 2003

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Education Committee of the development of classroom assistants in primary schools and to seek approval for the establishment of classroom assistants in secondary schools.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Education Committee at its meeting on 28 January 1999 approved the Excellence Fund for Schools Core Programme included within this was the establishment of classroom assistants in primary schools

To date 126 FTE classroom assistants have been employed in primary schools in order to meet the Scottish Executive target of 1 adult:15 pupils in primary schools.

- 2.2 Classroom assistants assist teachers with administration tasks, organising wall displays, paired reading, playground and dining room supervision and assist children with special educational needs etc. Of the total of 126 classroom assistants, 25 have been allocated to primary schools specifically to assist them meet their targets in reading, writing and mathematics.

Monitoring and evaluation is continuing and schools in general have found that classroom assistants a very welcome additional resource.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 With the success of classroom assistants in primary schools, it is proposed, in the first instance to establish 20 FTE classroom assistants, graded GS 1/2 term-time in secondary schools. This is in line with recommendations of the McCrone report "A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century" that classroom assistants should be appointed in secondary schools. Once this phase has been completed, the position will be reviewed on how this development is fitting in with wider ancillary staff and managerial arrangements. It is then possible that a further report will be brought forward for Committee consideration to finalise McCrone related ancillary staff arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs of employing 20 FTE classroom assistants in Financial Year 2003/2004 inclusive of employers costs will be £279,949. All costs associated with these appointments can be met from the department's allocation of McCrone monies.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The recommendations arising from the report will be subject to consultation with the appropriate trade unions.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Elected Members:

- (i) agree referral of these proposals to the Corporate Sub Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/JS/JH
14 March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools (01563) 576089.

Implementation Officer: Graham Short