

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2003

ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform members of the Education Committee of additional funding made available by the Scottish Executive for adult literacy and numeracy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At the Education Committee of 5 February 2002 Members received a report regarding East Ayrshire's Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan and associated funding to implement the proposals contained within the Plan.
- 2.2** A subsequent report on 11 April 2002 was presented to Committee setting out the award to Support to Communities to establish additional essential skills services for people with literacy and numeracy difficulties as part of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY/ ACTION PLANS

- 3.1** The Scottish Executive has now made additional funding available for adult literacy and numeracy. £40 million is made available from April 2003 to March 2006. £32.5 million of this money is being allocated to Community Learning Partnerships and the remainder is allocated to the new National Development Centre for Adult Literacy located in Communities Scotland. In East Ayrshire this will result in £367,966 confirmed as available in financial list year 2003/04. In financial year 2004/05 £385,657 is available and £396,271 is available in 2005/06. The funding is included in the Revenue Support Grant.
- 3.2** In line with Circular ELLD1/01 issued in July 2001, local authorities are expected to:
- ensure that the Community Learning Partnership makes effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy;
 - ensure new resources continue to support and where possible build on the increased capacity and improve the quality of local provision;
 - ensure all partners have equal access to the new resources.

4. PROGRESS IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 4.1** The Community Learning Partnership submitted its mid year report to the Scottish Executive in September 2002. The Scottish Executive has given East Ayrshire's progress a rating of very good.
- 4.2** The Community Learning Partnership has developed into a strong partnership between agencies and priority at this stage is being given to marketing and developing a brand name for literacy and numeracy services in East Ayrshire. This is underpinned by the development of the infrastructure for literacy and numeracy across the range of providers.
- 4.3** The focus of development to date has been to establish the infrastructure which allows the delivery of quality services, which are regularly monitored. Existing learners continue to be supported and offered guidance to progress in their learning and training for new tutors is established. New training for staff and volunteers across the partnership to 'spot and refer' learners to appropriate services is being rolled out.
- 4.4** An evaluation of all existing funded projects is underway and the Community Learning Partnership will shortly be prioritising funding for next financial year based on a successful evaluation of existing services. Applications will be sought in the near future for funding for 2004/05 to 2005/06.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Additional funding for adult literacy and numeracy for financial year 2003/04 is £367,966; financial year 2004/05, £385,657; and financial year 2005/06 £396,271 which will be received in the Council's Revenue Support Grant.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The priority to improve literacy and numeracy skills is contained within the Council's Community Plan and Community Learning Partnership Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** Members of Education Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/KG/SR
9 January 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy : Education Committee 5 February 2002
2. Adult Literacy and Numeracy Funding : Education Committee of 11 April 2002
3. Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department, Further Adult Education Division: Funding for Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plans 10 December 2002.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR