

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2004

ACTION PLAN ON ADULT LITERACY & NUMERACY 2004 - 2006

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Members of the Education Committee of the production of the East Ayrshire Action Plan on Adult Literacy & Numeracy (2004/06) and to seek endorsement to the plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (2001-2004) was endorsed by Education Committee on 5 February 2002. This plan set out the priorities for the Partnership through the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan which included family life; regeneration and employment; communities; and health.
- 2.2** The Scottish Executive required a further Action Plan to be submitted in December 2003 to cover the years 2004 – 2006. Mid year reports are also submitted to the Scottish Executive and evaluated by Glasgow University to ensure outputs and outcomes are being appropriately met.
- 2.3** The East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership continues to be the main vehicle for implementing and monitoring the detail of the Action Plan. Many of the targets set out in the previous Action Plan and the recently submitted plan have been integrated into the Council's Community Plan.

3. ACTION PLAN 2004 - 2006

- 3.1** The Scottish Executive specify that plans require to show:
- An open and effective partnership approach to the delivery of Adult Literacy and Numeracy programmes
 - Targets based on previous baseline information regarding the number of learners support participating in programmes
 - Evidence of continuous improvement
 - Clearly defined outcomes for learners
 - details of local monitoring arrangements
- 3.2** There has been a significant increase in the learning programmes available across both the statutory and voluntary sector in East Ayrshire. This includes an increase in volunteer tutors as well as the number of hours available for learning. The number of learners being assisted with their literacy and numeracy has increased from 153 in 2000/01 to 602 in 2003/04 (based on

current projections). Appendix 1 sets out a list of agencies delivering services, specifically funded through the Adult Literacy and Numeracy resources available from the Scottish Executive.

- 3.3** The need to have an accessible, confidential and welcoming service continues to be paramount to learners and through recent evaluations, learners clearly value the different approaches used to support their literacy needs. One to one support continues to be the initial learning approach preferred by learners, until they develop in confidence and other learning approaches such as small groups or online learning are considered.
- 3.4** Individual learning plans are critical to ensure that the needs of individual learners are being met and monitored. Reviewing individual learning plans on a 6 weekly basis has enabled learners to evaluate their goals and amend learning programmes where appropriate.

Based on the evidence gathered and consultation processes, the undernoted priorities have been identified for adult literacy and numeracy in East Ayrshire over the next two years:

- the continued development of work place literacies
- the further development of English as a second language
- the need to develop young adult literacies programmes
- increase family learning opportunities
- continue to develop learning opportunities for learners with a disability
- learning opportunities to support homeless adults and families
- continued development of online learning opportunities
- ongoing awareness raising and training

- 3.5** The Action Plan is available in the Members Library.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Funding for the Action Plan across agencies can be met from Literacy and Numeracy funding allocated to the local authority, on behalf of its partners over the next two years.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The proposals contained within the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Acton Plan 2004 – 2006 is fully consistent with the targets set out in the East Ayrshire Community Plan and Individual Community Learning Plans.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is asked that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) endorse the role of the Council in the Action Plan for Literacy and Numeracy in East Ayrshire; and

- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

14 January 2004
KG/JP

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular No ELLD1/01 – Action Plans on Adult Literacy and Numeracy.
2. East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2001 – 2004.
3. Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy – Education Committee – 5 February 2002.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN
AGENCIES DELIVERING PROGRAMMES

East Ayrshire Council

- Community Learning and Development
- Personnel Services
- Libraries
- Schools

Kilmarnock College (in partnership with Social Work Services for some programmes)

Ayr College

Allies/Blue Triangle