

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 28 MAY 2002**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND EARLY INTERVENTION GRANTS 2002-2003**

#### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the use of the In-service training grant from the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) for the training of teachers and others working with children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The proposals in this paper are concerned mainly with the delivery of National Priority 3: 'To promote equality and help every pupil benefit from education, with particular regard paid to pupils with disabilities and special educational needs, and to Gaelic and other lesser used languages.' There is also relevance to National Priority 2 relating to developing the skills of teachers.
- 2.2** The total funding available to East Ayrshire Council for session 2002-2003 is £171,107. The Authority is required to submit a copy of their training strategy to the SEED by 31 May 2002, as a condition of the grant.
- 2.3** The grant is available towards the net cost of releasing teachers, educational psychologists and schools support staff for in-service training in the field of working with children with special educational needs.
- 2.4** The authority is encouraged by SEED when preparing its training strategy to take account of the following areas:
- inclusion of pupils with SEN in mainstream classes
  - implementation of the new duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Education (Disability Strategy and Pupils' Records) Act
  - multi-disciplinary working such as joint training and in-service days training for teachers and therapists
  - pupils with sensory impairment
  - neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia
  - child protection training for staff working with children with SEN
  - SEN pupils with social emotional and behavioural difficulties
  - staff working with minority ethnic children with SEN and their families

#### **3. AUTHORITY TRAINING STRATEGY**

- 3.1** The training strategy for special educational needs will be informed by the National Priorities and statement of Local Improvement Objectives. In this way there will be a full link to establishment or service development plans and then to the scheme of staff development and review. This package therefore forms a consistent and coherent whole.

- 3.2** The overall aim for SEN training in East Ayrshire is to ensure that all teachers, educational psychologists and support staff are offered appropriate staff development in order that they can support the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and provide a high quality education.
- 3.3** The main focus for SEN training in session 2002/2003 will be to provide staff development for nursery staff, class and subject teachers. This is a vital area for development with the increasing numbers of children and young people being educated in a mainstream setting. A number of different approaches to the delivery of this training will be employed including the following:
- national courses 'Introduction to Support for Learning' for teachers, nursery staff and school managers
  - courses on Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia and Individual Education Programmes (IEPs) to be included in the Quality Development In-service programme
  - accredited courses in twilight sessions as part of teachers Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
  - specific training for teachers in advance of receiving a pupil with special educational needs into their class. Funding for cover will be available to schools to facilitate this
  - support service staff will continue to provide staff development to schools on request
  - a series of courses will be offered on the implications of new legislation concerning SEN and disability.

Contributions to these training opportunities will be made from a number of agencies including Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and the National Autistic Society.

- 3.4** The Authority will continue to support Post-Graduate Certificate and Diploma courses for Network staff and mainstream teachers. Training for Network staff will be focussed in the areas of Autism, Dyslexia, Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Challenging Behaviour.
- 3.5** A training programme for SEN Auxiliaries which leads to the Scottish Qualifications Authority Professional Development Award and an Introduction to Moving and Handling will be offered during the next academic session.
- 3.6** Funding will be available to support appropriate training opportunities for Educational Psychologists. In addition contributions will be made to the Post-Graduate training of two trainee psychologists.
- 3.7** Increased funding will be available to all support services including the Bilingual Service to enable staff to develop their expertise in a wide range of special needs areas in order to provide support to children and young people across the authority.
- 3.8** A multi-agency group including health, education and social work will be established to consider a joint approach to training in the area of autistic spectrum disorders. This will build on the success of the joint training offered to education and social work staff by the National Autistic Society in 2001.

- 3.9** Funding for staff development will be available to special schools to support them in taking forward their development plan priorities. Additional funding will support the staff development element of the roll out across the authority of the Framework for Intervention initiative.
- 3.10** An updated Departmental Child Protection Policy and guidelines will be launched during session 2002/2003 and appropriate staff development will be offered to all staff from both social services and education. SEN issues will be included in these courses.
- 3.11** Early Intervention in partnership with the Network Support Team will take forward a number of initiatives in session 2002/2003 in support of pupils who are identified as 'at risk'. These initiatives will include the development of a reading recovery programme and the revision of the primary three screening programme. Staff development to support the implementation of these initiatives will be offered to both Network and school staff.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The full grant of £171,107 will be utilised to deliver this programme.

#### **5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Nil

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members:
- (i) agree to the proposals as outlined in this paper; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this paper

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

MJR/MJR  
3 May 2002

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. The Education (Grants for Further Training of Teachers and Educational Psychologists Etc.)(Scotland) regulations 1993 Teachers and others working with Children with Special Educational Needs (SEED)

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools,  
Tel: (01563 576089)

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : GRAHAM SHORT**

**AGENDA**