

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2000**

**EUROPEAN LINKS PROJECT**

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

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress being made with a European links project.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will recall that at a number of meetings the Education Committee has reaffirmed its commitment to European links. Such projects are funded under a programme supported by the European Union that is known under the heading of "Comenius".
- 2.2 Currently, East Ayrshire is involved in a Comenius project running that is entitled "Parental Involvement in the Education of Bilingual Pupils". This project mainly involves the small bilingual teaching support service.

**3. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 The project, which is of 3 years' duration is about to enter its third year. Links have been formed with Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Greece and East Renfrewshire. East Ayrshire staff working on this set of links do so in collaboration with colleagues from North Ayrshire.
- 3.2 So far, the benefits to the East Ayrshire education service from such links have included:
- ❖ Production of parent prompts for early reading and number in Urdu, Chinese, Punjabi and 18 other languages.
  - ❖ Adaptation of the nursery/primary skills profile to take account of the needs of bilingual learners.
  - ❖ Translation of the skills profile into main community languages, including associated papers such as parental letters.
  - ❖ Guidelines for the assessment of bilingual pupils and identification of special educational needs plus a parents' leaflet.
  - ❖ Early intervention shared reading project taken into KULOC Chinese school.
  - ❖ A bilingual support pack for schools is in preparation including support for assessing pupils, parental letters etc.
  - ❖ Pilot project in preparation to assist with bilingualism in the nursery.
  - ❖ Taped material in Chinese is being prepared to support early reading with pupils in the early stages of acquiring English

- 3.3 Other interesting aspects of practice that are under development are:

- ❖ In Greece a training video is being prepared to enable bilingual parents to be trained as classroom assistants;
- ❖ Parent prompts on numeracy skills for bilingual families are approaching completion;
- ❖ Denmark is producing a video for bilingual families explaining the Danish school system;
- ❖ Denmark is also establishing a bilingual homework support service between home and school;

**3.4** All of this work will be further developed throughout Year 3 of the project. This will include the establishment of a web-site, and consideration of evaluation strategies. Work will also be undertaken in each member country to establish links with national bodies such as Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, or their equivalent.

**3.5** It is hoped that partners may be able to visit east Ayrshire in 201 to make a presentation on the project.

#### **4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** Nil

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The project is financed through the European Union. Matched funding elements are met on an "in kind" basis.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members :  
 (i) note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
 Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS  
 27 October 2000

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

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

Nil

**Implementation Officer: Graham Short**

**AGENDA**