

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2001

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To seek approval for the annual statement of improvement objectives for the education service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 requires the Authority to publish an annual statement of improvement objectives. This framework is to be developed within the context of a set of national priorities which are published through the medium of a statutory instrument.
- 2.2** Members will be aware that the education service has already developed a strategic plan that was produced within the arrangements for the Council Plan. Much work was done during that exercise and subsequently in ensuring that there was wide consultation with relevant stakeholders. There is a high level of agreement between the national priorities and the Strategic Plan for the Education Department. As early as 06 February 2001, Education Committee gave its approval to the general approach that would be taken to implementing the national priorities.
- 2.3** It is an important part of this process that eventually a Service Plan will emerge which will be derived from the local improvement objectives. Currently, it is envisaged that such a plan will require to be prepared early in 2002.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1** As part of the process of developing the local improvement objectives it is important to consult a number of stakeholders:

- ◆ staff in educational establishments;
- ◆ parents, through school boards and authority forums;
- ◆ children and young people;
- ◆ representatives of the teachers' professional associations; and
- ◆ representatives of others with an interest in education

Throughout 2001, authority staff have been conducting a wide variety of consultations with these key groups. This has been done using the existing

strategic plan as a basis for discussion together with the national improvement objectives themselves. The strategic plan itself was subject to consultation with a wide range of groups. These consultations are continuing and it is envisaged that there may be minor readjustment as a result of these discussions. Children and young people will be consulted through the pupil councils that exist in nearly all schools. Parents are being consulted through parents' forums, school board meetings, and through the Council's web-site.

- 3.2** There was a high degree of agreement that the objectives given in the strategic plan continue to have relevance, however some readjustment is necessary to ensure economical delivery of the national framework. Committee agreed this principle in its discussion of the National Priorities on 06 February 2001.

4. SPECIFICATION OF THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 4.1** The proposed list of improvement objectives is given at appendix 1. At this stage, the presentation is in terms of broad statements of areas of educational provision and the direction in which improvement will be promoted. The Service Plan that will derive from these objectives will identify sharper targets together with responsibilities in delivering the improvement, a forecast of resources, together with timescales.

- 4.2** The Authority is required to publish its annual statement of improvement objectives during December 2001. This publication will be greatly assisted when the Scottish Executive make available the standards and measures that will be applied to the National Priorities.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** This development will allow the Authority to complete a significant obligation under the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act, 2000. There will also be a requirement at a future date for a statement to be published on how well these improvement objectives have been achieved.

- 5.2** Presentation of the National Priorities and Local Improvement Objectives in this way has been helpful in providing assurance that schools and the education service can play an active part in the delivery of the Council Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are significant financial implications associated with the delivery of the local improvement objectives. These will be specified in the Service Plan. The New Opportunities Fund will be a helpful source of funding. The funding system that will follow the Excellence Fund for Schools will be indispensable in delivering these commitments.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members :

- (i) agree the list of local improvement objectives;
- (ii) agree that the Chair of the Education Committee and the Director of Educational and Social Services can amend the list of objectives in the light of comments emerging from the final consultations;
- (iii) request that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a further report to Committee on the Departmental Service Plan;
- (iv) request the Director of Educational and Social Services to provide a report at an appropriate stage in the future on progress against these objectives;
and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

29 October 2001
GRS/GRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. National Priorities in Education, Education Committee, 06 February 2001
2. A Strategic plan for the Education Department 2000-2003, Education Committee

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

Implementation Officer: Graham Short

PROPOSED LIST OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. National Priority: Achievement and Attainment:

To raise standards of educational attainment in all schools, especially in the core skills of literacy and numeracy, and to achieve better levels in national measures of achievement, including examination results.

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from the Strategic Plan :

- ◆ The formal qualifications of young people in schools will be continually improved
- ◆ Improved ways of monitoring achievement are secured
- ◆ Enhanced vocational education
- ◆ Securing targeted development of the essential skills of literacy and numeracy in young people and adults

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from Other Consultations and Audits:

- ◆ Improved levels of achievement and attainment for looked after and accommodated children
- ◆ Specific initiatives to improve 5-14 attainment for all children
- ◆ Arrangements for learning support reviewed to further improve attainment
- ◆ Use of ICT developed to further raise attainment through novel applications, commercial learning programmes and pupil tracking
- ◆ Improved target-setting exercises for pupils and groups, associated with wider and improved use of tracking systems
- ◆ Particular targeted work on pupil tracking at times of transition
- ◆ Extension of early intervention methodologies
- ◆ Specific work to reduce gender inequalities in attainment and achievement
- ◆ Extension of supported study and out-of-hours learning

2. National Priority: Framework for Learning

To support and develop the skills of teachers, the self discipline of pupils and to enhance school environments so that they are conducive to teaching and learning.

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from the Strategic Plan :

- ◆ Provision of a curriculum that meets the needs of all learners for the 21st Century
- ◆ Delivery of improved Personal and Social Education and Guidance procedures
- ◆ Support provided through the New Opportunities Fund for ICT training for teachers and school librarians
- ◆ Staff development and review for all teachers
- ◆ Phased completion of staff development and review for all ancillary staff subject to consultation
- ◆ Promotion of outdoor education for excluded and disadvantaged groups

- ◆ Environmental projects promoted in school grounds
- ◆ Active monitoring of school security and safety in workplaces
- ◆ Monitoring and action in cases of violence against employees
- ◆ Provision of training for conflict situations

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from Other Consultations and Audits:

- ◆ Production of an Authority Statement on Learning and Teaching that includes advice on recent research on how people learn
- ◆ Production of a new Special Educational Needs policy
- ◆ Improved deployment of Ancillary staff to support learning
- ◆ Provision of improved headteacher and middle management training
- ◆ Extension of the good practice for Action Plan and New Community Schools

3. National Priority: Inclusion and Equality

To promote equality and help every pupil benefit from education, with particular regard to pupils with disabilities and special educational needs, and to Gaelic and other lesser used languages.

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from the Strategic Plan :

- ◆ Implementation of an early education and childcare plan
- ◆ SureStart Scotland support to vulnerable families with young children
- ◆ Further development of New Community Schools
- ◆ The Alternatives to Exclusion initiatives supported and developed
- ◆ Further integration of special educational needs provision within mainstream settings
- ◆ Review of Future Needs Assessment procedures
- ◆ Pre-school education for all 3 year olds in partnership by 2002
- ◆ Recognition of the needs of specific groups in the Children's Service Plan

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from Other Consultations and Audits:

- ◆ Review of present Child Protection procedures

4. National Priority: Values and Citizenship

To work with parents to teach pupils respect for self and one another and their interdependence with other members of their neighbourhood and society and to teach them the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from the Strategic Plan :

- ◆ Implementation of a comprehensive Drugs Education Action Plan
- ◆ Introduction of a Schools Sports Co-ordinators Programme
- ◆ Promotion of Physical Education and Sports Development
- ◆ Promoting needs of older people to the young through peer education programmes
- ◆ Development of parental education projects
- ◆ Improved support and training for community representatives

- ◆ Further development of the role of parents, young people and children within the life of the education service
- ◆ Provision of an Annual Youth Conference, Youth Councils and Youth Forum
- ◆ Supporting young people to participate effectively in local committees
- ◆ Further development of mechanisms to involve young people in the decisions that affect them
- ◆ Participation of young people in planning programmes such as Youth Strategies

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from Other Consultations and Audits:

- ◆ Nil

5. National Priority: Learning for Life

To equip pupils with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations necessary to prosper in a changing society and to encourage creativity and ambition.

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from the Strategic Plan :

- ◆ Delivery of all aspects of education for work
- ◆ Improved access to ICT
- ◆ Expansion of the Scottish Power Community Learning Centre at Kilmarnock
- ◆ Development and implementation of a healthy living strategy within community based adult education
- ◆ Production and implementation of a community learning strategy and plan
- ◆ Introduction of projects to improve access to Universities
- ◆ Further promotion of Open University courses
- ◆ Provision of an improved adult guidance service for community based learning
- ◆ Support to adult education associations
- ◆ Arts initiatives promoted

Local Improvement Objectives Derived from Other Consultations and Audits:

Nil

AGENDA