

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 NOVEMBER 2002

LINKS WITH SANDEFJORD, NORWAY

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of the links which are developing with Sandefjord, Norway and outline proposals for the development of this partnership.

2. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Through the involvement of Grange Academy and the Grange Academy Learning Partnership a number of educational links have been established recently with schools in the community of Sandefjord in Norway. These links have been based on an agenda for action which has linked the staff and pupils of the schools involved.
- 2.2 In recent months the proposal to extend the link to the education functions of both East Ayrshire and Sandefjord Council has arisen.

3. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 A delegation comprising the Chair of the Sandefjord Education Committee, the Director and Depute Director and Head Teachers from their schools visited East Ayrshire recently. The delegates visited a wide range of establishments in East Ayrshire and participated in discussions with colleagues in the department on approaches to quality improvement in schools. Approaches to the development of the arts and education and continuing professional development were also compared and reviewed.
- 3.2 The visit concluded with proposals for follow-up discussions and links which would involve young people from East Ayrshire. The emergence of a positive partnership between both departments has been secured through the recent visit and this was acknowledged as being an appropriate way to proceed.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Members of the Education Committee are asked to note the progress which is being made in developing this link and to offer support and encouragement to those taking forward the initiative. A particular focus on the benefits which

would accrue to pupils in schools in East Ayrshire will be at the core of developments.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note the partnership which has developed between the Department of Educational & Social Services and the Department of Education in Sandefjord, Norway;
- (ii) agree to the Director of Educational & Social Services further developing this partnership with a particular focus on quality improvement and the exploration of possibilities for further liaison between pupils in both countries; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

JM/SR
4 November 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational & Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JOHN MULGREW

AGENDA