

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 11 NOVEMBER 2003

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform members of the Committee of progress in achieving the targets set for joint working within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** In September 2000, Social Work and Education Committees approved a report, “Working Together to Strengthen Services”, by the Director of Educational and Social Services. The report outlined initial management arrangements for the newly merged Department of Educational and Social Services and proposed key targets for joint working within the new Department in its early years of operation.
- 2.2** In April 2002, both Committees approved a revised set of targets for the forthcoming period. In approving the report, the Committees invited the Director to present progress reports on achieving targets for action to appropriate committees.
- 2.3** This report presents progress on achieving the revised targets for joint working set in April 2002.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1** Progress on achieving the targets for the Department is summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.2** Committee will note that progress continues to be made in working together. Increasingly, initiatives developed and taken forward for action by the Scottish Executive and Committees of the Council are based on coherent joint plans, involving support from Education and Social Work. Amongst the initiatives being implemented are:
- better social and educational outcomes for looked after and accommodated children;
 - anti-drugs initiatives;

- improved arrangements for child protection;
- arrangements to consolidate the roll out of New Community Schools;
- integrated children's services;
- initiatives to tackle youth crime;
- establishment of a family centre in Cumnock.

3.3 Underpinning the joint working which is in progress, there is clear evidence that there has been a significant shift in attitudes and increased joint planning and delivery of services.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITY

4.1 It is proposed that the focus of future activity should be the consolidation of progress made thus far in respect of the existing targets for joint working, with specific areas of planned progress being relevant to current local and national development objectives.

4.2 Future activity will continue to be underpinned by a common set of principles, which requires it to be:

- focused on better outcomes for service users;
- consistent with existing strategic and service priorities;
- challenging but achievable;
- inclusive.

4.3 Planned progress for joint working during the forthcoming period is summarised in Appendix 1.

5. POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no policy, financial or legal implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is requested to:

- (i) note the progress made with the joint working targets set for the Department in April 2002, as set out in Appendix 1;
- (ii) approve the planned progress to consolidate achievements made thus far, also as set out in Appendix 1;
- (iii) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to circulate this information widely;

- (iv) invite the Director of Educational and Social Services to present further and progress reports to appropriate committees;
- (v) otherwise, note the content of the report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
Nil

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

19 October 2003

For further information, please contact John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning) on 01563 576978

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : JOHN MULGREW, DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS – NOVEMBER 2003

AIM	TARGET	PROGRESS MADE	PROGRESS PLANNED	TIMESCALE
<p>Setting the policy agenda</p>	<p>Identify common areas for policy and procedures, based on operational experience of where joint policies and procedures would most improve outcomes for service users</p> <p>Include within Committee reports reference to contribution to be made by educational/social work resources</p>	<p>Establishment of prioritisation group for placements outwith authority</p> <p>Common referral form agreed for early years service (Band 1 referrals)</p> <p>Achieved, whenever relevant</p>	<p>Develop joint approach to allocating social work and education budgets for such placements</p> <p>Undertake a Best Value review of outwith authority placements</p> <p>Undertake wider review of family care services to ensure maximum efficiency in use of resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>November 2003</p>

Partnership with outside organisations	Review existing partnership arrangements and enhance with educational or social work inputs where that would enable better outcomes for service users	Ayrshire-wide Race Equality Partnership established	Carry out needs assessment of ethnic minority communities	March 2004 (first phase)
		Ayrshire-wide children's health planning being addressed in Joint Development and Resource Group (Children's Services) (JDRG)	Establish education representation on JDRG	November 2003
			Develop joint response with Health to assisting children with attention deficit/hyper-activity disorder	December 2004
			Develop single shared assessment framework	June 2005
			Assist with preparations for Ayrshire Special Games	June 2004
	Learning Partnerships established and being evaluated			
	Joint presentations to Inspectorates (HMIE, SWSI)			

Working with young people	In implementing agreed Local Improvement Objectives within education, involve social work resources where that would improve outcomes for pupils	Joint structures in place for assessing individual needs of children and young people (e.g. CAT, PAT, SAT)		
	Roll out New Community Schools approach across the authority, with emphasis on multi-disciplinary planning and delivery of services	Achieved	Introduce social work posts to enhance overall services available	March 2004
			Undertake further multi-disciplinary training on shared objectives, roles and responsibilities	March 2004
	Utilise Children's Change Fund monies to develop early intervention in order to: Support homeless families; Expand home/school link workers Integrate disabled children and young people Integrate services for children and young people affected by drug and alcohol misuse	All first round services in place and second round services being implemented from April 2003 to March 2006	Monitor and evaluate first round services to determine impact on improved outcomes	Ongoing
			Implement and evaluate second round services, including measures to improve child protection	April 2003 onwards
Pilot "wrap around" care services on a 52 week basis in areas with Better Neighbourhood Services funding, complemented with home/nursery link workers	First year pilot project now completed	Consider sustainability beyond 2003-2004	Ongoing	

	<p>Develop a Family Centre in the Cumnock area, on a multi-disciplinary basis</p> <p>Expand outreach youth work in socially disadvantaged areas</p> <p>Develop proposals to reduce youth crime through physical education and a sports programme for action</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Working with an average of 70 young people in Shortlees and North West Kilmarnock</p> <p>Committee approval obtained to establish a range of sport-related initiatives</p> <p>All-weather sports pitches established in each Learning Partnership</p>	<p>Extend to Kilmarnock town centre</p> <p>Appointment of additional sports co-ordinators</p> <p>Pilot alternative curriculum programmes funded through Youth Justice monies</p>	<p>March 2004</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2004</p>
<p>Improving services for disabled adults and older people</p>	<p>Develop the contribution of adult learning initiatives to enhancing the quality of life of disabled adults and older people living in care homes or using day services within the authority</p>	<p>Supporting 50 adults with a learning disability to enhance their literacy and numeracy skills</p>	<p>Consider sustainability in 2004-2005</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Strengthening support for our communities	Implement the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Plan, with emphasis on:	Family learning taking place in a number of schools	Expand number of schools involved	Ongoing
	<p>Family learning through schools; Homeless people; Adults with a learning disability</p> <p>Further develop active citizenship among young people through student councils and youth forums, with particular emphasis on enabling the participation of children and young people with additional needs</p>	<p>Working collaboratively with Allies and Blue Triangle to support people who are homeless. 50 adults supported on regular basis</p> <p>Student Councils established in all schools</p> <p>Circle time established in all schools</p>	<p>Continue and consider sustainability beyond March 2005</p> <p>Evaluate success of pupil participation and build results into future development activity</p>	<p>October 2004</p> <p>June 2004</p>

Improving systems	Prepare an implementation plan for joint training and staff development based on the needs of staff in frontline services	Child protection inter-agency training plan approved by East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee	Delivery of calendar of inter-agency training events based on approved training plan	January 2004 onwards
		Education continuing professional development plan open to social work staff	Develop continuing professional development in pastoral care and welfare	June 2004
	Implement a commissioning and contracting framework for purchased educational and social care services	Draft commissioning and contracting framework finalised	Secure Committee approval to implement framework	November 2003
	Further enhance the functionality of the SEEMIS information system in education and explore the potential for linkage between SEEMIS and the SWIMS information system in social work	Enhanced access to SEEMIS secured via "Click and Go" installation Links established with database on looked after children	Integrate use of "Click and Go" in mainstream activity of education staff	December 2003

Performance Review and Best Value	Develop a common approach to quality assurance and performance review across educational and social work services, building on existing systems	Appointment of Head of Quality Improvement	Consolidate links between Quality Improvement in Education and Quality and Planning in Social Work	Ongoing
		Draft joint framework for quality across all Departmental services finalized	Implement joint framework and reporting system	April 2004
	Prepare a standard format for reporting performance to the public	Achieved – performance of Departmental services is subject to corporate public performance reporting arrangements		
	Finalise an amended Best Value service review programme, reflecting the statutory requirements about to be placed on local authorities	Best Value reviews completed on a range of services across Department Departmental draft position statement on Best Value finalized		
	Best Value review programme subject to revision in light of provisions of Local Government in Scotland Act 2003	Implement Best Value review programme	April 2004 onwards, on phased basis	

