

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2000

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS PROGRESS REPORT ON PILOT INITIATIVE

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This paper seeks to inform Members of the Education Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to developing Pilot Community Learning Plans in three areas of the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The requirement to develop a Community Learning Strategy for each Scottish local authority area was set out in Scottish Executive Circular 4/99. The development of the strategy was led by the Education Department (now Educational and Social Services Department) and consulted widely with other council departments and agencies who deliver services to learners within the Council area. East Ayrshire's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003 was approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 28 March 2000.
- 2.2 The Community Learning Strategy required that all partners would identify their commitment to the development of community based learning opportunities. The Scottish Executive Circular 4/99 also required Councils to identify pilot areas within their boundaries for the production of Community Learning Plans.
- 2.3 Community Learning Plans will detail how the Learning Strategy will translate into local meaningful action. In the long term, it is anticipated that Community Learning Plans will grow in number across the Council area and may reflect both geographic areas and communities of interest.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 A pilot area for the development of Community Learning Plans has been identified in each of the Council's three Social Inclusion Partnership areas. Community Learning Plan Groups have been successfully established in each of the pilot areas of Kilmarnock North, Darvel/Newmilns and Muirkirk. The Groups consist of key partners identified in the Community Learning Strategy, this includes local community groups and individuals.
- 3.2 The three Community Learning Plan Groups were formed in May 2000. Integral to the process are audits of resources, agencies and educational needs in each community.
- 3.3 Based on the information currently being gathered, each Pilot Community Learning Plan Group is about to develop the content and structure of their draft document.
- 3.4 Employee development opportunities have been put in place for those involved in leading the process. Monitoring and evaluation training, organised by Community Learning Scotland, will

take place on 25 and 26 September 2000. It is expected that training opportunities will be extended to other group members.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no new financial commitments arising from the implementation of the three Pilot Community Learning Plans.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Support for the development of Community Learning Plans is compatible with the Council Plan and Social Inclusion.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) remit to appropriate Local Committees;
- (ii) receive a report at a future date from the Director which considers proposals to evaluate and extend the pilot initiative; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

KG/SB
8 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular 4/99.
2. East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, Tel: (01563) 576126

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: ANNE JACKSON.

AGENDA