

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

ACTION PLANS ON ADULT LITERACY & NUMERACY

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Education Committee of the Scottish Executive Circular in relation to Action Plans on Adult Literacy & Numeracy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Circular provides guidance on the role expected of local authorities and their partners to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. The role of local authorities is set within the context of Community Learning Strategies where local authorities are required to co-ordinate and lead in relation to community learning.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council produced its Community Learning Strategy in April 2000, and since then has been implementing the Strategy through the development of three pilot Community Learning Plans. Progress reports have been previously presented to both Education Committee and Local Committees for their information.

3. THE CIRCULAR

- 3.1 Over the next three years £22.5 million of new funding is being allocated to improve adult literacy and numeracy. Community Learning Strategy Partnerships are being allocated £18.5 million of this money through local authorities for the creation of new learning opportunities for those seeking help with literacy and numeracy in the next three years.
- 3.2 The remaining resources will be used to fund national initiatives to support the work of local strategies. It is likely that this will include research, pathfinder projects, learning materials and the development of a curricular framework. These developments are in line with the recommendations in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland report published in July of this year.
- 3.3 Community Learning Strategy Partnerships require to determine how the new resources can be used most effectively through all local providers of adult literacy and numeracy. East Ayrshire's Community Learning Partnership was launched on 11 September 2001 and is building on the work already undertaken in East Ayrshire to further develop Community Learning, and in particular to assist people with reading and writing.
- 3.4 Resources will be linked to outcomes agreed with local authorities on behalf of Community Learning Strategy Partnerships and will build on, rather than replace, existing expenditure in order to achieve maximum impact within the community.

3.5 Local Action Plans will require to be submitted on behalf of the Community Learning Partnership through local authorities to the Scottish Executive no later than 31 December 2001.

3.6 The Scottish Executive will expect to see:

- clear evidence of an open and effective partnership approach and how partners intend to create clear progression pathways
- a baseline statement of existing literacy and numeracy learning provision
- an indication of the steps local providers intend taking to improve the quality of provision within the area
- details of the developmental and community outreach work to be carried out to engage learners
- a clear target on the number of learners that the Community Learning Partnership expect to be able to help in the years 2001-2004 respectively
- details of local monitoring arrangements

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The new funding will be added to local authorities GAE and for this financial year East Ayrshire will receive £95,530. The planned level of resources for 2002/3 is £191,059 and for 2003/4 £367,966. Over three years this totals £654,555.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is asked that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) ask the Director of Educational & Social Services to report on progress; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

27/8/01
KG/SB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular No ELLD1/01 – Action Plans on Adult Literacy and Numeracy.
2. Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland – July 2001

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

AGENDA

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR