

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2003

PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Education Committee of progress made in relation to Community Learning Plans.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The requirement to develop a Community Learning Strategy for each Scottish Local Authority Area was set out in the Scottish Executive circular 4/99. The development of the Strategy was led by the Educational and Social Services department in consultation with other council departments and agencies who deliver services to learners within the local authority. East Ayrshire's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003 was approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 28th March 2000.
- 2.2** The Community Learning Strategy required that all partners identify their commitment to the development of community based learning. From this development partners translated their commitment to the development of more local plans called Community Learning Plans. The Community Learning Plan details how the Community Learning Strategy translates into meaningful local action.
- 2.3** Progress of the plans development have been made to both Education Committee and appropriate Local Committees.

3. PILOT COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS

- 3.1** With leadership from Community Learning & Development, Community Learning Plan groups were successfully established in each of the pilot areas of Kilmarnock North, Darvel/Newmilns and Muirkirk in May 2000. The Groups consist of key partners identified in the Community Learning Strategy and also included local community groups and individuals.
- 3.2** Community Learning Plans were produced to cover the three pilot areas of Muirkirk, Darvel/Newmilns and Kilmarnock North. These were published in October 2001 and distributed widely in each of these communities. During 2001/2 work was progressed to meet the specific targets outlined in each of the plans.

- 3.3** The Planning Groups in each of these three communities continued to meet to review their progress. Progress reports for each of the three Community Learning Plans have recently been produced. These documents summarise how partners implemented and met the targets set out in the original Community Learning Plans. Copies are available in the Members Library.
- 3.4** In April/May 2002 HMIE visited the authority to inspecting standards and quality in Community Learning and Development in North Kilmarnock. The Community Learning Plan received particularly favourable comments when the report was published in September 2002. Nationally, HMIE have referred to the Kilmarnock North Community Learning Plan as an example of good practice.

4. COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS

- 4.1** In December 2001 the Community Learning Partnership agreed to extend the Community Learning Plan process beyond the pilot areas across the whole Council. Kilmarnock South area have produced their Community Learning Plan and Plans for Kilmarnock North, Cumnock and the Northern areas will be published shortly.
- 4.2** Community Learning Plans covering Irvine Valley, Doon Valley and Kilmarnock Central are at an earlier stage of development. These are expected to be published late 2004.
- 4.3** Work on a thematic Community Learning Plan focussing on people with a disability will start next year.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Financial commitments relating to the production of Community Learning Plans and Progress Reports have been met from partners existing resources and through East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The development of Community Learning Plans are integral to the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee
- (i) invite the Director of Educational and Social Services to report progress to the appropriate Local Committees; and

- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

15th August 2003
KG/AJ

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular 4/99
2. East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003
3. East Ayrshire – The Community Learning Plan
4. Kilmarnock North Community Learning Plan – pilot plan
5. Kilmarnock North Community Learning Plan – progress report

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