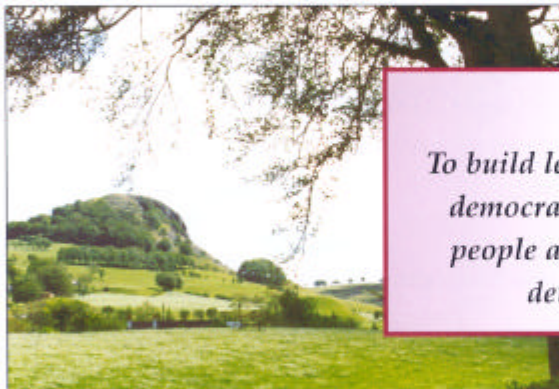


Darvel & *Newmilns*

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

In March 2000, East Ayrshire Council published a Community Learning Strategy for the whole Council area as set out in the Scottish Executive Circular 4/99. This circular also detailed the requirement on Scottish Local Authorities to produce Community Learning Plans. As a result, this Pilot Community Learning Plan has been produced. It is intended to be a straightforward operational document and covers the period May 2000 - June 2002.



VISION

To build learning and socially just democratic communities where people are actively involved in determining change

Strategic Objectives:

- Create an environment which enhances community learning.
- Develop resources and information facilities.
- Develop learning programmes which promote individual and community growth.
- Invest in community learning set against the policy objectives of the partners.
- Generate sustainable learning opportunities.

The Pilot Community Learning Plan covers:-

Darvel, including Priestland - population 3,684

Newmilns - population 3,364

As part of the process, the planning group conducted a survey with 400 questionnaires returned from parents and pupils of primary schools in the pilot area. Some of the findings are as follows:

Approximately 67% of people indicated an interest in participating in learning activities—these included:

- Learning new skills while involved with their children.
- Courses relevant to the Community.
- Topics aimed at enhancing skills for people returning to work.
- Addressing issues such as drugs awareness.
- Specific requests for computing, art & craft, creative writing, language, science, martial arts, badminton and tennis.

Additional comments included:

- You're never too old to learn.
- There should be a wide range of initiatives to cater for all ages.
- Childcare facilities are essential.
- Training should be easily accessible at a local level.

Further comments included:

- Bringing learning to the community would reduce travelling.
- Learning should be fun/stimulating.
- Learning should be for all ages.
- Different levels of learning opportunities should be available for different abilities.
- Teenagers should be assisted to improve their career prospects.
- Good idea – I hope you can make it work.



This plan is part of a Pilot initiative to identify the best way forward for the establishment of Community Learning Plans within East Ayrshire.

Work has already commenced towards achieving some of these objectives.

The Partners wish to achieve the following targets



NEW RESOURCES/NEW ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate the establishment of a suite of computers in Darvel.
- Ensure 50 young people have access to learning through the DAIRY Project based in Newmilns.
- Contact and assist at least 50 people to negotiate their next step in learning or personal development.
- Establish new learning activities in Newmilns.
- Deliver at least 9 computer courses.
- Provide workshops using the computers situated in both community libraries by April 2002.
- Organise family Local History workshops in both libraries.
- Ensure young people from both communities are actively involved in the establishment of an Irvine Valley Youth Forum.

BETTER CO-ORDINATION AND USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES



- Encourage at least 100 people to use the computer suite in Darvel.
- Ensure each partner is involved in improving information to the communities.
- Instigate visits to Darvel and Newmilns Primary Schools on a monthly basis by health workers.
- Introduce four initiatives that will contribute to health in both communities, including a course in Darvel by the Kilmarnock and Loudoun Adult Education Association.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PRACTICE

- Access new resources to help at least 20 people to progress their skills in communication, numeracy, problem solving, information technology and working with others.
- Support the community to develop Newmilns Dry Ski Slope.
- Target information to community groups regarding training opportunities available to them.

East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy, published in March 2000, identified five performance targets:

- Achieving potential through accessing learning opportunities.
- Informing young people at times of change in their lives, of options available to them.
- Developing core skills across the age ranges.
- Access to community based ICT.
- Promoting a positive approach to health.



Support to Communities have led the pilot group of partners who have produced this plan and commenced the practical work to meet the performance targets.

LIST OF PARTNERS

- East Ayrshire Council
 - Darvel Primary School
 - Newmilns Primary School
 - Libraries Resource and Information Services
 - Support to Communities
- Ayrshire and Arran Health Board
- Kilmarnock College
- Darvel Community Council
- Newmilns Community Council
- K.L.A.E.A. (Kilmarnock and Loudoun Adult Education Association)

This plan is a live document which is subject to continual improvement by the partners.

Ongoing evaluation will be carried out to ensure progress is made.

A Progress Report will be produced in Autumn 2002.

KEY CONTACT

For further information on this Community Learning Plan, please contact:

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