

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS
PROGRESS REPORT ON PILOT INITIATIVE

Report by the Director of Educational & Social Services

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This paper seeks to inform members of the Local Committee of the progress made in relation to developing a Pilot Community Learning Plan in Darvel and Newmilns.

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 Council submitted the Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003 to the Scottish Executive in March 2000 following approval at Policy and Resources Committee on 28 March 2000. The strategy covered the whole Council area.
- 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 whole Council area and may reflect both geographic areas and communities of interest. The Educational and Social Services Department has lead responsibility in the development of Community Learning Plans. Local Community Learning Plan Groups have been established to facilitate the process. Local Pilot Community Learning Planning groups have been established in Darvel/Newmilns, Muirkirk and Kilmarnock North.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The partners involved at present in the Darvel/Newmilns planning group are East Ayrshire Employment Initiative, Darvel & Newmilns Primary Schools, Kilmarnock College, Darvel Community Council, Newmilns Community Council, Community Education Service and the Irvine Valley & Northern Area Social Inclusion Partnership.
- 3.2 From the initial meeting in May 2000 the Darvel/Newmilns Pilot Community Learning Plan group has met three times and proposes to meet at regular 6 weekly intervals.
- 3.3 The Pilot Planning Group has chosen a mission statement and has set timescale for tasks to be implemented. It is planned to produce a report on the pilot by March 2000.
- 3.4 The group have been involved in the practical task of planning and implementing the launch of the Darvel IT Suite in Darvel Primary School as well as members participating in training on Community Learning Plans offered by Community Development Scotland.
- 3.5 The group are in the process of continuing to carry out a needs audit and will shortly be involved in a needs appraisal. In addition sub-groups will be appointed to develop practical tasks required to process and carry out the appraisal of needs.
- 3.6 The group realises that other agencies may wish to be involved in the process. Information is shared and active participation is also involved with the area's Social Inclusion Partnership.
- 3.7 As part of the Pilot Initiative, the group will produce a Community Learning Plan which will be reviewed along with the other two pilot area plans to help identify best practice in relation to extending Community Learning Plans to other areas of the Council.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no new financial commitments arising from the implementation of the Pilot Community Learning Plan.
- 4.2 Council financial commitments from the community Learning Strategy will be met from existing resources.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Support for the development of the Pilot Community Learning Plan is compatible with the Council's Social Strategy and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Local Committee note the progress that has been made in commencing the process of establishing the Pilot Community Learning Plan in the Darvel/Newmilns area.

AGENDA