

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2002

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 Local Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to developing Pilot Community Learning Plans in this area 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 the 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. Kilmarnock North area was identified as one of the pilot areas.
- 2.3** Community Learning Plans detail how the Learning Strategy will translate into local meaningful action.
- 2.4** With leadership from "Support to Communities", 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, including local community groups and individuals.
- 2.5** A progress report was made to the Local Committee in November 2000.
- 2.6** As part of a national programme of visits relating to the development of Community Learning Plans, the Council was visited by HMIE in June 2001 and a national report of these visits will be available in 2002.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1** Individual Pilot Community Learning Plans have now been compiled by each of the Pilot Community Learning Planning Groups. Taking a broad definition of learning, each of the plans outline both strategic objectives and specific actions and targets to be achieved by the various partners working collaboratively by summer 2002. The process has already engendered successful partnership working between the partners with the involvement of the local communities.
- 3.2** Initial feedback suggests that the time spent in the process has been reflected in the quality of the Community Learning Plans and that this investment will be beneficial to the successful development of the concept to cover the whole Council Area.
- 3.3** During the development of the pilot plans, the East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership was established with the overall aims to :
- plan, implement, monitor and review the development of an East Ayrshire Community Learning Strategy
 - ensure the development of the Community Learning Strategy compliments the Community Planning Process and other appropriate plans
 - ensure a strategic approach to Community Learning based on partnership working within the resources available.
 - develop, implement and monitor the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plans
- 3.4** The Community Learning Partnership will consider the roll out of the community learning planning process which will be integral to community planning.

4 KILMARNOCK NORTH COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

- 4.1** In May 2001 local community organisations were invited to an initial meeting to discuss the preliminary idea of a Community Learning Plan. In addition representatives from various agencies have also met to begin to explore turning this idea into reality.
- 4.2** Further actions by the group included agreement to audit need and an audit document now exists where some 24 agencies have identified their current level of activity. Joint training was identified as required by participants and a seminar was held in September 2001 with representatives from agencies met together to look at different forms of community consultation and involvement. Working groups were established to take forward the systematic assessment of need and identify the action to meet that need, leading to the production of the Community Learning Plan attached to this report.

4.3 During the development of the Kilmarnock North Plan the following 4 aims were identified:

- Making information about learning available to young people and adults;
- Developing reading and writing skills with people of all ages;
- Making computers and their uses accessible to everyone;
- Improving knowledge about health matters.

4.4 An important aspect of the development of the Community Learning Plan was that the community had real ownership and involvement in the process and a valuable feature of this has been to report to the local committee on progress.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial commitments relating to the production of the three Pilot Community Learning Plans have been provided from existing resources.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Support for the development of Community Learning Plans is compatible with the Council Plan, the promotion of social inclusion and community planning.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Members of the Local Committee:-

- (i) Ask the Director of Educational & Social Services to report continue to report progress to the Local Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

AJ/KG/SB
24 December 2001

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 Officer (Communities), Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA