

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2000

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 Kilmarnock North Local Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to developing Pilot Community Learning Plans in Kilmarnock North.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The requirement to develop a Community Learning Strategy for each Scottish local authority area was set on 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.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1** A Pilot area for the development of community learning plans has been identified in each of the Council's three Social Inclusion Partnership areas. Community Learning Plan Groups have been successfully established in each of the pilot areas of Kilmarnock North, Darvel/Newmilns and Muirkirk. The Groups consist of key partners identified in the Community Learning Strategy; this includes local community groups and individuals.

3.2 The three Community Learning Plan Groups were formed in May 2000. Integral to the process are audits of resources, agencies and educational needs in each community. Each group has agreed they will consult community groups and individuals in order to identify the local needs that the plans will address.

3.3 To date there have been four meetings to discuss the Community Learning Plan in Kilmarnock North. In May an initial meeting was held for community organisations to discuss the broad idea of a Community Learning Plan. In addition representatives from various agencies have also met to begin to explore turning this idea into reality.

Further actions have 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 and a seminar was held in September where representatives from agencies met together to look at different forms of community consultation and involvement.

The next meeting is planned for November when it is hoped that working groups can be established to take forward the systematic assessment of need and identify the action to meet that need.

3.4 At that stage, agencies will reflect on themes appropriate to a number of working groups. Possible themes may include:

- Numeracy and Literacy
- Training and Preparation for Work
- Information and Communication Technology
- Services for Young People
- Family Learning
- Community Capacity Building
- Community Health Issues
- Learning for People with Disabilities.

This list is not exhaustive and information from elected members, community representatives and agencies will be taken into account prior to the finalisation of work groups.

It is integral to the development of the Community Learning Plan that the community has ownership and involvement in the process and it would be valuable if the local committee agreed to receive regular reports on progress and provide input representative of the community in Kilmarnock North.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no new financial commitments arising from the implementation of the three Pilot Community Learning Plans.

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 Community Learning Plans is compatible with the Council's Social Strategy and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – Nil

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Kilmarnock North Local Committee

- (i) comment on the progress that has been made in establishing a Community Learning Plan for Kilmarnock North;
- (ii) agree to receive regular progress reports from the Director of Educational and Social Services; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
WH/AJ/MG
25 October 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Scottish Executive Circular 4/99
- 2 East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003
- 3 East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Plan Revised Provisional Timetable
- 4 Kilmarnock North Pilot Community Learning Plan – Audit of Agencies Activity in the field of Community Learning.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, tel: (01563) 576104, Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, tel: (01563) 576126 or Alan Murray, Community Learning Officer, Kilmarnock Area Team, tel: (01563 535913).

AGENDA