

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2002

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform local committee representatives of the Annual Reports on the New Community School initiatives in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The New Community Schools initiative is funded by the Scottish Executive at £200,000 per annum for a period of three years. Phase 1 – Kilmarnock Academy/Hillhead Primary was funded from April 1999 to March 2002. The Phase 3 initiative – Cumnock Academy has funding to March 2004.
- 2.2** East Ayrshire has been awarded £577,600 by the Scottish Executive for 2002/2003 - 2003/2004 to allow the New Community School approach to be rolled out across the authority. Members have previously received a report regarding proposals.
- 2.3** The three main objectives of New Community Schools are set out by the Scottish Executive:
- Raised Attainment
 - Social Inclusion
 - Integration
- 2.4** As part of the funding arrangements, the Scottish Executive require Annual Reports on each initiative to be submitted by 31 July each year.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT

- 3.1** A copy of both Annual Reports can be obtained from Hugh Carswell Integration Manager, Tel: (01563) 549280.
- 3.2** A clear framework for the Annual Report was given by the Scottish Executive – New Community Schools – Guidance on Submission of Returns – Annex D Annual Reports. The structure of both Annual Reports is therefore set out in accordance with this guidance.

3.3 PARTNERS

Many individuals and agencies are involved in New Community Schools. The young people continue to be the most important partners. Ideas from Student Councils are fed into New Community Schools, with a young person attending and contributing to operational meetings. Parents are also involved directly through school board members and indirectly through discussion of their child's Personal Learning Plan at parents evenings. The main service providers continue to be:

- Education
- Community Learning
- Social Work
- Health

Additional support comes from:

- Community Services
- Careers
- Voluntary Organisations
- Emergency Services
- Further Education

3.4 PROGRESS MADE

The undernoted sets out the key features of progress made in Kilmarnock/Hillhead.

Key features in Kilmarnock/Hillhead include:

- Full implementation of Personal Learning Plans which are discussed with parents at Kilmarnock Academy's parents evenings.
- Successmaker now used in both schools to improve numeracy and literacy for vulnerable young people who can use the same programme when transferring from primary to secondary school.
- Breakfast Clubs are operating in both establishments with an average of 41 pupils attending Hillhead's each day.
- Introduction of Curiosity Kits using Adult Literacy/Numeracy money which allow families to learn together. This initiative contributes to the Community Learning Plan and covers Cairns Nursery and Hillhead Primary.
- Home visits by Home Link Worker, Social Worker and Health Adviser to pupils from both establishments to intervene at an early stage, breakdown barriers and seek solutions to any difficulties.
- As part of the Alternative Curriculum package, a pilot Princes Trust programme began in February 2002 with 15 pupils from S2 attending three periods per week. Pupils were identified on the basis of lacking confidence, being poor attenders or having behaviour difficulties. The pilot had parental approval and is likely to run in Session 2002-2003. The main tutor was the Home Link Worker with input from Support to Communities, Drugs Counselling, Outdoor Education and Kilmarnock College staff.

- 3.5** Kilmarnock Academy/Hillhead Primary New Community School will build on its three years experience to support the roll out of the approach within a Learning Partnership.
- 3.6** Over the past year, New Community Schools have received £60,000 additional funding from New Opportunities Fund, Social Inclusion Partnership and Adult Literacy/Numeracy funding.
- 3.7** New Community Schools staff have also been involved in proposals for Better Neighbourhood Service Funding, Changing Children's Service Fund and New Community School Roll Out monies, all of which, will benefit areas served by New Community Schools, and assist New Community Schools to meet their overall aims.

Operational and strategic links exist with:

- Community learning planning
- Local Health Care Co-operative
- Social Inclusion Partnership
- Childcare Partnership
- Child and Adolescent Operational Health Group
- East Ayrshire's Healthy Living Initiative
- Five a Day in Schools
- PEACH – Promoting East Ayrshire Children's Health

- 3.8** These links ensure a multi service approach to maximizing resources, utilising skills across services and importantly ensuring all appropriate services work together.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL/POLICY/IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The roll out of New Community Schools will take place within the context of Learning Partnerships and progress monitored and reported through an overall evaluation framework for Learning Partnerships.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** It is recommended that Members of committee note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/HC/JH
14 October 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. New Community Schools – The Prospectus – Scottish Executive – November 1998
2. New Community Schools – Guidance on Submission of Returns – Scottish Executive – April 2001
3. Working Together for Children and Young People - East Ayrshire's submission for the roll out of the New Community School approach.

Members wishing further information, should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Hugh Carswell, Integration Manager, Tel: (01563) 549280.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA