

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE-15th JANUARY 2004

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Northern Area Local Committee of the progress made in relation to the production of a Community Learning Plan for the Northern Area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The requirement to develop a Community Learning Strategy for each Scottish Local Authority Area was set out in the Scottish Executive Circular 4/99. East Ayrshire's Community Learning Strategy 2002-2003 was approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 28th March 2000. This is now integrated into the Community Planning process for 2004-2007.
- 2.2 The Community Learning Strategy requires that all partners identify their commitment to the development of community based learning. From this commitment, local plans have been developed called Community Learning Plans. These local plans detail how the Community Learning Strategy translates into meaningful local action.
- 2.3 Progress of the Plans development has been made to both Education Committee and appropriate Local Committees.

3. THE NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

- 3.1 On the 29th August 2002 Community Learning and Development called the first meeting for those groups and agencies involved in Community Learning and Development activities in the Northern Area. A total of 11 meetings were held between this date and November 2003 when the final draft was agreed.
- 3.2 During that period a number of activities were carried out by partners including
- An audit of activities.
 - Surveys of community groups and individuals to determine their needs
- 3.3 Taking direction from East Ayrshire Council's Community Plan, the outcomes and points for action contained in the Community Learning Plan were determined using the above information.
- 3.4 The Community Learning Plan for the Northern Area was compiled during 2003. An official launch will be organised in the coming months.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- 3.5** Copies of the Plan will be made widely available to individuals and groups in the Northern Area.
- 3.6** Each of the partners who developed the 20 Points for Action are currently working to ensure successful action over the period of the Plan.
- 3.7** To measure the success of this plan and to build information for the future plans, a series of activities will take place each year. These will include:-
- Community consultation activities at open days and events
 - Regular reports to East Ayrshire Council Community Learning Partnership.
 - Evaluations of existing community learning opportunities.
 - Copies of the plan and reviews will be forwarded to all community councils, community associations and voluntary organisations within the Northern Area.
 - A report outlining progress will be produced in the autumn of 2004 when the action plans will be reviewed and updated.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Financial commitments relating to the production of Community Learning Plans have been met from existing resources and through East Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The development of Community Learning plans is integral to the Promoting Community Learning theme of the Community Plan.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that members of the Local Committee note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services
12th December 2003
EOC/MG

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Circular 4/99.
2. East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning Strategy 200-2003.
3. East Ayrshire-The Community Plan.
4. The Community Learning Plans of Darvel/Newmilns. Kilmarnock North and Muirkirk
5. The Northern Area Community Learning Plan

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: EDDIE O'CONNOR