

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 9 APRIL 2002

ROLL OUT OF NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL APPROACH

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Committee of the use of the monies made available by the Scottish Executive for financial year 2002/3 and 2003/4 to support the roll out of the New Community School approach across the Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have previously received reports on the New Community School pilot programmes operating in East Ayrshire. The New Community School pilot programme will continue to operate with its original terms and conditions until 2004. Pilot programmes are providing evidence that schools and other agencies are benefiting from the new ways of working.
- 2.2 The New Community School approach is fundamental to raising educational attainment and promoting social inclusion and the Scottish Executive have announced additional monies to support the roll out of the approach. In financial years 2002/3 and 2003/4 East Ayrshire Council will receive £288,800 in each year to take the initiative forward.

3. THE ROLL OUT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In preparing the local authority bid for the additional monies there was a requirement to have the proposals approved by the Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran. The Scottish Executive have included core elements which they consider fundamental to the Community School approach across all schools. This includes:
- Joint training of staff to achieve a shared understanding of objectives and team working
 - Integrated planning of services with local authorities, health service and other partner agencies
 - Integrated service delivery, including financial commitments from all partners
 - Clear plans to improve attainment and achievement
 - Effective involvement and consultation with parents and carers.
 - An explicit commitment to the welfare of young people
 - Good engagement with the wider community, particularly in addressing barriers to learning
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- Professional, determined and courageous leadership

3.2 There is an expectation that the roll out approach will be linked to educational national priorities and will take into account the lessons of the Action Plan on Better Integrated Children's Services through the changing Children's Service Fund.

3.3 Integrated management requires to be focused at a strategic level and a multi-agency steering group already exists in East Ayrshire to take this forward.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The local authority and NHS Ayrshire & Arran submitted the proposals to the Scottish Executive. In the first year this centres on two broad themes, namely:-

- integrated local planning and service delivery
- management of change through staff training and development

4.2 Proposals are based on the development of multi-disciplinary cluster teams with named individuals identified from a range of professions including social work, health, and community learning.

4.3 In the first year this will be supported by the identification from within clusters of a part time, probably 0.5 FTE, facilitator who will work to the Heads of Establishments in the area and will be required to:

- facilitate integration of services which are child centered and based on the principle of early intervention
- ensure an integrated needs based assessment, planning, intervention, review and recording framework is operating locally based on a 'one door' approach
- facilitate a whole school approach
- facilitate partners understanding about each others roles and responsibilities
- utilising community profile data and relevant strategy documents to establish agreed priorities
- organise and deliver multi-disciplinary training and development
- organise multi-disciplinary team service delivery
- support agencies to integrate the New Community School approach into their respective development plans

In Year 2 the multi-disciplinary cluster teams will use the allocation to deliver services based on priorities agreed in the first year.

At a strategic level it is proposed (the current) New Community Schools Integration Manager post will be replaced by a post with responsibility for supporting the strategic development of the New Community School approach and Integrating Children's Services.

- 4.4 The allocation to the Kilmarnock cluster will be used to purchase resources based on agreed multi-disciplinary priorities, in recognition of its three years of experience.
- 4.5 The current Community Link Worker, Social Worker and Health Adviser allocated to Kilmarnock Academy/Hillhead Primary will take on a cluster remit. It is intended that these posts will be funded through the Excellence Fund, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the Changing Children's Service Fund.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications arising from the proposals will be met from the £288,800 allocated in each of the financial years 2002/3 and 2003/4.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The roll out of the New Community School approach is in line with the Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2001 – 2004 and the "Priority to Improvement", the Council's Annual Statement of Improvement Objectives in Education 2002.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The replacement of the current post of New Community School Integration Manager with a post responsible for supporting the strategic development of the New Community School approach and Integrating Children's Services will require to be referred to Corporate Sub-Committee for its consideration.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Members:
- (i) note the contents of the report, and;
 - (ii) refer the Personnel aspects of the report to Corporate Sub-Committee for consideration

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/HC/SB
15 January 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Roll out of New Community School approach: Scottish Executive letter of 17 December 2001.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA