

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – THURSDAY 24 MAY 2001

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the second Annual Report on the New Community Schools initiative for Kilmarnock.

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. Within Kilmarnock, two schools, Kilmarnock Academy and Hillhead Primary, are entering their third year of funding.

- 2.2 A New Community Schools Prospectus was issued by the Scottish Executive which sets out the three main objectives of the initiative as:

- Raised Attainment
- Social Inclusion
- Partnership/Integration

- 2.3 As part of the funding arrangements, the Scottish Executive require an Annual Report to be submitted by 31 July each year.

- 2.4 The Kilmarnock Schools were joined by Cumnock Academy on 1 April 2001 when it officially became a New Community School.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT

- 3.1 A clear framework for the Annual Report was given by the Scottish Executive on 11 April 2001 headed New Community Schools – Guidance on Submission of Returns – Annex D Annual Reports

- 3.2 The structure of the Annual Report is:

- Introduction
- The Partners
- The Structure
- Progress Made
- Future Priorities

3.3 THE PARTNERS

Many individuals and agencies are involved in Kilmarnock New Community Schools. The young people are the most important partners and Members will have the opportunity to hear from them at Committee. They are actively involved through Personal Learning Plans which involve discussions with the young people on their educational, health and social needs prior to a plan being devised to meet those needs. Young people are also asked to contribute their ideas to future development. In addition to the core partners of health, education and social work other partners include parents, outdoor learning, community development, community services, emergency services and further education.

3.4 THE STRUCTURE

As part of the ongoing review, it was agreed in late 2000-2001, to streamline the structure. In effect, several layers of decision making and meetings will be amalgamated into one Operational Group Meeting. The Steering Group, which will provide strategic direction, is chaired by the Head of Community Support.

3.5 PROGRESS MADE

In 2000-2001, a social worker and health adviser were funded from the New Community School budget. They work between Kilmarnock Academy and Hillhead Primary, as do all other staff, except the additional teaching posts which are school specific. There is now a multi-disciplinary base and parents room at Hillhead Primary and another base has been created at Kilmarnock Academy for New Community School staff. Both schools have introduced Personal Learning Plans; additional supports to raise attainment and promote inclusion; Breakfast Clubs; New Community School Newsletters; health initiatives for young people, parents and staff; common referral, recording and feedback forms for all professionals; ongoing in-service and multi-disciplinary training.

This year, New Community Schools have received £69,219 additional funding from the New Opportunity Fund, Social Inclusion Partnership and Health Improvement Fund to allow services to be enhanced.

Clear links have been established between New Community Schools and the Community Learning Plan, Local Health Care Co-operative, Social Inclusion Partnership, Childcare Partnership and Mobile Healthy Living Centre. The links ensure that resources are maximised and duplication avoided.

3.6 FUTURE PRIORITIES

Priorities have been set for 2001-2002 under the following headings:

- Raised Attainment
- Sustainability
- Training and Development
- Further Development of Alternative Curriculum

- Communication with Parents and Others
- Involvement of Community Organisations
- Developing Community Use of New Community Schools
- Promoting Learning in Families

Under each heading, there are related action points which will be used to monitor and evaluate progress in Year 3. All New Community School work will be evaluated under Raised Attainment, Social Inclusion or Partnership/Integration.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL/POLICY/IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) endorse the second Annual Report for Kilmarnock New Community Schools;
- (ii) record the thanks of Committee to young people, parents and staff involved in the New Community School initiative for the work that has been undertaken to make it a success; and
- (iii) require the Director of Educational and Social Services to keep Committee informed of future developments in New Community Schools.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/HC/SB
3 May 2001

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

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

[A copy of the Annual Report is available in the Members' Information Point]

AGENDA