

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

6 MARCH 2001

EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP IN SCOTLAND – A PAPER FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee approves the enclosed response (Appendix) to the above Consultation Paper prepared by Learning & Teaching Scotland.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In September 2000, Learning & Teaching Scotland issued:

Education for Citizenship in Scotland – A Paper for Discussion and Consultation

2.2 The consultation paper explores and suggests answers to four main questions:

- What do we mean by citizenship?
- Why is education for citizenship important?
- What should education for citizenship do for young people?
- What does effective education for citizenship involve in practice – for the curriculum, for schools, for pre-5 centres and for communities?

2.3 The paper outlines the qualities and dispositions regarded as essential characteristics of active and responsible citizenship, including:

- an ability and disposition to examine matters critically and to develop informed views, including views that challenge established conventions and the status quo
- sensitivity to other people's needs and views and to the potential impacts of choices and actions on others and on the environment
- the ability and willingness to exercise rights and to act for the benefit of others.
- a disposition to openness, objectivity and rejection of prejudice or discrimination

2.4 There is an acknowledgement that, in important respects, citizenship is best learnt through experience, although the paper provides some examples of learning outcomes related to knowledge and understanding for citizenship, to skills and competences for citizenship, to values and dispositions for citizenship, and to creativity and enterprise for citizenship.

2.5 In addition to a discussion of the essential features and key experiences, reference is made to opportunities in the 3-5 curriculum, the 5-14 curriculum and the 14+ curriculum.

2.6 All in all the consultation paper is an immensely worthy document. Its full text is available on Learning & Teaching Scotland's website – www.LT.Scotland.com

- 2.7 A short-life working group was brought together to consider this consultation paper and the response prepared by that working group is appended to this Report.

3 RESPONSE FROM ANGUS COUNCIL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Education Committee should endorse the enclosed response as the formal response to this consultation exercise from Angus Council.
- 3.2 One of the key paragraphs in the attached response relates to the first bullet point on the first page; in terms of developing citizenship, the importance of an appropriate ethos permeating all the activities of a school is much greater than any detailed analysis of subject content within the formal curriculum, and it is suggested that this key message is highlighted in the Council's response to Learning & Teaching Scotland.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights arising directly from approval of the recommendations contained within this Report.

5 CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration.

Jim Anderson
Director of Education

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

APPENDIX

JAA/CJ