

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2001

ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGUS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

This report brings the recommendations of "Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland", the national strategy for literacy and numeracy development, to the attention of the Education Committee and seeks the Committee's approval of a new Angus Lifelong Learning Good Practice Framework.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. notes the recommendations made in "Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland", the national strategy for adult literacy and numeracy development published on 2 July 2001.
- b. notes the findings of the Review of Adult Basic Education in Angus undertaken by the Community Education Service.
- c. approves the adoption of the proposed Lifelong Learning Good Practice Framework for the delivery of Literacy and Numeracy within the Community Education Service

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Raising literacy and numeracy standards is seen to be at the heart of Scottish Executive policy in promoting social inclusion, bringing people to the starting gate of participation in all forms of lifelong learning and improving people's sustainable employment prospects and quality of life. The International Adult Literacy Study (1997) highlighted the need to raise standards, suggesting that approximately 20% of adults in Scotland experience significant difficulties with literacy and numeracy.
- 2.2 In June 2000 the Scottish Executive appointed an Adult Literacy Team remitted to "provide the focus for the development of national policy and strategy on adult literacy and numeracy". In September 2000 the Executive announced the allocation of an additional £22.5m, over a three-year period, to raise adult literacy and numeracy levels. The means by which these additional resources would be allocated would be the subject of a recommendation within the Adult Literacy Team's report.
- 2.3 The Adult Literacy Team reported on 2 July 2001. The report "Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland" sets out a wide-ranging strategy addressing issues of leadership, accountability, quality, practice development, training, target populations and levels of provision.

The key recommendations contained in their report are that:

- The national strategy for adult literacy and numeracy should be overseen by Ministers and co-ordinated and monitored within the Scottish Executive
 - A national “development engine” be created to drive forward the creation of quality literacy and numeracy provision across Scotland
 - Accountability for local development, funding, monitoring and targets be given to local authorities as co-ordinators of Community Learning Strategies
 - £18.5 million should be allocated through local authorities to Community Learning Strategy partnerships to complement existing capacity and assist around 80,000 learners over the next 3 years. [An allocation to Angus of £305,492 was announced in a press release published by the Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning on 2 July 2001].
- [The full list of recommendations is contained in Appendix 1]**

- 2.4 In autumn 2000, the Community Education Service undertook a major review of the structure and organisation of its Adult Basic Education activity. This review made a number of recommendations for improvement, including the adoption of a local Good Practice Framework as a planning and review tool. This Framework derives directly from “Literacies in the Community: Resources for Practitioners and Managers”, the quality framework recommended within the national strategy.
- 2.5 A full list of recommendations from the Angus Review is provided in Appendix 2. It should be noted that proposals in relation to ABE provision in Adult Resource Centres are seen to complement similar proposals arising from a recent Scottish Executive review of provision for people with learning disabilities, “The Same as You?”

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional funding allocated by the Scottish Executive will meet the costs of implementing the national strategy in Angus. The funding allocation is £305,492, over 3 years

All costs related to implementing the recommendations of the Angus Review can be met within the Community Education Service’s existing revenue budget.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from 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, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Social Work.

6 CONCLUSION

The adoption of the Lifelong Learning Framework and implementation of the recommendations arising from the Review of Adult Basic Education will improve the delivery of literacy and numeracy in Angus.

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.

APPENDICES