

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2002

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2002

ACTION PLAN ON ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to seek the endorsement of the Education Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee of the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan already submitted to the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee each for its own interests:

- (a) notes the terms of this report
- (b) notes and endorses the terms of the attached action plan which has been prepared by the Literacy and Numeracy sub-group of the Community Learning Strategy partnership
- (c) notes that while the terms of Scottish Executive Circular No. ELLD 1/01 provides for new adult literacy and numeracy funding be added to local authorities' GAE "these funds are for the use of the whole partnership group responsible for the Community Learning Strategy, rather than for the local authority alone"

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Circular No. ELLD 1/01 was issued by the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department on 17 July 2001. The circular provides guidance on the role expected of local authorities in a new drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Local authorities are expected to carry out this role in the context of Community Learning developments and the Circular indicates how authorities are expected to:

- ensure that the partnership group responsible for the community learning strategy makes effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy
- co-ordinate and lead on the creation of clearly defined action plans on adult literacy and numeracy as components of community learning strategies

2.2 While resources may be used flexibly within Community Learning Strategy Partnerships to meet local priorities, there is an expectation that local outcomes will contribute to achieving the national targets of:

- helping about 80,000 people in total over the next three years
- increasing **annual** capacity within three years to help around 34,000 people each year by 2003-2004

2.3 In line with local authority responsibilities under Circular 4/99 each authority is expected to co-ordinate the production of a local adult literacy and numeracy action plan and to monitor and

evaluate the implementation of this plan once in place. Action Plans required to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31 December 2001 and were expected to provide:

- clear evidence of an open and effective partnership approach
- a baseline statement of existing literacy and numeracy learning provision
- an indication of arrangements to be made by local providers to improve the quality of provision within their local area
- details of the developmental and community outreach work to be carried out in order to engage new learning
- a clear target in relation to the number of learners the partnership will be expected to help in 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004
- details of local monitoring arrangements

3 ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE ANGUS COMMUNITY LEARNING STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP TO PRODUCE A LOCAL ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 It was decided to establish an action plan sub-group of the Community Learning Strategy partnership. The sub-group has been able to develop within a tight timescale a comprehensive plan which has been the subject of consultation with a wide range of community learning partners in Angus as listed in Appendix 1 of the attached plan.
- 3.2 The attached action plan was sent to the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department on 21 December 2001 in order to comply with submission deadline of 31 December 2001. The attention of the Committees is drawn in particular to (i) Appendix 1 of the Action Plan (which summarises the outcomes of a local consultation exercise) (ii) Appendix 2 (which summarises the proposed literacy and numeracy expenditure in the current financial year) and (iii) section 3 which describes the outputs which the Community Learning Strategy Partnership hopes to achieve over the three year period covered by the literacy and numeracy action plan.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding made available to Angus in terms of Circular No ELLD 1/01 totals **£305,492** over the period 2001-2004 broken down as follows:

2001-2002	£44,585
2002-2003	£89,171
2003-2004	£171,736

The funding is made available to establish **additional** provision in relation to Adult Literacy and Numeracy. It is intended that the proposals outlined in the attached action plan will be contained within the Circular ELLD 1/01 allocation made available to Angus. It should be noted that local authorities are expected to provide to the Scottish Executive mid-year reports the first of which is to be submitted by 30 September 2002. These reports will be the subject of further reports to the Education Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance. As described in 3.1 above, the contents of the attached Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan have been the subject of consultation with the partner organisations represented within the Angus Community Learning Strategy Partnership.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

NL/AR