

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE –
18 NOVEMBER 2002**

**REPORT ON: ROLL OUT PROPOSALS FOR NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
APPROACH IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 794-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval for the Education Department's proposals to roll out the New Community School approach in Dundee secondary schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the level of Scottish Executive funding allocated to the roll out of the New Community School approach; and
- (ii) approve the Education Department's proposal to roll out the New Community School approach in Dundee secondary schools.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The allocation to the Council from the Scottish Executive for the roll out programme of the New Community School approach is £311,600 for 2002-03 and £311,600 for 2003-2004.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The roll out programme in all secondary schools will enable access to skills, knowledge and information, to help those participating to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The roll out programme will promote inclusion, and develop and enhance quality of access for each child to maximise his/her potential.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The New Community School approach is founded on the desire to give children the opportunity to realise their full potential so that they leave school with relevant skills, well motivated with high self-esteem and equipped for adult life in an inclusive society.

- 6.2** It embodies the fundamental principles that the potential of children can be realised only by addressing their needs in the round, and that this requires an integrated approach to the delivery of a range of services necessary to assist children to overcome the barriers to learning and positive development.
- 6.3** The New Community School approach is central to the Government's strategy for closing the attainment gap. The approach is seen by the Government as essential to securing positive outcomes for children and young people by encouraging the provision of services focused on the needs of the individual child. The Scottish Executive is clear that central to young people's positive development are factors such as improved opportunities offered for family support, family learning and health improvement, all of which can be provided in an establishment which is part of and for the community.
- 6.4** In preparing plans on how to take forward the work of Community Schools local authorities were asked to include in their arrangements eight elements which are regarded as core to the roll out of the New Community School's approach across all schools, viz:
- integrated planning of services with local authorities and NHS Boards and Trusts and other partner agencies
 - integrated services delivery including firm financial commitments from all partners
 - clear plans to improve attainment and achievement
 - high level of engagement and consultation with parents and carers
 - an explicit commitment to the welfare of pupils demonstrated by the arrangements in schools for pupils' pastoral support and the emphasis that the school places on their emotional and social development
 - good engagement with the wider community especially in addressing barriers to learning
 - joint training and work to achieve a shared understanding of objectives and better team working and skilled transfer
 - professional, determined and courageous leadership
- 6.5** A short life working group was set up by the Director of Education to make recommendations regarding the roll out of the New Community Schools approach across the department's secondary schools. The group, comprising representatives from Education, Tayside Health Board, Trust and Health Promotion, Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Development and teaching trade unions, developed strategic proposals for integrated service delivery to children and families.

7.0 PROPOSALS

- 7.1** The planned roll out programme of the New Community School's approach across secondary schools in Dundee in Phase 1 (2002-2004) will focus on Baldragon Academy, St Saviour's High School and Braeview Academy whose respective experiences as the pilot New Community School and the two Action Plan schools have prepared them well to take this leading role in the roll out programme.
- 7.2** A system of support for pupils which has been in development in all Dundee secondary schools for the past three years is the School Referral Team (SRT). It provides an intensive support service to targeted pupils in schools. The SRT to date has focused on pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and has increased the support for these pupils and their families through a common system of assessment and review of needs, in order to improve learning and social

opportunities for each young person. The team considers all avenues of support, including partnerships with other departments and external agencies, which will sustain young people successfully in school and promote attainment and social inclusion. The SRT is co-ordinated by a member of the Senior Management Team and comprises a representative from each of Guidance, Support for Learning and the Home School Support Service.

- 7.3** The proposed roll out programme will facilitate the continuing development of an integrated service delivery in the three secondary schools. The School Referral Team, with staff from other professional disciplines, will become a multi-disciplinary team with the capability and capacity to deliver a range of different functions and services to pupils and families across the school population and the community. These include: health services such as the promotion of mental health well-being in young people and their families; improved participation and involvement of pupils in the community; focused social support for individual pupils and family members; and enhanced intervention from all team members in supporting individual young people in difficulty.
- 7.4** The roll out programme builds on the School Referral Team mechanism by enabling each school to have a core team of seven members on site: the four members referred to in para. 7.2 above, 2 Youth Workers and a Social Worker. The Health Board and Trust have ensured that direct health support through a nursing service will be available to pupils in each school and in addition all schools will have the services of a team of health workers with specialisms in Community Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol and Public Health nursing, who will deliver general health promotion as well as targeted specific work for individual pupils and families identified by the school.
- 7.5** The roll out programme reinforces the fundamental principle of the New Community School approach by placing the school at the heart of the community and serving the needs of both the school and its community. It also clearly demonstrates the commitment of Council departments and Health to the process, as well as integrating with other Government plans and sources of funding: Changing Children's Services Fund, Better Neighbourhood Services Fund and the Community Learning Plan.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1** This report has been the subject of consultation with the Directors of Finance, Support Services, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, and Social Work, and with the Chief Executive of the Tayside University Hospital Trust.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1** 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.

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

11 November 2002