

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: Education (Community Services) Sub Committee	Subject: Gaelic Initiatives Supported by the Community Education Service
From: Director of Education	
Ref: JMcG/JS/SJM	
Date: 11 February 1998	

Purpose of Report

The report summarises the involvement of the community education service in supporting a variety of initiatives in the field of Gaelic education and culture.

Recommendation

The sub-committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Members wishing further information should contact:

Michael O'Neil, Director of Education, Tel No: 01236 812337

Jim McGuinness, Head of Support for Learning, Tel No: 01236 812280

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GAELIC INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE

Report by Director

1. Introduction

1.1 North Lanarkshire has a long association with Gaelic language and culture. In recent years the Mod has been held in both Motherwell and Airdrie and there has been continued interest in the form of classes and associations throughout the council area. This short report offers members of the sub-committee a summary of current activity in the field of Community Education and highlights the strong links which the service has established with early years and school sector Gaelic developments.

2. Progress to Date

2.1 The Community Education service has for the last eight years been operating a series of classes, courses and groups in Gaelic language at a variety of levels. These classes have been funded by a combination of Scottish Office Specific grant, the Community education service mainstream budget and student contributions.

2.2 At present there are classes and some advanced self programming groups in the following locations:

- Airdrie
- Motherwell
- Cumbernauld
- Kilsyth

2.3 In addition to the above the service operates a summer school at the Gaelic College

in

Skye. This is a total immersion experience for students while tutors and organisers gain valuable insights into resources and tutoring techniques. This initiative also attracts Scottish Office specific grant funding.

2.4 Specific grant funding is also used to support a Saturday morning language, music and cultural programme at Victoria Community Education Centre in Airdrie. This includes children's tuition in guitar, penny whistle, bodhran as well as singing. There is also an adult conversational language class for parents.

2.5 Victoria Community Education Centre also hosts the Gaelic Pre-School Playgroup and the resource library which contains books, tapes, videos and other centrally held items of equipment.

3. Recent Developments

- 3.1 With the opening of the new primary unit at Condorrat Primary School a Gaelic Development Officer has been appointed to work closely with parents to assist them with their own language needs. She is responsible for liaising with the school and the various specialist Gaelic bodies to provide further support and resources.
- 3.2 The development officer works closely with the Gaelic playgroup in Airdrie. She is also developing new work in the Viewpark area in collaboration with the Home/School Community Partnership Officer based at St Columba's Primary who is a native Gaelic speaker. There is local parental interest in Gaelic and a sum of money from the specific grant budget has been set aside to support this latest development.
- 3.3 A Gaelic youth group in Cumbernauld is soon to be established in addition to one which is already in place in Airdrie.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The sub-committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Michael O'Neil

Members wishing further information should contact:

Michael O'Neil, Director of Education, Tel No: 01236 812337

Jim McGuinness, Head of Support for Learning, Tel No: 01236 812280