

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

To: Education Committee	Subject: <b>New Community Schools Annual Report</b>
From: Director of Education	
Ref: MON/JL/CB/AM	
Date: 25 July 2001	

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the current status of New Community Schools in North Lanarkshire and to seek approval of the education committee for the appointment of the posts outlined and purchase of a service from Community Services Department.

The New community Schools pilot programme is a major Government initiative to modernise schools, raise attainment and promote social inclusion. The underlying aim is to meet each child's needs in the round by providing a range of services for pupils and their families through the school.

New Community Schools offer integrated provision of core services such as education, social work, health services and community services. This can be expanded to take in other services and agencies such as housing and police.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The education committee is asked to

- (i) note the contents of the report
  - (ii) approve the establishment of the post outlined in paragraph 3.4
  - (iii) approve the purchase of services of a home/school worker from Community Services referred to in paragraph 3.1
  - (iv) refer the report to the Policy & Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for approval of the additional post detailed in paragraph 3.4
  - (v) refer the report to Community Services and Social Work Committees for their information
- A summary of the Annual Report is attached as Appendix I
  - Copies of the full Annual Reports and Evaluation Questionnaires are available in the Members' Library.



Members wishing further information should contact:

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## **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **New Community Schools Projects**

#### **A report by the Director of Education**

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 North Lanarkshire Council's Phase 1 of the Executive's New Community School Initiative at Castlehill Primary School, Gowkthrapple has completed its second full year. The bid, which secured £600,000 over a 3-year period, is now entering its final year of funding.
- 1.2 In April 2000, a report was submitted to the Social Inclusion Committee outlining the bid for phase II of the New Community Schools Initiative to establish Old Monkland Primary and St Monica's Primary in Coatbridge as North Lanarkshire council's second project.
- 1.3 This bid successfully secured £600,000 over a 3-year period. The Phase II project in Coatbridge had a start date of October 2000.
- 1.4 A new integration Manger was appointed in February 2001 to facilitate and manage the inter-agency aspects of both projects and to provide the liaison between community groups.

#### **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 One aim of a New Community School is to promote parental partnership and family inclusion. At Castlehill significant progress has been made in this area through the appointment of a Home/School Link worker - currently funded by N.Lanarkshire Social Inclusion Partnership.
- 2.2 In the Kirkwood area there is currently no similar post. It is therefore proposed that a Home/School Link service be purchased from the Community Services Department to encourage parents to be involved in their children's learning through Personal Learning Plans, home study, Story Sacks, Playalong Maths, curricular information workshops, home visits, pre-school induction programmes etc.
- 2.3 It is also proposed that a Clerical Assistant be appointed to the Kirkwood project to facilitate the routine running of the project's office and to undertake the clerical work required by the Integration Manager and other project staff as required. This post will be based within St Monica's Primary School.

#### **3. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 It is proposed to purchase the services of a full time Home/School Link Worker from Community Services who will be at Grade AP3/4 and will generate a cost of £ 19,478 to £24,565 including on-costs and a payment of 7 1/2% for irregular hours.
- 3.2 The cost of this service has been budgeted within the proposal submitted to the Scottish Executive and will be met fully from the NCS budget allocation for the period up until September 2004.

- 3.3 The department of Community Services will establish the post and provide the line management function of the postholder.
- 3.4 The proposal to appoint a Clerical Assistant will be at GS1/2 Grade, 30 hours per week, term time, generating a cost of between £7,539 and £10,183 including on-costs.
- 3.5 The cost of this post has been budgeted within the proposal submitted to the Scottish Executive and will be met fully from the NCS budget allocation.
- 3.6 The clerical assistant will be line managed by the Education Department via the Integration Manager.

#### 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The education committee is asked to

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) approve the establishment of the post outlined in paragraph 3.4
- (iii) approve the purchase of services of a home/school worker from Community Services referred to in paragraph 3.1
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## NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPROJECT

### PROGRESS REPORT - SUMMARY

1. The 'essential characteristics' of a New Community School have been the focus of developments within both the Phase I and II projects through:
  - a commitment to raising standard of attainment through target setting, early identification, monitoring & tracking and Personal Learning Plans
  - a focus on pupil needs including the provision of breakfast clubs, close links with and the involvement of the Social Work Department
  - engagement with families, through close links with family support services, outreach work with parents and community groups and holiday programmes for pupils and parents
  - emphasis on community support and development through outreach work and the involvement of community groups in discussion and planning strategies
  - integrated service provision across a range of disciplines incorporating valuable links between housing, social work, health, police, education and community services to co-ordinate approaches and enhance delivery
  - integrated management structures and a commitment to the concept of 'integrated working' centres on local Steering Groups chaired by the Head Teachers. The groups comprise local representation of council services that agree development priorities and progress local initiatives
  - provision of multi-disciplinary training and staff development so that all staff are working to a common set of objectives and goals
2. Adaptations continue to progress at Castlehill to enhance provision for the Language Unit and Pre-5 assessment Unit. Adaptations and up-grades at Kirkwood continue apace, including facilities to allow relocation of the Nursery Class in Old Monkland, to increase provision by 10 FTE places to meet the needs of the Kirkwood Area. Further adaptations to allow increased and improved parental access and facilities may be required in the future.
3. Local involvement in each of the projects continues to be a priority and is gradually developing as parents and representatives of community groups are represented on Steering Committee Sub Groups.
4. School staff and pupils continue to benefit from the targeted resources provided by the project. In all 3 schools investment has been made in the provision of structured activities and support in the playground in order to provide more meaningful play opportunities, improved interpersonal relationship and a reduction in playground conflicts. At Castlehill, Nursery and Language Unit pupils have also benefited from allocation of funds to allow improved access to the wider area, including the use of minibuses and public-transport.
5. Annual reports have been submitted to the Scottish Executive. A copy of the two full reports are available in members library.
6. Baseline and Year 1 Questionnaires have also been completed for the National Evaluation of New Community Schools.