

## **Integrated Community Schools & Determined to Succeed**

*(Patricia Illsley - Integrated Community School Co-ordinator)*

The main aims of Integrated Community Schools in Perth & Kinross are related to the following:

- Encouraging Integrated Working
- Raising Attainment & Achievement
- Engaging with Parents, Families and the wider community
- Promoting Health & Wellbeing
- Supporting Children & Families

These are ambitious aims, but initiatives such as *Determined to Succeed* can be directly linked to them.

All schools should be focusing on aims of Integrated Community Schools by 2006 and all schools should be Health Promoting Schools by 2007.

The aims of *Determined to Succeed* include:

- Instilling a culture of enterprise in our young people
- Effectively supporting the transition from education to the workplace

As a result of the experiences gained in meeting these aims young people should have:

- More positive attitudes towards school
- Learning & skills development beyond school
- Improved attendance
- Increased levels of qualifications
- A Determination to Succeed

Links can be made at the interface of both developments i.e.

- Where citizenship and decision-making is to be encouraged with pupils who are taking forward Eco School awards and therefore encouraging a Health Promoting School
- Where *Determined to Succeed* encouraged flexibility in the curriculum, through enterprise initiatives, this meets the Integrated Community School aim of raising achievement and can also enhance support for vulnerable young people who will respond to a relevant experience
- Where Integrated Community Schools have focussed on raising achievement through involvement in Activity Days (linked to Health Promotion through Outdoor Education or Creative Arts). *Determined to Succeed* can encourage enterprise in fund raising
- Where Integrated Community Schools involve families and particularly parents in Family Learning Activities, *Determined to Succeed* can encourage organisational, financial and citizenship skills within these activities or to support them

The recent HMIE Report on Integrated Community Schools "The Sum of Its Parts" emphasises that decision-making in schools must include pupils, parents and the wider community. It also concludes that the management of Integrated Community Schools should fit a cluster model. *Determined to Succeed* also fits this structure and is one vehicle to encourage decision-making to include young people. When funding is given to the young people or parents themselves, then we begin to see a real encouragement of citizenship within our schools and communities.

The *Determined to Succeed* initiative is part of the integrated approach to raising attainment and achievement and can involve a range of partners within the community and business. It can also be a vehicle to encourage vulnerable young people to succeed, thus tying in with support for children & families.

An Integrated Community School approach alongside *Determined to Succeed* can make this possible.