

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 10 MARCH 2010

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS 2010/2011

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Cabinet of the outcome of the annual evaluations of grant funded projects and to approve future funding arrangements for 2010/2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council currently funds the Holiday Project, East Ayrshire and the Bellsbank Project (previously the Bellsbank Women's Project).
- 2.2 Both organisations have been in receipt of annual funding, which provides for the general running costs in order that they can deliver their services. The Holiday Project and Bellsbank Project have a Service Level Agreement which runs to 31 March 2010
- 2.3 Officers monitor the projects to ensure objectives are being met, support project development and sustainability, and encouraging external funding opportunities. All are monitored in accordance with the Council's Accountancy Bulletin 27.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 All organisations are subject to an evaluation by the Department of Educational and Social Services, Community Learning and Development Service.
- 3.2 A summary of the performance of each organisation is noted in appendix 1 of this report and a copy of full evaluations is available on request.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 4.1 The financial awards made in 2009/10 are noted in appendix 1 along with the proposed funding recommendations for 2010/11 which include an inflationary uplift.
- 4.2 It is proposed that members consider the recommendations contained for grant aided support as detailed in appendix 1.
- 4.3 In addition to the funding awarded through the Service Level Agreement each of the projects received additional funding in 2009/10 as noted below.

4.4 Bellsbank Project received £11,000 from Fairer Scotland Funding and £11,000 from Ayrshire LEADER programme. Both will continue into 2010/11. This is to enable the Project to develop on an outreach basis into other communities in the Doon Valley. They also received an in-kind contribution from East Ayrshire Council for project and office accommodation within Bellsbank Community Wing valued at £6175.

4.5 The Holiday Project applied to 74 other funders for financial assistance and secured just over £12,000 which has been used for operating costs, ICT equipment and site fees.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Service Level Agreements clearly set out the responsibilities of each organisation.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The aims and objectives of the organisations are compatible with East Ayrshire's Community Plan. In particular, the Bellsbank Project supports Promoting Lifelong Learning; and the Holiday Project supports both Community Regeneration and Improving Health and Wellbeing.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Service Level Agreement regulates the relationship between the Council and the voluntary/community organisation during the period for which funding is approved.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to:

- (i) approve funding to Bellsbank Project of £25,422;
- (ii) approve funding to the Holiday Project of £17,070;
- (iii) establish Service Level Agreements for each of the Projects for 2010/2011; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/DG/KG
3 February 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Bellsbank Project Evaluation Report 2009/10
2. The Holiday Project Evaluation Report 2009/10

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service:
Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER:

**DOT GRIEVE, PRINCIPAL OFFICER,
COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Organisation	Performance 2009/2010	Funding Awarded 2009/2010	Recommendation
<p>Bellsbank Project</p> <p><i>To provide educational opportunities for women and men living in the Bellsbank and surrounding areas that will enable them to develop and realise their full potential as individuals, parents and active citizens</i></p>	<p>The Project changed its name from Bellsbank Women's Project to Bellsbank Project to be inclusive of all adults in the community. This meant that they could further develop their Project and target men through their programmes. The Project is also expanding into other areas in the Doon Valley and has received additional funding to develop this.</p> <p>Over the past year the Project has worked with 92 adults who have participated in a range of activities including arts and crafts, yoga, aerobics, history group and gardening. The Project has also attracted 7 new younger parents to join the Project and 14 males. The programmes delivered by the Project mainly focus on a social and leisure based programme allowing people to form friendships, gain confidence and build their self esteem. Service users wishing to gain more accredited learning or training are signposted to the appropriate organisations.</p> <p>Crèche attendance has increased from 19 registered children to 24 at present with 32 accommodated throughout the summer. The Project is also working closely with Skills Development and Employability Service to provide work placements and training.</p> <p>Community Learning and Development is continuing to support the Management Committee to implement the Projects development plan and progress actions contained within their external evaluation report.</p>	<p>£25,170</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £25,422 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2010/11</p> <p>That funding is released on a quarterly basis subject to the completion of Project Monitoring forms.</p> <p>A Service Level Agreement is established with the project for 2010/11 which sets out how the funding will be spent and set targets for the Project focussing on new initiatives to support personal and learning needs to continue to attract new members, to develop tracking of learners progress and to work in partnership with other organisations in the area</p> <p>The project continues to develop its use of How Good is our Community Learning and Development? 2 self evaluation framework and undertakes more regular evaluations with participants.</p>

Organisation	Performance 2009/2010	Funding Awarded 2009/2010	Recommendation
	<p>Training has been provided to both the Project Worker and the Committee on the How Good Is our Community Learning and Development 2 Framework.</p>		
<p>The Holiday Project</p> <p><i>The Project provides low cost holidays to disadvantaged and vulnerable residents of East Ayrshire.</i></p>	<p>In the past year there were 72 bookings for the caravan and 226 adults and 175 children experienced a holiday. This was a reduction from the previous year as the Project received 36 cancellations in 2009/10 with the main reason given being the current financial situation.</p> <p>The Project saw 31 new families from across the authority using the caravans. They work closely with Social Work and organisations across East Ayrshire to target specific families who would benefit from a holiday. They also operate an interest free savings scheme that allows customers to pay up for their holidays, making it easier for them to manage their finances to achieve a holiday experience</p> <p>The Project continue to evaluate the holidays experiences for the children and young people. Positive comments have been received including children feeling more included in discussions in class about holiday experiences because they had been on a caravan holiday; adults reported that they enjoyed spending time with their children and that both young people and adults had taken up some form of physical exercise whilst on holiday and that this motivated them to continue with healthy activities when they returned home.</p>	<p>£16,896</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £17,070 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2010/11</p> <p>That funding is released on a quarterly basis subject to the completion of Project Monitoring forms.</p> <p>A Service Level Agreement is established with the project for 2010/11 which sets out how the funding will be spent and set targets for the Project.</p> <p>The project continues to develop its use of How Good is our Community Learning and Development? 2 self evaluation framework.</p>