

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 MARCH 2009

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS 2009/2010

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 2009/2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Bellsbank Women's Project and the North West Youth Project were previously funded through Policy and Resources Committee and Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme, the Holiday Project and Ayrshire Household Recycling were funded through Education Committee.
- 2.2** The Holiday Project has a Service Level Agreement pending completion, which runs to 31 March 2010. The North West Youth Project is due for a new Service Level Agreement.
- 2.3** All the organisations have been in receipt of annual funding, which provides for the general running costs in order that they can deliver their services.
- 2.4** Officers monitor the projects concerned, support project development and sustainability, and encouraging external funding opportunities.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1** All organisations were 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 2008/09 are noted in appendix 1 along with the proposed funding recommendations for 2009/10 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.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The recommendations in this report have been based on the annual review of the organisation and Following the Public Pound.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The aims and objectives of the organisations are compatible with East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Nil.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to:

- (i) approve funding to Bellsbank Women's Project of £25,170;
- (ii) approve funding to North West Youth Project of £74,536 and remit to officers to review the position of the Management Committee at the AGM and if required agree with them aspects of responsibility which will transfer to the Council for an interim period;
- (iii) ask the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to return to Cabinet with a report outlining responsibilities which the Council will fulfil, if appropriate;
- (iv) approve funding to Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme of £9,890; and transfer responsibility to Neighbourhood Services;
- (v) approve funding to Ayrshire Household Recycling of £7,302; and return to Cabinet with a further report on the sustainability of this project;
- (vi) approve funding to the Holiday Project of £16,896;
- (vii) establish Service Level Agreements with North West Youth Project and Bellsbank Women's Project for 2009/10;
- (viii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

6 March 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: DOT GRIEVE

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS 2009 – 2010

APPENDIX 1

Organisation	Performance 2008/2009	Funding Awarded 2008/2009	Recommendation
<p>Bellsbank Women's Project</p> <p><i>To provide educational opportunities for women 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>19 children are now using the crèche due to a new drop in initiative, which has seen the increase of 7 from last year and as a result 5 new members are involved in the Project.</p> <p>The Project continues to seek additional funding to develop other aspects of its work and has several funding applications pending, in particular a bid to the Big Lottery for 3 year funding.</p> <p>New evaluation forms have been developed to gain qualitative as well as quantitative information but the Project made limited progress in the use of recognised evaluation frameworks which would be beneficial to their own development.</p> <p>A development plan has been produced by the Committee but it does not set out clear outcomes for the projects work or address the issues highlighted in the external Consultants Report.</p>	<p>£24,437</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £25,170 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2009/2010.</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 2009/2010 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 attract new members and to work in partnership with other organisations in the area.</p> <p>Community Learning and Development continue to work with the Management Committee on their role and responsibilities.</p> <p>The project implements with immediate effect the How Good is our Community Learning and Development? 2 self evaluation framework and continues to address issues raised in their own external consultants review</p>

Organisation	Performance 2008/2009	Funding Awarded 2008/2009	Recommendation
<p>North West Youth Project</p> <p><i>To provide informal educational opportunities for young people aged 5 to 25 years of age North West Area of Kilmarnock.</i></p>	<p>Despite a new management committee being elected in August 2007, they have continued to experience difficulties in managing the project and the Chairperson resigned in November 2008. The remaining 3 committee members have worked hard to manage the project but require additional members and extensive support to take on the role required by a Management Committee, particularly in relation to tighter financial management of the Project.</p> <p>CLD continue to offer intensive support to the management committee and project staff.</p> <p>The Project has attracted other sources of funding from EAC and the Moffat Trust to develop work with young people.</p> <p>Young people participate in a range of groups but the focus is mainly recreational and there is scope to develop and enhance the work with young people through issue based and youth achievement programmes. There has been a reduction in the number of young people recorded from over to 138 in this year.</p> <p>Evaluation is limited and impact of programmes on participants is not recorded or recognised.</p> <p>Investment in the youth work staff would further develop the relationship with and the focus of work; with young people.</p>	<p>£72,365</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £74,536 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2009/2010.</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 2009/2010 which sets out how the funding will be spent and targets for the Project.</p> <p>The youth work programme is developed to reflect the needs of youth people and celebrates their achievements.</p> <p>The Project implements with immediate effect the How Good is our Community Learning and Development? 2 self evaluation framework.</p> <p>The role and responsibilities of the Project Manager are clearly identified.</p> <p>Establishing a strong Management Committee has been difficult for the Project in the past couple of years. In order to support the Project, it is recommended that if the Management Committee are unable to recruit new members at its AGM, Community Learning and Development take over some of their responsibilities for a short period in order to give them time to work on establishing a stronger Management Committee and assisting them to clear identify their roles and responsibilities, in order to stabilise the Project.</p>

Organisation	Performance 2008/2009	Funding Awarded 2008/2009	Recommendation
<p>Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme</p> <p><i>The Scheme provides furniture and household items to families in need within the Cumnock and Doon Valley Area</i></p>	<p>In the past year the scheme has delivered furniture to 180 families/individuals in the Cumnock and Doon Valley area, a slight increase from 177 last year.</p> <p>The scheme contributes very little to the EAC recycling targets but work is required to assist them to play more of a role in relation to achieving targets set by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The Scheme is run by volunteers and although support has been given to identify other sources of funding no applications have been submitted. They also require to review their charging policy to try and generate some additional income.</p> <p>Current accommodation remains an issue for the Scheme due to the increase in energy costs; they need to seek alternative accommodation or access additional funds to cover these costs.</p> <p>The Scheme met with Ayrshire Household Recycling regarding a possible merger of the two project but both resisted any move to come together due to the different operating practices.</p>	<p>£9,600</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £9,890 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2009/2010.</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 2009/2010 which sets out how the funding will be spent and targets for the Project.</p> <p>The monitoring budget and support of this project is transferred to Neighbourhood Services due to the specialist nature knowledge and development required. Community Learning and Developments should focus on providing community capacity support, for the management Committee.</p> <p>The group may be eligible for landfill tax. Neighbourhood Services will support them in this.</p>

Organisation	Performance 2008/2009	Funding Awarded 2008/2009	Recommendation
<p>Ayrshire Household Recycling</p> <p><i>The Scheme provides recycled furniture and to families and individuals in need with the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun Area.</i></p>	<p>In the past year Ayrshire Household Recycling (AHR) submitted several funding applications to key environmental grant bodies but were unsuccessful and this will have a significant impact on their future sustainability</p> <p>The Board has taken appropriate steps to wind down the Company by the 31 March 2009 in order to meet their responsibilities as Board Members and they have put in place an exit plan.</p> <p>The capacity of Board is low and they are one member short of legally operating due to the resignation of a former and proactive Board Member. Appropriate steps have been taken to inform Companies House of the organisations situation. The recruitment and retention of Board Members has been an issue for some time and in the current climate it may be difficult to recruit new members.</p> <p>The organisation is on a month to month lease with a private landlord for their accommodation.</p> <p>Cunninghame Housing Association has shown an interest in Ayrshire Household Recycling and has met with Board Members to carry out a business health check. They recognise the significant issues surrounding AHR and are investigating what its future direction could be linked to the Association.</p> <p>Cunninghame Housing Association may be able to assist financially through its Wider Role funding programme and they are working on outline</p>	<p>£14,173</p>	<p>In order to give Ayrshire Household Recycling time to look at a new direction with Cunninghame Housing Association it is recommended that a six month funding award of £7,302 is made subject to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmation that they are operating in line with Companies House in relation to Board Members • they have a financial plan for the next six months in place which only covers the costs in relation to developments within East Ayrshire • a service continuing to be provided to residents within East Ayrshire. • an exit strategy being in place if funding is not secured by Cunninghame Housing Association <p>Funding is released in two payments over the six month period subject to the completion of Project Monitoring Forms.</p> <p>Specialist knowledge and development regarding recycling is monitored and supported by Neighbourhood Services and Community Learning and Development provide capacity building support to the Board.</p>

Organisation	Performance 2008/2009	Funding Awarded 2008/2009	Recommendation
	<p>application with AHR but this could not be considered until the new financial year. They have requested that EAC continue to fund AHR in the short term to give them time to work on their future business plan.</p> <p>There has been a reduction from last years figures of delivery to 139 families to 96 in this year.</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, 91 bookings were made for the caravans and as a result 275 adults and 247 children had access to a low cost holiday. 16 new families have used the caravans and there are a further 16 are on the waiting list.</p> <p>The Project purchased 3 caravans in 2008, 1 new (with disabled access) and two refurbished to replace two of their caravans that were beyond repair. This additional capacity will increase access to holidays this year.</p> <p>The project has been proactive in accessing additional funding which is crucial for its continued development.</p> <p>Evaluation forms issued to both adults and young people collects quantative data and evaluative comments. The projects evaluation could be further enhanced by the use of a self evaluation framework such as HGIOCLD.</p> <p>Community Learning and Development continue to provide support and are working with them to further develop their evaluation processes.</p>	<p>£16,405</p>	<p>It is recommended that funding of £16,896 which includes an inflationary uplift is awarded for 2009/2010.</p> <p>That funding is released on a quarterly basis subject to the completion of Project Monitoring forms.</p> <p>To continue with their current Service Level Agreement and evaluate on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Management Committee are supported to further develop their evaluation process and start to use the How Good is our Community Learning and Development 2? Self Evaluation Framework.</p>