

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 7 NOVEMBER 2007

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE AND CULTURAL CO-ORDINATORS IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To seek approval for further programmes of Youth Music and cultural activity based on recent funding awards from the Scottish Arts Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) has been operating in East Ayrshire for four years. Following the successful evaluation of year four, funding of £189,888 has been received to support year 5 activity.
- 2.2** The Scottish Arts Council's Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools (CCiSS) Programme has been operating in East Ayrshire since 2002. As a result of a national evaluation, the programme has been revised and new guidelines were issued to local authorities. Following a successful application, East Ayrshire has been awarded £56,000 to continue to support the programme in 2007/08. Two co-ordinator posts totalling 1.4FTE, which will be extended from term-time to 52 week contracts, will develop programmes of work including a wide variety of cultural and artistic experiences enhancing the lives of young people, offering CPD opportunities for staff and supporting a Curriculum for Excellence.

3. Youth Music Initiative

- 3.1** The Youth Music Initiative in East Ayrshire is varied in terms of focus and delivery and includes:
- the continuation of the enhanced provision in lower string, guitar, voice and percussion tuition.
 - the continued development of the Music Summer School programme.
 - a variety of Out of School Hours activity including the Scottish Traditional Music Saturday Morning Centre in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.
 - the continued support of vocal and choral experiences through the Sounds of Singing Programme, Primary Choir and Scottish Opera Modern Languages Project.
 - a new commission for the Authority Bands and Choirs supporting the CCiSS Local Heroes theme.
 - the continued development of the already established international links with Northern Ireland and Georgia USA.

4. Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools

4.1 Key elements of the Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools programme are:

- the development of local authority and school awareness of the potential contribution of the arts, media and heritage to young people's learning and development, particularly to a Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and the National Priorities in Education.
- the key linkage with staff from other national programmes such as Determined to Succeed, Youth Music Initiative and Active Schools to develop integrated programmes of activity.
- the development of effective links with professional artists and the education officers of cultural organisations to develop high quality programmes of activity.
- the close liaison with Head Teachers and teachers to support the integration of the arts, media and heritage into school improvement plans.
- to access funds to support arts, media and heritage activity
- to develop Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in arts, media and heritage for teachers and other professionals working in arts and education.
- to undertake effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting of activities in conjunction with the team manager.

4.2 Local Authorities were invited to apply for special project funding to support CCiSS activity in 2007/08. The application was successful and East Ayrshire has been awarded £14,300 to support a multi-artform project entitled *Local Heroes*.

Local Heroes is a project which links art, museums, media and drama in an engaging and inspirational way, connecting with 'CfE' and DtS and providing opportunities for creative learning experiences with cultural organisations and professional artists. This project will be developed as part of the Council's contribution to the national "Homecoming" initiative scheduled for 2009.

Working from a menu of *Local Heroes* which could include names such as Alexander Fleming, Edgar Allan Poe, J M Barrie, Robert Burns, Mary Queen of Scots, William Wallace, James Dick, Johnnie Walker, Tom Hunter, William McIlvanney and James Shaw among many others, pupils will be encouraged to explore and investigate their local cultural heritage and use this as a springboard for their own learning and creativity, culminating in the production of an event and exhibition open to the public. All activities will be digitally recorded and will be released on DVD as a sustainable resource.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 The above musical and cultural programmes will continue to be developed this academic session. Further funding from the Scottish Arts Council will be sought to further enhance the provision in future years.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Significant support (£260,288) is being provided for these programmes from the Scottish Arts Council. The authority must provide some match funding, which has already been incorporated into its budgets. The details are:

YMI	£189,888 (Scottish Arts Council)
CCiSS	£56,000 (Scottish Arts Council)
	£14,000 (mandatory 20% match funding from Curriculum for Excellence)
CCiSS Special Project	£14,300 (Scottish Arts Council)
	£2,000 (in-kind support)
	£1,700 (match funding from Curriculum for Excellence)

7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NIL

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The above programmes support the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the themes of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 All activities will be risk assessed as per the Council's revised Risk Assessment Guidelines and Procedures.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) approve these programmes of musical and cultural development outlined in this paper;
- (ii) note the award of external funding to support these projects;
- (iii) be kept informed of future developments; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GS/JP
20 September 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Youth Music Initiative – May 2006
2. Creative Minds - Update Report March 2006

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, tel: (01563) 576017 or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, tel: (01563) 555634.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JOHN WILSON

**Appendix
Creative Minds Events Calendar
2007/08**

Instrumental Service Gala Concert

3 October 2007, Grand Hall

East Ayrshire Schools at Christmas Concert

6 December 2007, Grand Hall

Schools' Annual Art & Design Exhibition

26 January – 22 March 2008, Young People's Gallery, Dick Institute

Spring Spectacular Concert

28 February 2008, Grand Hall

XtrAvaganza Concert

2 April 2008, Grand Hall

Schools Showcase

28/29 May 2008, Palace Theatre

YMI Platform Concert

3 June 2008, Cumnock Town Hall