

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CABINET – 3 OCTOBER 2007
CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To seek agreement for a new community planning initiative working in partnership with Strathclyde Police, Community Planning and the Community Safety Partnership to introduce three Campus Police Officers into selected schools in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Secondary schools and their associated primary schools play an important role in the promotion of community safety and in tackling anti-social behaviour both within the school itself and within the wider community. Although overwhelmingly positive, aspects of the behaviour of a minority of young people, sometimes, within schools, but also in the community, have in the past given rise to concerns in some quarters.
- 2.2** It is recognised that a multi-agency approach could be successful in ensuring support is available for pupils, teachers and the community, to tackle some of the concerns around community safety and anti-social behaviour. Preliminary discussions have taken place involving senior officers of Strathclyde Police and the Department of Educational and Social Services within East Ayrshire. These discussions have hinged on the successful pilots within the Strathclyde Police area of a concept commonly known as “Campus Police Officers”. The evidence from neighbouring authorities and North Lanarkshire Council is that this initiative can potentially have a significant beneficial effect on the behaviour of young people and the support available to schools.
- 2.3** Preliminary consultations have taken place with Head Teachers and other colleagues. These consultations have revealed extensive support for the concept of the Campus Police Officer.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** It is proposed that three Campus Police Officers should be introduced into the overall provision for East Ayrshire. Although based in particular schools, they will have a wider responsibility for the learning partnership and community in which they serve. The three schools that have been identified as possible bases are:

- Grange Academy
- Loudoun Academy

- Auchinleck Academy

3.2 The role of the Campus Police Officer will be:

- to improve relationships between young people and the Police;
- engage with young people and develop their role in the community;
- problem solving in the school and the community;
- participating in the Pupil Council Forum;
- delivering and developing specific projects such as internet safety, young crime prevention and personal safety;
- providing a visible presence in and around the school community;
- linking with young people in existing diversionary activities;
- supporting and developing activities to address challenging behaviour;
- linking young people to programmes and support already in place;
- liaising with departments and organisations already involved in delivering programmes for young people (mentoring, street working, youth groups etc);
- promoting a restorative justice approach to encourage young people to take responsibility for their school and community;
- reducing the number of offences in school locality; and
- increasing the number of pupils who feel safe in school.

In addition, a Campus Officer will contribute to the Child Protection agenda and will be in a position to develop liaison between school nursing staff and Social Workers regarding child protection issues.

The proposal to provide three Campus Police Officers would be the first phase in the development of this initiative.

- ### 3.3
- In order to monitor the implementation of the project and its effectiveness, a multi-disciplinary working group will be established involving senior staff of the Department of Educational and Social Services, the schools involved and the senior officers of Strathclyde Police.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- ### 4.1
- Nil.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- ### 5.1
- It is anticipated that the introduction of this initiative will have a significant impact in the reduction of anti-social behaviour. A positive contribution will therefore be made to the reduction of vandalism and associated behaviours in the schools themselves and the surrounding area.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ### 6.1
- The total cost of this project will be £90,000 for 1 year. Half the cost will be met from Strathclyde Police resources and the other half will be met from

within the existing budget within the Department of Educational and Social Services in the first year of implementation. Thereafter, Members will be asked to agree funding for the initiative which is controlled within the Community Planning area of responsibility.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This develop will contribute directly to the Improving Community Safety theme of the Community Plan and has a wider implication for Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) agree to the establishment from October 2007 or as soon as possible thereafter, of three Campus Police Officers that will be based in Auchinleck, Loudoun and Grange Academies;
- (ii) that the Campus Police Officers have a general responsibility that will extend throughout the Learning Partnership area, and beyond;
- (iii) that funding of £45,000 from East Ayrshire Council is agreed for 2007/2008; and
- (iv) funding in subsequent years will need to be met from Community Planning resources.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/JP
17 September 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: (01563) 576017 and Superintendent Niven Rennie, Kilmarnock Police Officer, Tel (01563) 505050.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services