

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2004

ROAD RUNNER INITIATIVE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise the Forum of the Road Runner Experiential Pilot event that was held on Tuesday 16th November 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In conjunction with East Ayrshire Community Safety Award 2004 -2005– Priority Number 4: “To increase and improve the number of projects /initiatives undertaken”. East Ayrshire Community Safety Section set up the Road Runner Experiential Learning Event.
- 2.2 The event was set up raise awareness of safety issues including: Road Safety; Crime and the Fear of Crime and Safety for children and young people. It was aimed at bringing together several agencies to look at, implement and evaluate a programme directed at reducing crime and the fear of crime within East Ayrshire with regard to public transport issues, to encourage safer driving and to raise awareness of the work undertaken by the emergency services in the event of a road traffic accident.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. A working group was set up to take forward the initiative. The Group comprised members of Strathclyde Fire Brigade; Scottish Ambulance Service; Strathclyde Police; East Ayrshire Council; and Stagecoach-Western Buses.
- 3.2. Thirty-six pupils from all years at St Joseph’s Academy, Kilmarnock and Cumnock annex were brought by a Stagecoach bus to the Stagecoach Western main depot in Kilmarnock. On route to the depot a representative from the bus company spoke to the children about the dangers and costs related to vandalism on buses.
- 3.3 The event took part thereafter in 4 stages:
 1. The pupils were escorted through the main work shops at the depot to highlight the work involved in maintaining the buses to ensure safety on the road

2. The pupils were asked to drive a pedal go-kart around a small track – they were then given ‘distorted glasses’ to drive the same track – this was used to highlight the effect of drink or drugs when driving.
3. A young experienced driver, then brought his new high powered car to the depot to give the pupils the opportunity to see the benefits of driving safely.
4. The event culminated in a mock road traffic accident involving all of the emergency services and how they would react to a serious road accident. Strathclyde Police traffic department; Strathclyde Fire Brigade who cut the roof of the ‘crashed car’ and removed the ‘injured’ passenger and the Scottish Ambulance Service who took care of the patient. Barry Devlin’s, breakdown service took the car away and the police ensured the area was cleared.
- 3.3 All of the above agencies gave a five-minute talk to the pupils at the end of the event and provided them with information on the part they had to play in the accident and focussed on the team work involved.
- 3.4 Mr and Mrs McKenzie, who lost their son in a multiple fatal accident last year agreed to speak to the pupils and give their point of view of careless driving and the trauma that follows for parents and loved ones.
- 3.5 Pupils were invited to take pictures and a video of the event and report back to their peers.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The cost of funding the event was met from the Community Safety Partnership Award and private sector funding from Alex and Blair Gorman, Thistle Taxis, Kilmarnock and Craig Muirhead, T 4 Toys, Kilmarnock.

5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. Everyone involved in the initiative agreed that it was a positive way forward in an effort to reduce road traffic accidents.

7.2 Following a full evaluation of this pilot it is the intention to roll out the event to cover the whole of East Ayrshire. It is envisaged that, through promotion to other councils, the event can be mirrored throughout Scotland.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are recommended to:-

- (i) Take cognisance of the work done by the emergency services and write letters of thanks to relevant officers;
- (ii) send a special letter/gift of thanks to Mr and Mrs McKenzie for volunteering to come forward in their effort to prevent one more young death on the roads; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report

W Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW

16th November 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of Protective Services, 01563 576111 john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
2. Implementation Officer – Ann Williams