

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004

MAJOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS – BELLSBANK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the level of grant provided to Bellsbank Adventure Playground.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that in response to changing guidance regarding grants to external organisations of over £5,000, Service Level Agreements were introduced and approved in February 2003. These Service Level Agreements are continuing to be monitored and reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and effective.
- 2.2 The grant to Bellsbank Adventure Playground is the subject of the standard Grants to Voluntary Organisation application and assessment procedures. Each organisation applies for a grant on an annual basis and the application is assessed with reference to the organisation's needs for the coming year and the available budget.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Bellsbank Adventure Playground is a well established organisation which runs a quality registered service for children and young people aged 5-18 years within Bellsbank and the surrounding area. The group cater for over 260 children on a weekly basis through the provision of activities which promote physical, emotional and mental well-being. The project is currently involved in developing staff training in childcare and playwork as well as working in partnership with schools to develop homework support clubs for both mainstream children and children with additional support needs.
- 3.2 The Service Level Agreement for the Bellsbank Adventure Playground reflects a requirement to provide a safe, attractive environment for activities for young people in the Doon Valley. The Adventure Playground continues to develop its facilities, and activities, and is well established. The grant aid application has been assessed and an amount of £10,000 for 2004/2005, and a similar amount for 2005/06, put forward for approval. This amount has been adjusted to reflect the total budget available. Given the range of alternative sources and availability of external funding for projects of this type it is proposed that assistance be given to the group to secure funds from other sources for future years and for Council funding to be discontinued after 2005/06. This will allow the Group to refocus their activities and develop ongoing strategies. Full support will be given to the Group by the Council's External Funding Officer to maximise funding opportunities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The grant recommended for approval in this report can be met from existing Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Service Level Agreement for the organisation referred to in this report is in line with Council guidance on grants to external bodies and is required to be reviewed on an annual basis.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Service Level Agreement will ensure that the Council's expectations and the responsibilities of the external organisation are being met in the delivery of services supported by Council funding.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approve a grant of £10,000 from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget to Bellsbank Adventure Playground for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH
4TH August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Bellsbank Adventure Playground - Service Level Agreement
2. Bellsbank Adventure Playground – Grant Assessment Report

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths.

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