

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 21 JUNE 2007

**NORTH WEST YOUTH PROJECT
GRANT FUNDING 2007/2008**

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 Council of the outcome of the annual evaluation of the Service Level Agreement with North West Youth Project and make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Policy and Resources Committee on 30 May 2006 agreed to establish a new Service Level Agreement with the North West Youth Project Management Committee for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009. The Service Level Agreement sets out the targets for the Project and required annual monitoring.
- 2.2** The Project has been in receipt of annual funding from East Ayrshire Council which provides for their general running and staffing costs in order that they can deliver the service identified in their Service Level Agreement.
- 2.3** The aim of North West Youth Project is to provide informal educational opportunities to young people aged 5 to 25 years of age in the North West Kilmarnock Area.
- 2.4** The Project is managed by a voluntary management committee and supervised by the Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.5** The Project is subject to an annual evaluation by the Department of Educational and Social Services, Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.6** Officers have continued to work with the Project to identify and consider new developments and encourage them to investigate other funding opportunities.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1** In 2006/2007, North West Youth Project had a membership of 312 young people who attended various youth groups each week. This was an increase of 120 young people on the previous year's membership due to an increase in members in specific groups.

- 3.2** In 2006/2007, the project successfully attracted an additional £54,000 from Working for Families, £11,959 from Local Committee Grants and £2,200 from Community Safety funding which has enabled them to further develop specific programmes for young people. With the extent of additional income from different funding streams, a need has been identified to strengthen financial systems.
- 3.3** Project staff continue to access continual professional development opportunities and 5 staff are currently undertaking the SQA in Playwork. A number of staff have also participated in training offered by Community Learning and Development.
- 3.4** The Project has continued to work closely with a range of partners in the delivery of services to young people. Partners include; Community Wardens, Community Learning and Development, Kilmarnock and Gretna Football Clubs, Working for Families and the EASY Project.
- 3.5** Attendance at key events such as East Ayrshire Council Annual Youth Conference and School Fayres has help to promote the work of the Project.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1** The Project needs to improve its consultation arrangements with young people and strengthen their evaluation processes.
- 4.2** Issues regarding the monitoring of the different funding streams are being addressed and new financial monitoring procedures established to ensure closer monitoring of funding by both the Management Committee and Project Worker.
- 4.3** Audited accounts are not yet available from the organisation for the last financial year and no AGM has been held.
- 4.4** Given all of the above issues it is proposed that funding is issued on a quarterly basis and action taken by the Management Committee to address the issues highlighted.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** In 2006/2007, North West Youth Project was awarded £68,211.
- 5.2** The funding recommended for 2007/08 which includes an inflationary uplift is £70,257. However, this should be subject to receipt of satisfactory audited accounts.
- 5.3** It is recommended that funding is released on a quarterly basis subject to the recommendations in Section 4 of the report being satisfactorily resolved.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Nil

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members of the Council are asked to:

- (i) agree grant funding of £70,257 subject to satisfactory audited accounts;
- (ii) agree that funding is released on a quarterly basis subject to the issues set out in Section 4 being satisfactorily resolved;
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

5 June 2007
KG/DG/JP

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. North West Youth Project Service Level Agreement Annual Evaluation Report

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Dot Grieve, Principal Officer Community Learning and Development on 01563 578127.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR