

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 16 MAY 2006

YOUTH ACTIVITIES WITHIN DALRYMPLE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise members of the Local Committee on the various youth work activities in Dalrymple.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a previous Doon Valley Local Committee, information was requested from the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the various youth activities in Dalrymple.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Community Learning and Development is defined by the Scottish Executive as 'informal learning and social development work with individuals and groups in their communities. It seeks to strengthen communities through enhancing people's confidence, knowledge & skills, organisational ability and resources'.
- 3.2 One of the national priorities is the *Achievement Through Learning for Young People*. The aim is to engage with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society.
- 3.3 Community learning and Development support the Youth Association, which was established in September 2004 to enable young people to access various activities, information and training to assist them to achieve their full potential and improve the quality of their lives, within a dedicated youth facility.

4. DALRYMPLE YOUTH ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Dalrymple Youth Centre opened in September 2004 and by the end of November was operating three nights a week, with an average of twenty-five people attending each week. The programme included young people's involvement in Drugs Awareness training, DJ skills, Health Initiatives and Hack Pack training which was supported by Dialogue Youth.
- 4.2 The Youth Centre has gone through a challenging period and a new approach has been required to stimulate youth work provision and community involvement within Dalrymple, whilst ensuring that activities are sustainable and appeal to a wide age range of young people.

4.3 A number of initiatives have been developed and links established with a variety of agencies. A description of each of these initiatives is set out below:

4.3.1 The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a challenging programme of activities which helps young people to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure, as well as giving a great sense of achievement. The award is open to anyone between the ages of 14-25 years. There are three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. A young person needs to complete four sections; service, skills, physical recreation and expeditions.

The development of the Award within Dalrymple is through existing initiatives where young people are able to complete sections of their award by participating in existing activities. Nine young people have started to work through their Bronze Award.

4.3.2 Youth Group

A youth group is now operating on Tuesday evenings 7pm-9pm, targeted at some of the more challenging young people aged 14-18. Activities will be determined by the young people and it is hoped that they will become interested in participating in some physical activities, trips, Peer Education, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or the John Muir Award.

4.3.3 Supporting Young People Through Drama

The Borderline Theatre Company have been delivering a 10 week project on Wednesday evenings, tailored to meet the abilities of participants. The age groups targeted are the 9-12 year olds and 13-16 year olds. The programme has focused on developing confidence, communication skills, group work and team building with longer term aim of young people becoming more active in the Youth Committee.

4.3.4 Peer Education

A Peer Education Group has been established, meeting on a Thursday evening 1900 hrs to 2100 hrs targeted at 13-18 year olds. The young people are currently exploring topics around health and active citizenship, one of which they will develop into a peer education initiative.

4.4 **Easy Project**

This project is for young people aged 16-18 who live in East Ayrshire and who have officially left school. The young people are referred onto the Project by their Careers Officer and their session lasts for an initial 13 week period, but extensions can be granted dependant on the individual requirement. At present 7 young people from Dalrymple are participating in the programme Monday-Friday within the Youth Centre.

4.5 Youth Work Training

An accredited youth work training course organised in partnership with Kilmarnock College is being delivered within Dalrymple. Although the course is open to all of East Ayrshire, it is intended that we will be able to train people from Dalrymple and from the Doon Valley on this course and to recruit them for youth work purposes in the area.

4.6 Youth Association Committee

In addition to the above initiatives work is ongoing to develop and strengthen the young peoples committee. Links have been established with the Community Police to look at joint initiatives and build relationships with young people within the Dalrymple area.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The youth work programme being delivered in Dalrymple supports the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship which reflects the Promoting Community Learning Theme of the Community Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 All costs are met from Community Regeneration Funding and existing departmental resources.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended the members of the Doon Valley Local Committee:

(i) note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

20 April 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Telephone (01563) 576104 or Alan Murray, Team Leader Cumnock and Doon Valley Area, Telephone (01290) 421066.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR