

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2004
CREATIVE MINDS UPDATE

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Education Committee on recent Scottish Arts Council funding awards, the recognition received from the National Music Council and to introduce the recent publication of *CulturED* featuring the Department's Cultural Co-ordinator Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Further to the Creative Minds Committee Paper of 16 September 2003, this paper reports on the outcome of the two recent Scottish Arts Council funding applications, the progress made regarding the implementation of the Youth Music Initiative, and the recognition received through the National Music Council and *CulturED*, the National Newsletter of the Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools Programme.

3. SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING AWARDS

3.1 Championing Culture in Scottish Schools – Special Projects Fund

The Creative Minds Team recently applied to the Scottish Arts Council Championing Culture in Scottish Schools Project Fund. Reflecting the innovative nature of the planned activities, partnerships and use of multi-media, this project application has been awarded *Hot House* status. This means that the project is fully funded (£18,845) and that activities can begin this session.

The project, entitled *Minstrel in the Gallery*, is a multi media initiative which addresses the following key objectives as set out within our Cultural Co-ordinator framework and seeks to fulfil the Department's aims within the *Creative Minds Arts and Education Strategy*:

- Promote cultural activity as part of the whole school ethos
- Plan and implement cultural opportunities for pupils
- Work with local and national cultural resources to complement and enrich children's experiences
- Identify opportunities to further develop creativity across the curriculum
- Expand extra-curricular and out-of-school-hours activities
- Enhance personal and professional development opportunities for teachers
- Celebrate the diversity of Scotland's culture

- Network to identify and share good practice
- Extend the use of ICT to provide greater access to cultural activity and information
- Continue to develop strong and sustainable links with existing cultural services, external artists and national and local cultural organisations

Activities, which will be supported by visiting artistes, will be used to generate sustainable resource material to address and support the 5–14 Expressive Arts Guidelines. As well as printed material (scripts/lesson plans etc), particular emphasis will be placed on the development of visual and audio material on CD Rom which will serve as a stimulus for creative writing, storytelling, drama, music, art and design and history. There is a robust element of teacher support leading to sustainability.

Minstrel in the Gallery also builds on our newly commissioned work by the same name. Members of the East Ayrshire Schools' Brass Band and Schools' Choir worked with the internationally renowned composer, Goff Richards towards première performances in Cumnock and Kilmarnock at the end of February. These performances provided a platform from which to launch the multi-media project.

3.2 Scottish Arts Council Creative Links Commissioning Fund

In 2002 the Education Department at the Scottish Arts Council presented a case for additional funding to acknowledge East Ayrshire as one of four trailblazing local authorities. It was agreed that the four local authorities could apply for additional funds (£25,000 each) to support a special project from the Scottish Arts Council's National Lottery fund.

East Ayrshire Council's project application has been awarded the maximum of £25,000 towards the cost of enabling pupils to rehearse and perform a new work alongside musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) with further creative opportunities through in-school art, craft and creative writing sessions.

Leading UK jazz pianist and composer Huw Warren has been selected to create a dynamic new Song Cycle for massed children's choir and large ensemble fusing elements of contemporary classical music and contemporary jazz, providing a bridge from classical music performance into another style.

In consultation with the SCO and the *Creative Minds* Team, composer Huw Warren will devise/source appropriate texts for the commission. Themes will link directly into the children's knowledge and perception of local industrial heritage. There will also be opportunities for pupils to experiment with related compositional techniques.

Over 250 children from the East Ayrshire Primary Schools' Choir will participate in the project and will have the opportunity to work with a highly skilled professional arts team including a professional conductor, orchestral musicians and composer.

There is also a tangible element of professional development for teachers. The SCO's delivery team will work with East Ayrshire Primary Schools' Choir staff with the aim of enabling class teachers to support the development and performance of the project. Aspects of the project will be developed by teachers as part of their schools' Expressive Arts Programme.

4. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

4.1 Following the recent publication of the National Audit of Youth Music in Scotland, *What's Going On?* (Scottish Arts Council, 2003), the Scottish Executive announced funds totalling £17.5 m to be made available to local authorities for the development of youth music.

4.2 A working group was formed to develop an application that focused on the need to offer a diverse spread of provision, address local needs and reflect the identified national priorities in *What's Going On?*.

4.3 This application has been successful and East Ayrshire has been awarded £47,472 to cover costs for year one of the initiative.

4.4 The strategic action points within the application are as follows:

- Increase Instrumental Provision by 2.4 FTE (fixed term – June 2006)
 - Year 1 Appoint 0.6 FTE String Instructor
 Appoint 0.6 FTE Vocal Instructor
 - Year 2 Appoint 0.6 FTE Percussion Instructor
 Appoint 0.6 FTE Guitar Instructor
- Increase number of available instruments
- Support Summer School Development
- Support Primary Choral Development in partnership with Youngchoirs.net
- Support and develop out-of-school-hours string tuition
- Offer enhanced staff development opportunities
- Explore new methodologies
- Develop Scottish Traditional Music opportunities in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama
- Review current provision and delivery of piano, keyboard & voice tuition

5. NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL

5.1 A submission was made to the National Music Council. Further to this, East Ayrshire Council has been recognised for its commitment to supporting innovative developments in music education and, as a result, the Council received an Honourable Mention in this year's National Music Council Annual Report.

This national recognition further reflects the excellent range and quality of music opportunities and developments that are available to our young people.

6. CULTURAL CO-ORDINATORS IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

- 6.1** Issue 3 of CulturED, the newsletter of the Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools programme, features the Creative Minds Cultural Co-ordinator Programme in East Ayrshire. This national publication highlights the excellent work being developed by the Team. Copies are available in the Members' Library.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Income from external funding from the Scottish Arts Council, the Youth Music Initiative and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra totals £93,617 and is ring-fenced for the activities outlined in sections 3 and 4 above.
- 7.2** The maximum projected expenditure is £99,492 and the partnership balance of £5,875 will be funded from existing budgets.
- 7.3** The appointment of the year two Instrumental Instructor posts in section 4 is pending funding through the Youth Music Initiative.

- 8. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** Nil.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note these projects involving pupils from across East Ayrshire;
 - (ii) approve the temporary Instrumental Instructor posts as outlined in section 4; and
 - (iii) be kept informed of further initiatives and developments.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JLW/ES
2 March 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Creative Minds Arts and Education Strategy
Creative Minds – Education Committee - 16 September 2003

Members requiring further information should contact John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, Woodstock Centre, Woodstock Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 2BE. Tel: 01563 555650

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