

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2004
VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2003/2004

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of recommendation for awards from Education Committee voluntary sector grants for the year 2003/2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Voluntary Sector Grants are considered in the following categories:

- education voluntary sector grants to assist voluntary and community based groups to develop and deliver community based projects
- adult education childcare grants for childcare support to adult education initiatives

- 2.2** In both categories of grants, applicants are expected to meet a number of requirements. The criteria for awards are

- where applicants are community groups or voluntary organisations they should have a valid constitution
- applicants should have or be able to make arrangements for proper accounts to be maintained
- applicants should have a bank account held in the name of the group or organisation with a minimum of two signatories
- the work of the organisation should be essentially educational in nature
- that the grant aid expenditure should have clear benefits for East Ayrshire.

- 2.3** Other key criteria to be considered include:

- the grant aid expenditure should contribute to community development
- the work of the organisation should address one or more strategic issue
- the grant aided expenditure can contribute to economic regeneration through developing access to employment

- the grant aided aspect of the work of the organisation is complimentary to the work of Community Learning and Development Services.
- the grant aided expenditure assists in training and the development work of the organisation
- the grant aided expenditure is part of a broader collaborative strategy with other departments, agencies or services and community organisations

2.4 Where funding is sought for out of school care projects the applicant should meet the basic eligibility criteria as cited above and should meet the requirements of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001

3. REPORT

3.1 Youth Advocacy Group

The Youth Advocacy Group has been established in East Ayrshire for more than 3 years, developing independent services on behalf of young people. The group was previously based within council offices in Kilmarnock but has decided to move to an alternative location within Kilmarnock in order that they might develop the services available.

The group seeks funding of £1,900 to assist with the costs of establishing their new office including telephone installation, office equipment and running costs. This funding will be expended by the end of the financial year

The group is actively seeking alternative sources of funding to meet the demands of the developed services.

3.2 Kilmarnock and Loudoun Gift Furniture Scheme

Both Furniture Schemes in East Ayrshire are in the process of preparing a service level agreement. This is in line with agreements reached when the groups were supervised by Social Work Services. In November 2003 funding to support the Furniture Schemes in Kilmarnock and Loudoun and in Cumnock and Doon Valley transferred from Social Work budget to Community Learning and Development within Education budget.

It is expected that a full report for both Schemes will be prepared for a future meeting establishing the agreed levels of service.

The Kilmarnock and Loudoun group seek funding of £456 in this financial year to cover costs related to preparation of audited accounts as required by changes in the accounting reporting. This change is in line with East Ayrshire Accounts Policy Bulletin 27, is good practice for groups and is required by other major funders. This funding will be expended by the end of the financial year.

3.3 Playscheme Travel Passes

An annual payment of £2,000 is made to SPTE to purchase playscheme travel passes to support the programmed activities of East Ayrshire Easter and summer playschemes and out of school activities.

Use of the travel passes allows these groups at access free travel throughout the area previously known as Strathclyde.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 4.1 The total value of awards recommended total £4356. There are sufficient funds within the budget to meet this commitment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is committed to funding voluntary bodies that operate within the identified criteria.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Support to the voluntary and community sector is compatible with the Council's Community Plan priorities, Partnership Agreements and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members of the Education Committee are asked to:

- (i) approve an award of £1,900 to the Youth Advocacy Group;
- (ii) approve an award of £456 to the Kilmarnock and Loudoun Gift Furniture Scheme;
- (iii) approve and award of £2,000 to SPTE for travel passes; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

5 March 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Applications for funding 2003/2004

2. Officers Assessments of applications

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Communities Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR