

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2006

### CREATIVE MINDS - UPDATE REPORT MARCH 2006

#### Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Education Committee on initiatives and forthcoming external funding applications supporting Creative Minds - arts and education strategy.

## 2. INITIATIVES

### 2.1 Cultural Co-ordinator Pilot Programme

The Cultural Co-ordinator Team (covering Drama & Literature; Creative Arts; Museums & Heritage) has been developing many exciting and innovative schools' arts and cultural projects, further enhancing links with other council departments and local and national agencies.

The impact on learning and teaching has been tangible. The Team will continue to promote cultural activity as part of the whole school ethos to complement and enrich children's experiences, enhance personal and professional development opportunities for teachers and expand extra-curricular and out of school hours activities. A range of projects, activities and opportunities is highlighted in the current edition of Arts Focus, the Department's Arts and Education News Pack. Copies have been placed in the Members' Lounge. This Programme is fully funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

### 2.2 Dance Motivator Initiative

This is part of the Council's cross-departmental Big Lottery Fund/PE & Sport initiative. A new person has been appointed to the post of Dance Motivator as the previous incumbent left East Ayrshire to take up the post of Education Officer at Scottish Ballet. Over the remaining months of the funded programme she will continue to lead dance workshops in schools, provide pathways to sustainable community based cultural activities and deliver a phased programme of training for teachers and sessional staff.

A recent national report placed East Ayrshire third amongst all Local Authorities regarding the frequency of physical activity in Primary Schools. The programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund to the end of 2006.

### **2.3 Youth Music Initiative**

Phase one of the YMI Initiative comes to a close at the end of this financial year and an application to the Scottish Arts Council for Phase Two funding is being submitted. The following represents action points delivered through the Department's phase one plan.

- Increase number of available instruments
- Extend instrumental music provision to all primary schools
- Increase instrumental staff by 2.4 FTE, covering percussion, guitar, voice and lower string instruction
- Support Music Summer School Development
- Offer enhanced staff development opportunities
- Support Primary Choral Development
- Support and develop out-of-school-hours string tuition
- Explore new methodologies e.g. Kodaly in partnership with the National Youth Choir of Scotland
- The introduction of a Scottish Traditional Music Saturday Morning Centre in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.
- Offer creative music performance and listening opportunities to pre-5 children in partnership with Scottish Opera
- Introduce and support the Sounds of Singing programme to develop singing in primary schools.
- Introduce a partnership programme with Drake Music Project Scotland focussing on pupils attending Special Educational Needs establishments.

East Ayrshire also successfully applied for YMI Strategic Funding and we have developed the following projects and partnerships:

- P4/5 Creative Music programme in partnership with ABC Caber Music Enterprises, Edinburgh City Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Shetland Council.
- Masterworks programme in partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Fife Council, South Ayrshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Edinburgh City Council.

The above initiatives have provided a broad range of music making opportunities for young people and staff across the authority with over 1,500 pupils experiencing new musical experiences during session 2006/06.

### **2.4 East Ayrshire Commissioned Works Collection**

A CD has now been produced featuring four specially commissioned works for East Ayrshire performing ensembles.

- Minstrel in the Gallery (Schools' Brass Band & Choir) – Goff Richards
- For 250 Years (Loudoun and Grange Wind Band) – Alan Gilliland
- Railway Mania (Primary Schools' Choir) - Huw Warren/SCO
- A Dark Foreboding (Schools' Big Band) – David Patrick

CDs will be issued to all participating pupils.

## **2.5 Arts Across the Curriculum**

Increasing the performance of pupils is the central rationale underpinning the whole programme. Previous research in the USA has shown that achievement in all curriculum areas (including, but not exclusively, in the expressive arts) improved when artists were involved in well-planned team teaching with the class teacher.

The programme in East Ayrshire started at the beginning of this session and a range of artists have been working with pupils and teachers in schools within the Doon Learning Partnership. Current curricular areas and arts partnerships include science and dance and environmental studies and drama. The aims of this programme are to:

- Increase pupils' achievement, particularly in understanding, in identified subject areas across the curriculum.
- Increase pupils' motivation to learn.
- Support and develop the skills of teachers to work collaboratively and creatively.
- Encourage links between different areas of learning.
- Enhance the ethos of the school.
- To explore the efficacy of the expressive arts as a delivery mechanism across the curriculum.

This programme has attracted national interest and Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, visited Doon Academy and Dalrymple Primary School on 15 November 2005.

## **2.6 Arts Summer Schools 2006**

In the summer of 2005, over 600 pupils from schools across East Ayrshire attended a range of Arts Summer Schools throughout the summer break. A full range of courses will be on offer again this year including: brass, jazz, woodwind, vocal, strings, guitar, percussion, primary music, art & design, drama, dance and heritage. These opportunities are supported by the Scottish Arts Council and the Big Lottery Fund.

## **3. NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL AWARD**

- 3.1** East Ayrshire has been awarded a National Music Council Diploma of Merit recognising the impressive range and quality of music initiatives and the wide access to music opportunities across the authority. East Ayrshire is one of only 8 Local Authorities UK-wide and this year is the only Scottish Local Authority to receive an award.
- 3.2** The Scheme is co-ordinated with the assistance of the Local Government Association and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. The NMC's Music Awards Scheme has been in existence for over 30 years and an annual Major trophy and a variable number of Diplomas provide recognition for those Local Education Authorities that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to music education in a particular year.

**3.3** The Award was presented to East Ayrshire at a ceremony held at the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) Westminster on Wednesday 16 November 2005. This national recognition further reflects the excellent range and quality of music opportunities and developments that are available to our young people.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

External funding totalling £321,888 has been received in 2005/06 to fully support the programmes and initiatives mentioned above. Funding for 2006/07 has either been secured or is awaiting final confirmation, specific to each initiative.

#### **5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The Creative Minds programme particularly supports the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the theme of Promoting Community Learning.

#### **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**7.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note these initiatives involving pupils from across East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) be kept informed of further initiatives and funding applications.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Music Developments – Education Committee, 24 May 2005
2. Arts Across the Curriculum – Education Committee, 24 May 2005
3. National Music Council Music Education Awards 2005 Report
4. Arts Focus 7 – Arts and Education News Pack

Members requiring further information should contact John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, Tel: 01563 555634.

**Implementation Officer – John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support**