

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2007

CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY GIFT FURNITURE SCHEME AND THE HOLIDAY 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 Education Committee of the outcome of the annual evaluations of Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and the Holiday Project and confirm future funding arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members will recall that a Service Level Agreement was developed in consultation with Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme for the period 2004 to 2007.
- 2.2** The Holiday Project has been funded for a number of years through the Community Learning and Development Service and was awarded funding by Education Committee in March 2003.
- 2.3** Both organisations have been in receipt of annual funding, which provides for their general running costs in order that they can deliver their services.
- 2.4** Both organisations were subject to an evaluation by the Department of Educational and Social Services, Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.5** Officers have been working with the organisations to consider project development and encourage them to investigate external funding opportunities.

3. PERFORMANCE

3.1 Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Redistribution Scheme

- 3.1.1** Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme relocated to new premises in Dalmellington which are leased from the Council. The Scheme has responsibility for any repairs and maintenance during the lease agreement. The new premises now allow members of the public to view items of furniture.
- 3.1.2** The Scheme provides furniture and household items to families in need within the Cumnock and Doon Valley area. It operates 3 days a week and is staffed by volunteers. During the period June 2006 to January 2007, 167 families were assisted by the Scheme and furniture uplifted from 212 households. The figures are slightly down for the same period last year but this is due the

relocation and setting up of new premises and the Scheme being more selective in the type and quality of furniture being uplifted.

- 3.1.3** The Scheme has received intense support from Community Learning and Development over the past year. The number of volunteers on Management Committee has increased and members of the Committee have undertaken training on basic finances, evaluations and one member of the Committee undertook basic computer course. They are also receiving support to apply for external funding.

3.2 The Holiday Project

The Holiday Project was set up in 1996 and provides low cost holidays to disadvantaged and vulnerable residents of East Ayrshire. They currently have 4 caravans which can be booked from Easter to the end of October each year, one of which is fully equipped for disabled use. The Project hopes to access funding to purchase a fifth caravan which would increase access for people with a disability.

- 3.2.1** In 2006/2007, the project took 93 bookings which enabled 269 adults and 243 children to access a low cost holiday.
- 3.2.2** The Management Committee employ a full time Project Officer and a part time Project Assistant (30 hours) who coordinate all bookings, promotional and developmental work as well as taking care of the general up keep of the caravans.
- 3.2.3** The project works in partnership with a number of agencies to incorporate healthy eating, dental awareness, reading and home security as part of their holiday experience. They also operate a savings scheme which allows families to pay for their holiday on a weekly basis.
- 3.2.4** The Management Committee actively pursues external funding and links closely with the Councils External Funding and Substantiality Officer. They have also secured a free mentor from Business Gateway to help with business planning.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In 2006/2007, Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme were awarded £9,051 and the Holiday Project awarded £15,464.
- 4.2** The funding recommendation for 2007/2008, including inflationary uplift for the Holiday Project is £15,928 and £9,322 for the Cumnock and Doon Valley Furniture Scheme.
- 4.3** It is recommended that Service Level Agreements for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010 are established with the Holiday Project and Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** A Service Level Agreement established with the Project would clearly identify both the Councils and Projects responsibilities.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

8.1 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Service Level Agreements regulates the relationship between the council and the voluntary/community organisation during the period for which funding is approved.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** Members of the Education Committee are asked to:

- (i) remit the development of Service Level Agreements with Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and the Holiday for the period 2007/2010 to officers ;
- (ii) agree the recommendations for an annual award with inflation for 2007/8; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

28 February 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme Service Level Agreement Annual Evaluation Report.
2. Annual Report for the Holiday Project.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR