

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005**

#### **ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2005**

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

### **1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Education Committee of the outcome of the ninth Annual Youth Conference held in Kilmarnock College on Wednesday 30 March 2005.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Since the inception of East Ayrshire Council, a Youth Conference has been held every year attracting young people from across the Council area. The Conference is planned involving young people from local Youth Forums and other youth work settings and is supported by the Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.2** The themes for this year's Conference, which was held under the Service's Active 8 banner were:- health, world of work, leisure and recreation and independent living.

### **3. REPORT**

#### **3.1 Recruitment**

- 3.1.1** Young people supported through the service and partner youth work settings and in voluntary projects were contacted throughout the year and given information about the Conference inviting their participation. All projects and young people who indicated an interest were invited to take part in the Conference.
- 3.1.2** Promotional material was distributed to young people and youth workers in these youth work settings.

#### **3.2 Registration**

- 3.2.1** 230 young people attended the Conference. This is an increase on attendance in previous years.

#### **3.3 Programme and Evaluation**

- 3.3.2** The Conference was co-ordinated by Community Learning and Development staff. Fourteen partners played an important role in the planning and organisation of the Conference. Partners included Kilmarnock College, East Ayrshire Youth Forum, Yipworld.com, North West Youth Project, Rathbone, the Morven Centre and Careers Scotland. The Conference was part resourced with European funding.

**3.3.3** The Conference was a mixture of stalls, workshops and presentations. During the day, recognition of local achievement through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was given. Elections also took place which involved young people selecting the three young people who will represent them at the Scottish Youth Parliament for the next two years.

**3.3.4** At this stage full evaluation has not been completed. However, early indications would suggest that all who participated took a positive view of the day. The opportunity to network and participate in workshops proved very successful.

The Conference brought young people from across the Council area together to meet, interact and to discuss issues that they see as important. The Conference also provided an excellent opportunity for young people to take an early interest in the political process.

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

**4.1** All costs were met from existing departmental resources with additional aspects supported by European funding.

#### **5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** Nil

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- (i) note the success of this year's Youth Conference;
- (ii) invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to advise Local Committees of the Conference outcomes, and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

29 April 2005  
WH/CT

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

1. Conference Programme/Publicity Leaflet

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel:(01563) 576104 or Alan Murray, Team leader (Kilmarnock Area), Tel: (01563) 535913.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**