

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005

TRANSITION INTO SUPPORTIVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To inform Members of a joint initiative with the DARE Foundation to assist young people with a disability make the transition to the world of work.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Upon leaving school, young people with a disability may face barriers as they enter the world of work, further or higher education. These barriers may arise from lack of knowledge amongst employers or education providers. Alternatively, young people may lack the confidence to overcome some of the obstacles that may confront them. In either circumstance the young person will be unable to fulfil their potential or take their rightful place in society.
- 2.2** The DARE Foundation is a registered charity whose aim is to secure real change for disabled people. To achieve this DARE believes in working in partnership to promote good practice. This is done by specific initiatives and training days.

3. THE PROJECT

- 3.1** DARE has secured funding from the Scottish Executive to provide workshops for disabled young people, school staff, other educators, employers and employment providers. This project has been given the title "Transition into Supportive Education and Employment" (TISEE).
- 3.2** The target population is young people aged between 14 and 19 who have a physical or sensory impairment and their peers. This group will be offered workshops alongside employers, careers advisers, teachers and others. Activities will support the purpose of building partnerships and promoting inclusion. Most importantly the resulting career and education planning for young people should enable them to better fulfil their potential. A side benefit will be the general promotion of inclusion and a wider awareness of disability issues.

- 3.3** It is envisaged that the workshops will be run in the Autumn of 2005. Some preliminary work will take place in schools before this phase. The project will be supported by Social Services Psychological Services, the Visual Impairment Service and the Hearing Impairment Service. North Ayrshire Council, Kilmarnock College and Ayr College will also be participants in the project. There will be a final report, and based on previous projects, materials will be produced that will directly support young people and employers.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Planning for transition is a legal requirement now under the Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2004. This initiative will be of considerable assistance in fulfilling that responsibility.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The TISEE project will make a direct contribution to the Improving Opportunities theme of the Community plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members:
- (i) Note that this report is also being considered by the Social Work Committee; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/MG
3 May 2005

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement, (01563-576089).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** Nil

Implementation Officer: Graham Short