

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2006**

**KILMARNOCK AND LOUDOUN FURNITURE REDISTRIBUTION SCHEME,  
CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY GIFT FURNITURE SCHEME  
AND THE HOLIDAY PROJECT**

**GRANT FUNDING 2006/2007**

**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 Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme, Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and the Holiday Project and confirm funding arrangements for 2006/2007.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Members will recall that Service Level Agreements were developed in consultation with Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme and Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme. Financial year 2006/2007 is the final year of three year Service Level Agreements.
- 2.2** All three organisations have been in receipt of annual funding, which provides for their general running costs in order that they can deliver their services.
- 2.3** The Holiday Project has been funded for a number of years through the Community Learning and Development Service and more recently expanded its capacity through Community Regeneration Funding and Children in Need.
- 2.4** All three 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**

**Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme**

- 3.1** Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme is based in Kilmarnock and provides recycled furniture to families and individuals in need in the Kilmarnock and Loudoun area. The scheme operates 5 days a week.

- 3.2** In 2005/2006, 333 families were assisted by the Scheme and 930 items uplifted.
- 3.3** Over the past year the Management Committee has promoted the Scheme and have been successful in securing £3,050 from the Community Development Foundation to create a web site which should be operational by late summer.
- 3.4** The Scheme has been actively pursuing external funding and has several applications pending. The Transforming Waste Funding came to an end in April 2006 and the Management Committee has secured interim funding of £6,000 from INCREASE (Investment in Community Recycling Enterprises) to cover staffing and operating costs, until the end of July 2006. The Project will know the outcome of their full funding application to INCREASE by this date.
- 3.5** The Management Committee are working towards a Company Ltd by Guarantee and are establishing links with community recycling networks to share ideas, information and access training opportunities.

### **Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Redistribution Scheme**

- 3.6** Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme is based in Dalmellington and provides furniture and household items to families in need within the Cumnock and Doon Valley area. The Scheme operates 3 days a week and is staffed by volunteers.
- 3.7** In 2005/2006, 279 families were assisted by the Scheme and furniture uplifted from 317 households.
- 3.8** Community Learning and Development continue to support the Management Committee in its development. The project has recently moved premises and it is envisaged that this move will enable the Project to take stock and move forward positively.

### **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.

- 3.10** In 2005/2006, the project took 86 bookings which enabled 272 adults and 221 children to access a low cost holiday.
- 3.11** 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

- 3.12** 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.
- 3.13** The Management Committee has been actively pursuing external funding and has several applications pending.

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

- 4.1** In 2005/2006, Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme was awarded £12,959 and Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme awarded £4,320.
- 4.2** In 2004/2005 no award was made to the Holiday Project as they had secured sufficient funding from the Community Regeneration Fund and Children in Need to cover operating costs.
- 4.3** The funding recommendation for 2006/2007, including inflationary uplift for Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme would be £13,360 and £15,464 for the Holiday Project.
- 4.4** The recommendation for the Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme is to award funding of £9,051 which includes an inflationary uplift.
- 4.6** It is recommended that each organisation is supported in the implementation of the new HMle How Good is our Community Learning and Development Evaluation Framework and that the use of this tool will be a condition of funding.
- 4.7** A full evaluation will be undertaken on all projects prior to 31 March 2007.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Nil.

#### **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- (i) agree to fund Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme £13,360 in 2006/7;
- (ii) agree to fund the Holiday Project £15,464 in 2006/7;

- (iii) agree to fund the Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme £9,051 in 2006/7;
- (iv) ask the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to carry out a full evaluation of all three projects prior to 31 March 2007; and
- (v) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

4 May 2006  
KG/DG/JP

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Redistribution Scheme Service Level Agreement Annual Evaluation Report.
2. Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme Service Level Agreement Annual Evaluation Report.
3. 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**