

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2006

CREATIVE MINDS UPDATE CULTURAL & MUSIC PARTNERSHIP AWARDS & PROJECTS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update Members of the Education Committee on the recent award of the annual Major Trophy by the National Music Council (NMC) of Great Britain, on the recent successful funding applications to the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) and the Scottish Museums Council (SMC) and the forthcoming music partnership projects with Scottish Opera and Tapestry.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The NMC's Music Awards Scheme has been in existence for over 30 years. The Scheme is co-ordinated with the assistance of the Local Government Association and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and is supported by the Department for Education and Skills. Each year a 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.
- 2.2** The successful funding awards reflect the ongoing commitment to partnership working as part of the Creative Minds Strategy. The SAC application is in partnership with North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire Councils, while the SMC application further develops the close working relationship with the Department of Neighbourhood Services.
- 2.3** The partnership programmes also build on the Department's already strong links with Scottish Opera and with Tapestry (East Ayrshire is one of four Lead Authorities focussing on Music and the Mind Initiatives) and have been devised to support vocal development opportunities in our Primary Schools and to enhance creative music opportunities in our Special Schools.

3. NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL MAJOR TROPHY AWARD

- 3.1** In 2005 East Ayrshire was the only Scottish Local Authority, and one of only seven Local Authorities within the UK, to receive a National Music Council Diploma of Merit.

Further recognising the impressive range and quality of music initiatives and the wide access to music opportunities across the authority, East Ayrshire has been awarded the Major Trophy in 2006.

- 3.2** The Trophy, which will be shared with Southampton, will be presented at a ceremony to be held in London on Wednesday 6 December at the Royal Society for the Arts. Pupils from East Ayrshire have been invited to perform at the event and a

small group of musicians chosen from last month's highly successful Instrumental Music Service Gala Concert will represent East Ayrshire.

4. THE ARMCHAIR WAR

- 4.1** This project was devised by, and will be managed by, the Museums, Heritage and Creative Arts Cultural Co-ordinator and will be facilitated by *Visible Fictions*, one of Scotland's leading theatre companies with an international reputation and extensive experience of working in educational settings. The project is supported by the Scottish Arts Council.
- 4.2** This exciting Museums/Heritage project will take place between January and March 2007 and will allow P6 and 7 pupils to learn about life during wartime and participate in high-quality interactive drama; provide valuable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for teaching staff; and provide as a sustainable resource, a comprehensive teaching pack.
- 4.3** The project will involve 9 East Ayrshire schools. Each class will receive a full day performance/workshop based on the human dilemmas faced by ordinary people during World War 2. Teachers will be actively involved in the project and will be supported by a teacher's resource and two twilight CPD sessions.
- 4.4** The project has strong links with Environmental Studies, Drama, *Determined to Succeed* and Citizenship. The project will also contribute to achieving the following *Curriculum for Excellence* aims: generate enthusiasm and motivation for learning; develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it; develop informed, ethical views of complex issues; be able to communicate in different ways and in different settings; and work in partnership and in teams.

5. KNIGHT SCHOOL

- 5.1** This funding award by the SMC recognises the highly productive partnership between the Creative Minds Cultural Co-ordinator Programme and EAC Museums and Galleries Section.
- 5.2** Classes from 20 schools will visit Dean Castle where pupils will be led on an educational tour of the Keep and Palace. They will then take part in interactive "*Knight School*" workshops – putting on armour; coin-striking; writing with quills etc. Activities will be filmed to produce a DVD as a sustainable educational resource for schools and the museum.
- 5.3** Approximately 600 children will benefit from a rich, interactive experience in a stimulating environment. This project will be used as a model of good practice for other initiatives involving joint working between the Cultural Co-ordinator Team and Museums and Galleries.

6. SCOTTISH OPERA SINGING PROJECT

- 6.1** The aim of the project is to provide an enjoyable and accessible exploration of the different voice types that appear in opera using a series of musical illustrations. The finale will involve all participating pupils singing two pre-prepared choruses

accompanied by the Orchestra of Scottish Opera in the Grand Hall on Wednesday 7th Feb 2007.

6.2 Through the Sounds of Singing Programme and associated CPD, this project aligns with, and supports, our Youth Music Strategy and is part of the Youth Music Initiative.

7. TAPESTRY / NESTA (NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS) PROJECT

7.1 This collaborative project has been developed by Professor Nigel Osborne, Katrina Bowes and the four key Music Advisers from East Ayrshire, Fife, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire. The project is funded by NESTA

7.2 The project has two main strands. Firstly, to develop a new Musical Instrument to allow children with additional support needs to be able to create and perform music in a meaningful and exciting way and, secondly, to provide Special Schools with a two-year creative music support programme.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Armchair War is being funded by the Scottish Arts Council to the five participating local authorities. Knight School is funded through the Scottish Museums Council Small Grant Scheme award. The Scottish Singing Project is being funded by the Scottish Arts Council Youth Music Initiative. The Tapestry Partnership programme is being funded by NESTA.

9. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Creative Minds strategy particularly supports the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship via the themes of Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

10. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Nil.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note the award to East Ayrshire of the 2006 Major Trophy by the National Music Council of Great Britain;
- (ii) note the partnership projects and funding awards; and
- (iii) be kept informed of future projects.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JMcC/EO'N
18 October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Creative Minds Update Report - Education Committee – March 2006

Members requiring further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563 576126) or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education (01563 555634)

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