

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 14th September 2004

CREATIVE MINDS UPDATE

Report by Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Education Committee on recent programmes and Scottish Arts Council funding awards.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Further to the Education Committee report of 23 March 2004, this paper reports on:
- The progress made during phase one of the Cultural Co-ordinator programme in East Ayrshire.
 - The outcome of recent Scottish Arts Council funding applications supporting phase two of the Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools pilot programme and year two of the Youth Music Initiative.
 - Forthcoming music events and the success of this year's Arts and Cultural Summer School Programme.

3. CREATIVE MINDS CULTURAL CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME (Phase One)

- 3.1 The *Creative Minds* Cultural Co-ordinator Team has enhanced the provision of quality arts and cultural experiences for young people across the authority. The Team consists of three part-time specialists, each holding a co-ordinating responsibility for the development of Creative Arts, Drama & Literature and Museums & Heritage.

At the outset, the team developed a *Creative Minds* Cultural Co-ordinator Programme information leaflet which introduced the personnel and outlined the programme's key aims and objectives. The team was also afforded the opportunity to consult at Head Teachers' Meetings, meet with Principal Teachers at Curriculum Management Meetings and liaise with personnel from other Council Departments.

- 3.2 Key aims and objectives:

- Promote cultural activity as part of the whole school ethos.
- Plan and implement cultural opportunities for pupils.
- Work with local and national cultural resources to complement and enrich children's experience.
- Identify opportunities to further develop creativity across the curriculum.
- Expand extra-curricular and out of school hours activities.

- Enhance personal and professional development opportunities for teachers.
- Celebrate the diversity of Scotland's culture.
- Network to identify and share good practice.
- Extend the use of ICT to provide greater access to cultural activity and information.
- Continue to develop strong and sustainable links with existing cultural services, external artists and national and local cultural organisations.

3.3 Impact on learning

Underpinning East Ayrshire's *Creative Minds* Cultural Co-ordinator Programme are the National Priorities for Education. During 2002 - 2004 around 6,500 pupils from across East Ayrshire have participated in a range of artistic and cultural activities to develop talents, attributes and skills including:

- skills in communicating, observing, listening, reflecting and responding;
- enhanced levels of self-esteem, self-confidence and motivation through participation, leading to raised levels of educational achievement across the curriculum;
- specific skills-building relating to technique, repertoire and experience;
- enthusiasm and engagement through participation in activities which will improve motivation and self-esteem, and help them to become more effective learners;
- project management and planning skills through running activities and mentoring others.

3.4 Impact on teaching

After School Drama Clubs have now been established in many primary schools across all Learning Partnerships. This has generated a volume of scripted material primarily designed to raise awareness and understanding of issues such as Bullying, Peer Pressure, Drugs and Alcohol and has also been welcomed by teachers as a sustainable and specific context for 5 – 14 Drama.

Continuous Professional Development sessions for teachers have now been established to further support this initiative. Weekly twilight workshops explore these and other new approaches to 5 – 14 and offer advice on setting up school drama clubs.

3.5 Resource implications

Working with other Council Departments, accessing external partnership funding and developing links with national bodies are all essential to maximising the necessary funding to support projects and activities. Embedding the many positive attributes of the artistic, cultural and creative experience in children's education is fundamental to ensure core funding for the Cultural Co-ordinator Programme beyond its pilot status.

3.6 National recognition has been received through CulturED, the national newsletter of the Cultural Co-ordinators in Scottish Schools Programme. This

national publication highlights the excellent work being developed by the Team. Copies are available in the Members' Library. The work of the Team was also featured in the Times Educational Supplement of 4 June 2004.

4. CREATIVE MINDS CULTURAL CO-ORDINATOR PROGRAMME (Phase Two)

- 4.1** The programme is now fully funded to June 2006 and this will allow the Cultural Co-ordinators to remain in post until that time.
- 4.2** In phase two, the team will further develop a cohesive and strategic programme of arts and cultural opportunities and activities supporting the learning of all pupils, and especially those whose learning styles respond well to creative, visual and active opportunities.

5. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE (Year 2: 2004 - 2005)

- 5.1** Following the publication of the National Audit of Youth Music in Scotland, *What's Going On?* (Scottish Arts Council, 2003), the Scottish Executive announced funds totalling £17.5 m to be made available to local authorities for the development of youth music. East Ayrshire's application for year 2 funding has been successful and we have been awarded £94,943 to cover costs for year two of the initiative.
- 5.2** The strategic action points within year two which were approved at the Education Committee of 23 March 2004, pending confirmation of the year 2 funding, were:
- Instrumental provision increased by 1.2 FTE through the appointment of 0.6 FTE Percussion Instructor and 0.6 FTE Guitar Instructor. (Fixed term to June 2005 with a possible extension to June 2006.)
 - Increase number of available instruments.
 - Support Summer School Development.
 - Support Primary Choral Development in partnership with *Youngchoirs.net*.
 - Support and develop out-of-school-hours string tuition.
 - Offer enhanced staff development opportunities in voice training.
 - Explore new methodologies.
 - Develop Scottish Traditional Music opportunities in partnership with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.
 - Review current provision and delivery of piano, keyboard & voice tuition.
- 5.3** A strategic action point within year 2 which now requires further approval is the appointment of a 1.0 FTE Administrative Support. This post is required to support the work and initiatives being carried out within the Creative Minds programme. The post will be fixed term to June 2005 and is fully funded within the Youth Music Initiative funding. The post could be extended to June 2006, pending the award of year 3 funds.

6. ARTS AND CULTURAL SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2004

- 6.1** Over 500 young people from across the authority participated in this summer's programme which included a wide range of courses featuring art & design, drama, heritage, dance, primary music, vocal, strings, brass, piping and woodwind.
- 6.2** This year's courses were led by instrumental staff, music teachers, primary teachers, central support staff, art & design teachers, Cultural Co-ordinators, the department's Dance Motivator, and visiting specialists. The programme was supported by the Scottish Arts Council, the Youth Music Initiative and the Big Lottery Fund.

7. PREMIÈRES OF COMMISSIONED WORKS

- 7.1** Leading UK jazz pianist and composer Huw Warren has been selected to create a dynamic new Song Cycle for the East Ayrshire Primary Schools' Choir and large ensemble fusing elements of contemporary classical music and contemporary jazz – providing a bridge from classical music performance into another style.

Over 180 children will participate in the performance and will have the opportunity to work with a highly skilled arts team including a professional conductor, Scottish Chamber Orchestral musicians and composer. The work, entitled *Railway Mania*, will receive its première performance in the Grand Hall on the evening of Thursday 28 October 2004.

- 7.2** The Canadian composer, Alan Gilliland, has been commissioned to write a commemorative piece as part of the Darvel 250 celebrations. Alan, formerly of Darvel, has been working closely with East Ayrshire Instrumental Staff and Darvel Improvement Group in preparation for the première performance by the joint Loudoun Academy and Grange Academy Wind Band at the East Ayrshire Instrumental Service Gala Concert in the Grand Hall on the evening of Thursday 7 October 2004.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** Income from the Scottish Arts Council totals £148,943 and is ring-fenced for the activities outlined in sections 4 and 5 above.

Income £94,943 (Youth Music Initiative Year Two)
£54,000 (Cultural Co-ordinator Programme Phase Two)

- 8.2** The temporary appointment of the AP1 Administrative Assistant (1.0 FTE) is fully funded through the Youth Music Initiative. This post will also be processed through the Corporate Governance Committee.

9. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** Nil.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note and commend these projects involving pupils from across East Ayrshire;
- (ii) approve the temporary Administrative Support post as outlined in section 5;
- (iii) refer the staffing proposal of the temporary Administrative Support Post to Corporate Governance Committee for approval; and
- (iv) be kept informed of further initiatives and developments.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

JLW/ES
16 August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Creative Minds Arts and Education Strategy
2. Creative Minds Update– Education Committee - 23 March 2004

Members requiring further information should contact John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, Woodstock Centre, Woodstock Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 2BE. Tel: 01563 555650

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