

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 15 SEPTEMBER 2004

ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

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 Irvine Valley Local Committee of the outcome of the 8th Annual Youth Conference held in Kilmarnock College on Wednesday 7 April 2004.

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 whole, Council area. The Conference was planned involving a group of young people recruited from local Youth Forums and other youth work settings and was supported by Community Learning and Development workers.
- 2.2** The format at the Conference this year was principally to give participants the chance to look at the enterprise shown by youth projects in their approach to working with young people. The theme for this year's Conference which was held under the Council's Active8 brand, was Enterprise.
- 2.3** The Conference targets young people of secondary school age and transport is provided to enable young people from all parts of East Ayrshire to participate.

3. REPORT

3.1 Recruitment

- 3.1.1** Young people in Community Learning & Development 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 work of 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** In excess of 170 people registered for the event. 150 people attended on the day. This is an increase on attendance in previous years and reflects the change in emphasis which concentrated on giving young people the

opportunity to present their enterprising activity to each other. Eighteen young people attended from Irvine Valley Local Committee Area and groups and projects from this Local Committee Area included:

- Galston Youth Group
- Hurlford Youth Group
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group

3.3 Programme and Evaluation

3.3.1 Twenty four projects who work with and for young people participated in the Conference. Of these, thirteen set up a stall which informed and demonstrated their work, three provided demonstrations of their work on stage or on the main Conference floor, five organised workshops to give more detail about the activities of their project and three questionnaires were completed by the facilitators engaging young people in an individual or group basis to gain their views on a specific topic. Five other groups were in attendance to participate in the days events.

3.3.2 The Conference was co-ordinated by Community Learning and Development staff but a number of partners played an important role in the planning and organisation of the Conference. Partners included Kilmarnock College, East Ayrshire Youth Forum, YIP World, North West Youth Project, the Bridge Project and Impact Arts. The initiative was part resourced with European funding.

3.3.3 Towards the end of the Conference, Community Learning and Development East Ayrshire Youth Conference held an AGM where office bearers were elected for the coming year. The Conference was very well attended and the reaction on the day was very positive. It is hoped that the Community Learning and Development East Ayrshire Youth Forum AGM will be an annual part of the Conference and will continue to enhance the active citizenship dimension of the Conference.

3.3.4 The evaluation which has been collated from forms returned indicates that those who participated took a positive view of the day. The opportunity to network and the practical workshops proved particularly successful.

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 Irvine Valley Local Committee

- (i) welcome the success of this year's Youth Conference;
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

6 August 2004
KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Conference Programme
- 2. Publicity Leaflet
- 3. Participation Chart

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Billy McDowall, Team Leader (IVAN Area) Tel: (01563) 554936.

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