

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE - 30 AUGUST 2005

**AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR
YOUTH DIVERSION ACTIVITIES**

**(raised as local issue at meeting of Kilmarnock Central Local Committee held
on 15 March 2005)**

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Members of the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee on the availability of community facilities for youth diversion activities in the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At a previous Local Committee information was requested from the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the availability of community facilities for youth diversion activities in the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee area.
- 2.2** Youth diversion activities are delivered by a range of organisations including community, voluntary and local authority services including the Educational and Social Services Department.

3. REPORT

3.1 Voluntary Organisations

There are a number of uniformed organisations who operate in the Kilmarnock Central area such as:

- Football Club
- Boys Brigade/Girls Brigade
- Scouts/Cubs
- Guides/Brownies

Details are too numerous to include in this report. However a list can be made available to the Local Committee if required.

3.2 Community Organisations

There are two voluntary youth clubs which operate with some support as required from Community Learning and Development. These are:

- Crosshouse Voluntary Youth Group

The voluntary youth group is attended by approx 25 young people between the ages of 8 and 11 years on a Monday evening. The local community worker supported the volunteers in establishing the group, and developing a programme with the young people. The volunteers are also encouraged to participate in Community Learning and Development Youth Worker Training events.

- Gatehead

A voluntary youth club was established in Gatehead with the support of the local community worker. Around 20 young people between the ages of 8-14 participate in the youth work activities which take place on a Wednesday evening. Ongoing support is given to this group where required/appropriate.

4. EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

4.1 Community Learning and Development

One of the service priorities is the “Achievement Through Learning for Young People”. The aim is to engage with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and place in society.

- 4.2** The Community Learning and Development Service support a number of initiatives which are available to young people in the Kilmarnock Central area, these include:

- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Group

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a challenging programme of activities which helps young people to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure, as well as giving a great sense of achievement. The Award is open to anyone between the age of 14 and 25 years. There are three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. For each, you complete activities in four sections; service, skills, physical recreation and expeditions.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Group meets every second Tuesday evening in the Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock. This is an open award group with participants attending regularly working towards completion of Bronze Award.

- Active Citizenship

Active Citizenship with young people is a key aspect of Community Learning and Development work. Young people are encouraged to participate in youth forums and can be elected to become a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. The annual youth conference which is held in April each year saw 12 young people attending from the Kilmarnock Central area.

4.3 Dialogue Youth

This is a national partnership initiative to develop youth information services and to involve young people in the discussions on the development/direction of services. Dialogue Youth is funded from a range of sources including European Social Fund, Community Regeneration Fund and East Ayrshire Council Educational and Social Services. Consultation has taken place with young people from Kilmarnock Central and the Young Scot card has been distributed to school pupils.

4.4 Essential Skills

The Essential Skills Project provides support to individuals who require support with reading, writing and numeracy skills. This is a free and confidential service open to all adults within East Ayrshire. The project is currently investigating the possibility of developing a youth literacies initiative.

4.5 Neighbourhood Services

In addition to Educational & Social Services, Neighbourhood Services provide a range of activities for young people.

4.6 Neighbourhood services have responsibility to encourage leisure, recreation and sporting activities. This includes the Recreation Partnership Project which is a joint initiative with East Ayrshire Council Leisure Development Service, East Ayrshire Social Inclusion and the Ayrshire and Arran Health Improvement Fund.

4.7 This project aims to provide innovative health related initiatives for primary school age children. The service includes active recreation and health awareness in schools, a network of kids clubs in the community and the opportunity for training local people.

4.8 In addition to this Leisure Department co-ordinate a wide range of activities from basketball to volleyball (full details available).

5. LEGAL/POLICY/ FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee:

- (i) note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

12 August 2005
AM/CMcl

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support. Tel (01563) 576104 or Margaret Phelps/Margaret MacBain Team Leader (Kilmarnock Area) (01563) 572757.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR