

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE : 22 MARCH 2006

WORKING FOR FAMILIES

Report by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.2** The purpose of the report is to inform the Local Committee of developments made by the Working for Families project within the Kilmarnock South area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire Council was awarded £1.2 million, by the Scottish Executive, for the financial years 2004 to 2006 to establish a Working for Families project within East Ayrshire. The project was launched in January 2005 and is currently operational in the following areas:

- Altonhill, Hillhead, Longpark and Onthank
- Shortlees, Bellfield and Riccarton
- Muirkirk, Logan and Lugar and
- Dalmellington, Bellsbank and Patna

- 2.2** The Scottish Executive has now confirmed that Ministers have agreed to continue to fund Working for Families for a further two years, for 2006/07 and 2007/08. East Ayrshire Council will therefore continue to receive Working for Families funding for this duration at the same level as previous years.

- 2.3** In the Kilmarnock South area the project initially established a team base within the Buchanan Centre in Riccarton, however, due to the nature of the accommodation, it was recognised that a more accessible drop-in facility was required. To this end alternative premises were sought.

3. UPDATE

- 3.1** When it was established that the Jobcentre Plus Action Team for Jobs were reducing their coverage from within 15 Shortlees Crescent to one day per week, it was decided to locate the team there operating 3 surgeries per week plus one evening and one Saturday per month.

- 3.2** Premises were then sought within Bellfield and following a research of available property, it was decided to refurbish the existing unoccupied shop unit at 81A Whattriggs Road and locate the team there for 5 surgeries per week; other surgeries will be decided upon demand.

3.3 It is intended that at an appropriate time, an official launch will be held in conjunction with East Ayrshire Council Public Relations Department. Local Committee members will be invited along with the press, appropriate Elected Members and other officers from within the Council.

3.4 To date the Kilmarnock South team has registered 108 clients within the Kilmarnock South area with:

- 22 clients moving into employment
- 20 clients moving into education/training
- 2 clients moving into voluntary work and
- 2 clients starting up in business

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The costs associated with the Working for Families team locations within the Kilmarnock South area will be met from existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. POLICY/ COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Working for Families project is in accordance with the aims of the East Ayrshire Community Plan with specific reference to the 'Eliminating Poverty' and 'Improving Opportunities' sections.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) support the developments outlined in paras 3.1 – 3.3, and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

James Lavery

Executive Director of Development and Property Services

TM

3 March 2006

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Corporate Governance Committee 21 September 2004

For further information on the contents of this report contact Robert Paton, Head of Economic Development and Property on 01563-(57)6142.

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