

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT – 17th MAY 2006

YOUTH WORK SERVICES IN THE KILMARNOCK SOUTH AREA

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Kilmarnock South Local Committee on youth work services in the Kilmarnock South Area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Kilmarnock South Local Committee held on 22nd March 2006, information was requested from the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on youth work within the Kilmarnock South area.

3 REPORT

- 3.1 Community Learning and Development is defined by the Scottish Executive as 'informal learning and social development work with individuals and groups in their communities. It seeks to strengthen communities through enhancing people's confidence, knowledge and skills, organizational ability and resources'.
- 3.2 One of the national 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. YOUTH WORK PROVISION

4.1 Community Learning and Development

Youth Outreach/Pathways Project

The Youth Outreach Project is well established in Kilmarnock South carrying out street work in Shortlees/Riccarron area since late 2002. The streetwork service for young people is now well established and from May 2005 to April 2006 it was carried out on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. At this time streetwork is being carried out on a Tuesday evening as the project is working with young people on new developments.

In addition to the streetwork, the project is currently supporting young people who are taking part in the John Muir Award, which is an environment youth achievement programme. The group will be

meeting on a Thursday evening and will be working on their award programme as well as other accredited programmes.

The project has delivered summer and Easter programmes for young people in the area as well as a number of short programmes, raising young people's awareness to issues such as healthy living, alcohol awareness and anti sectarianism. The project works in closely with other services and organisations in the area and in the deliver of these programmes.

Future activities planned include the P7 Transition Programme that Outreach has developed to support young people in the transition from Primary to Secondary education, and participation in a Kilmarnock wide initiative dealing with the topic of young people and offensive weapons. Negotiations are currently under way to source the use of the UP2U bus to deliver another programme.

Youth Forum

Community Learning and Development have recently set up a Youth Forum which brings young people from Kilmarnock South, Central and Irvine Valley areas together on a regular basis to discuss and investigate issues of importance to them. This group presently meet in Shortlees Community Centre and has six young people from Kilmarnock South area attending.

Shortlees Learning Centre

Family learning opportunities are delivered within Shortlees Learning Centre this includes short courses and drop in sessions. In addition to this a new programme for young people is being developed for the centre which will be relevant to their needs. Consultation is currently taking place with young people.

Youth Literacies

The Essential Skills Project has developed a new initiative to support young people who require support with their literacy and numeracy. The New Directions initiative will be working with young people using arts, drama and ICT to develop their literacies skills and will be working alongside existing services and organisations.

Peer Education Project

The Peer Education Project will be establishing a new group in the Kilmarnock South Area for the 13-18 age group. With support from youth workers young people will explore topics around health and active citizenship, one of which they will develop into a peer education initiative.

4.2 Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services deliver a number of initiatives for young people in the area. This includes Streetsport Express and football and basketball sessions twice a week. A youth club is held in Bellfield

Community Centre and there are soft play activities for the pre 5's. Working for Families also provide after school activities, five days per week.

4.3 Voluntary Organisation

A variety of Voluntary Organisations also provide youth services in the area this includes:

- Boys Brigade
- Weight Lifting
- Karate
- Netball Group
- Dance Class
- Kick Boxing
- Brownies
- Skye Project

5 POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6 COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The youth work programmes being delivered within the Kilmarnock South Area supports the increasing participation of young people in learning and active citizenship which reflects the Promoting Community Learning Theme of the Community Plan.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any financial implications will be met from within existing budgets.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the contents of this report

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Head of Community Support

SL/KG
27 April 2006

Members requiring further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, (01563 576104)

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