

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

PEACE SHORTLEES OUT OF SCHOOL CARE – HOLIDAY PLAY-SCHEMES

Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Kilmarnock South Local Committee of a change of location for the above play-schemes and use of grant funding.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 PEACE is a voluntary sector charitable organisation, which manages a consortium of eight out of school care projects including holiday play-schemes to support parents in work, training or education. Seven services operate in Kilmarnock and one in Dunlop. The group applied to the Local Committee for funding to support play-schemes in Shortlees for an estimated twenty children. The award of £1,900 was divided into £380 for two weeks at Easter, £1330 for seven weeks over summer and £190 for one week in October

3. CHANGES TO SERVICE

- 3.1 Enrolment for the Easter and summer play-schemes indicated that 12 children per day would use the service. Play-schemes operate from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm and therefore incur significant additional staffing, letting and caretaker costs. The fee income generated from twelve children does not meet this cost.
- 3.2 At Easter the PEACE St Columba's play-scheme also had places available and as the overhead costs at this site were lower, the Shortlees service was delivered from there. Demand for places at St Columba's was higher in the summer and therefore the Shortlees children attended the Annanhill play-scheme.
- 3.3 The grant award supported provision of activities, trips and excursions for twelve Shortlees children per day both Easter and summer.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that twelve Shortlees children per day will access the October play-scheme at Annanhill.

4. EFFECTS ON USE OF FUNDING

- 4.1 Funding supported the provision of Easter and summer play-schemes for twelve Shortlees children per day. Services were delivered at St Columba's and Annanhill as it would not have been financially prudent for PEACE to offer play-schemes in Shortlees. The grant award was paid into the main PEACE account; St Columba's and Annanhill reclaimed the costs of care for Shortlees

children, as has been normal practice for PEACE. This process will also apply to October play-scheme funding.

- 4.2 The measures taken have allowed PEACE to continue to deliver a service for Shortlees children whilst safeguarding services to parents across Kilmarnock and Dunlop and addressing sustainability.
- 4.3 Funding was of direct benefit to Shortlees families. If grant support had not been available it would have significantly impacted on PEACE's ability to offer services, which support parents in work, training or education.
- 4.4 PEACE is keen to re-establish a service in Shortlees as soon as sustainable levels of demand are identified and will continue to advertise locally and monitor demand particularly through the Working for Families fund.

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Support for the continued development of out of school care including holiday care is a feature of the Improving Opportunities theme of the Community Plan.
- 5.2 In line with the conditions of grant, a full breakdown of the grant spend will be submitted to Council's Administration Service. Officers will monitor the use of the grant to ensure that it continues to be used appropriately for children from the Shortlees area.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Kilmarnock South Local Committee:
 - (i) ask officers to monitor the use of the Playscheme for children from the Shortlees area;
 - (ii) note the use of the grant award to Local Committee in line with Council procedures; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational & Social Services)

KG/DMcA/SR
31 August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Local Committee Grants Scheme 2004-2005 - Kilmarnock South Local Committee - 19 May 2004

For further information please contact Dorothy McAvoy Childcare Partnership and Development Officer Tel: 01563 554956

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR