

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 25 AUGUST 2005

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 Northern Area Local Committee of the outcome of the 9th Annual Youth Conference held in Kilmarnock College on Wednesday 30 March 2005.

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 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 the Community Learning and Development Service.
- 2.2 The themes for this year's Conference, which was held under the Service's Active 8 banner were:- health, world of work, leisure and recreation and independent living.
- 2.3 The Conference targets young people aged 12 to 25 years of 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 supported through the service and partner 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 Conference.

- 3.1.2 Promotional materials were distributed to young people and youth workers in these youth work settings.

3.2 Registration

- 3.2.1 230 young people attended the Youth Conference. This is an increase on attendance in previous years. 17 young people attended from Northern Area Local Committee Area and groups and projects from this Local Committee Area included:-

- Stewarton Youth Group
- East Ayrshire Youth Forum
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group

3.3 Programme and Evaluation

3.3.1 The Conference was co-ordinated by Community Learning and Development staff. Fourteen partners played an important role in the planning and organisation of the Conference. Partners included Kilmarnock College, East Ayrshire Youth Forum, Yipworld.com, North West Youth Project and East Ayrshire Client Liaison Group. The Conference was part resourced with European funding.

3.3.2 The Conference was a mixture of stalls, workshops and presentations. During the day, recognition of local achievement through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was given. Elections also took place which involved young people selecting the three young people who will represent them at the Scottish Youth Parliament for the next two years.

3.3.3 The conference evaluation indicates that all those who participated took a positive view of the day. The opportunity to network and the practical workshops proved particularly successful.

The Conference brought young people from across the Council area together to meet, interact and to discuss issues that they see as important. The Conference also provided an excellent opportunity for young people to take an early interest in the political process.

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 Northern area 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

4 August 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Conference Programme
2. Publicity Leaflet

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR