

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2007

BELLSBANK WOMEN'S PROJECT GRANT FUNDING 2007/08

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Policy and Resources Committee of the outcome of the annual evaluation of Bellsbank Women's Project supported through a Service Level Agreement and to confirm funding arrangements for 2007/2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.** Bellsbank Women's Project was established as an Urban Aid Project in 1983 with the aim 'to provide educational opportunities for women living in the communities of Bellsbank and surrounding areas that will enable them to develop and realise their full potential as individuals, parents and active citizens'.
- 2.2.** At the end of the Urban Aid funding, the project received annual funding from Strathclyde Regional Council and from 1996, East Ayrshire Council. In 1999 East Ayrshire Council developed and established a Service Level Agreement with the Project's Management Committee, which set targets for the Project and required annual monitoring to access subsequent years funding.
- 2.3.** The funding received from East Ayrshire Council allows the Project to employ a Project Coordinator for 20 hours per week, an administrative assistant for 10 hours per week and deliver courses and classes by employing sessional staff. In addition the Project supports adults returning to learning by offering crèche provision if required.
- 2.4.** At Policy and Resources Committee of 12 April 2006, it was agreed to develop a third Service Level Agreement with Bellsbank Women's and annual funding agreed with an inflationary uplift.

3. REPORT

- 3.1.** Specific objectives of the Project include the provision of:
 - A wide range of learning opportunities in the form of classes/courses and self help groups:
 - Targeted provision to those women who are socially excluded, in particular women on low income and lone parents:

- Provision of activities in the context of lifelong learning, addressing social exclusion to improve health, increase skills, raise confidence and increase community participation;
- Breaking down barriers that may prevent members from participating through the provision of childcare, subsidies and transport

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1.** Bellsbank Women's Project was subject to an evaluation during January and February 2007 by the Department of Educational and Social Services Community Learning and Development Service.
- 4.2.** In 2006/2007, 90 women participated in learning opportunities and over 61 were involved in self help groups. The Project has also worked in partnership with Community Learning and Development in establishing the new ICT Learning Centre in the Centre.
- 4.3.** The crèche provided support to 32 children whose parents/carers participated in learning opportunities. Both the Crèche Coordinator and the Crèche Worker achieved their SVQ Level III Early Years Childcare Qualification.
- 4.4.** The Management Committee participated in training courses on committee skills, assertiveness and charitable trust status and has now successfully achieved charitable status for the Project.
- 4.5.** Over the past few years the project has piloted a number of programmes with men. They currently have a Dads, Lads and Lassies group and would like to attract more men into the Project. They have applied for funding to explore the feasibility of developing the project in order to meet the needs of both men and women in the area.
- 4.6.** The Project and the self help groups have successfully secured funding from a number of funders in the last financial year to support special initiatives and self help group programmes.

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1.** The evaluation process for the Project has provided evidence that the Project is clearly addressing its stated aims as well as the aims, values and priorities of the Council.
- 5.2.** They are recognising the needs of the area are changing and that the Project requires to evolve to reflect the needs of both men and women in the community.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1.** Nil

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A Service Level Agreement has been established with the Project which clearly identifies both the Councils and Projects responsibilities

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The aims and objectives of the Project are compatible with the East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In 2006/2007 the project was awarded £23,034 which included an inflationary uplift. The Project attracted the undernoted additional funding:

- **Dads, Lads and Lassies**
 - £17,450 (Awards for All; Minerals Trust; Local Committee; Coalfield Regeneration Trust)

- **Women's Project**
 - £17,609 over 3 years from Lloyds TSB for issues based courses
 - £200 Strathclyde Police

- **Oral History Project**
 - £14,700 (over 3 years from Heritage Lottery Fund)

- 9.2 The Project has a lottery bid pending for £10,000 for financial year 2007/8.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- (i) approve an annual award of £23,725 which includes an inflationary uplift; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

28 February 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Service Level Agreement Annual Evaluation Report

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR