

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE : 31 MAY 2005

NORTH SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2004/05

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Committee for information, a summary of the East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative Annual Report for 2004/2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative Annual Report 2004/2005 was presented to the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board on 18 May 2005 for approval and endorsement.

3. ANNUAL REPORT – 2004/2005

- 3.1 The fourth Annual Report of the North Board details progress made in the north of East Ayrshire to address social exclusion and promote social inclusion in the financial year 2004/2005.
- 3.2 The report covers each of the priority issues identified previously by the North Social Inclusion Board for 2004/2005, including:
- pursuing the promotion of positive health and social well-being, particularly for those dependent on alcohol and drugs;
 - assisting people to get into work through the development of skills, training and employment opportunities;
 - ensuring a high level of community participation in the work of the North Social Inclusion Initiative;
 - implementing measures to improve the environment; and
 - promoting community learning.
- 3.3 The Annual Report recognises the valuable contribution made by partners to the effective delivery of programmes in the north of East Ayrshire. A full copy of the Annual Report is available in the Members' Information Point.

4. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS 2004/2005

- 4.1 The projects and initiatives funded during 2004/2005 have made significant progress and achievement. A summary of project performance under the themes to which they most relate is provided below:

Positive health and social well-being

- 4.2 A total of £67,200 was made available to the following projects and initiatives under the positive health and well being theme:

Project	Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
Young Persons Alcohol Information Initiative	£15,000*
Momentum 'Energiser Plus'	£28,200*
New Sporting Futures	£12,000
Carers Cottage	£12,000

(*) previous years budgets

- 4.3 Ayrshire Council on Alcohol (ACA) implements, in partnership with Strathclyde Police, the Young Persons Alcohol Information Initiative, which aims to address issues of problematic alcohol use among young people. Initially focused on a group work approach, ACA are now offering, with greater success, one-to-one counselling sessions. From February to March 2005 there were 20 Police referrals, with 14 young people attending the first session and follow-up meetings arranged to meet individual requirements.
- 4.4 Momentum's 'Energiser Plus' is a community integration outreach programme aimed at addressing the gap in service provision in relation to the aftercare/rehabilitation of substance users in the north of East Ayrshire. The project has established premises at 65 King Street, Kilmarnock and the number of project beneficiaries from the north of East Ayrshire now totals 27.
- 4.5 The New Sporting Futures initiative allows the most excluded and 'at risk' young people in the north of East Ayrshire to access Snow Sports and Sports Night Leagues activities. Snow Sport activity takes place at Newmilns Dry Ski Slope and currently involves the participation of 12 disengaged young people in an 8-week programme. Sports Night Leagues have taken place at James Hamilton Academy, Loudon Academy and Grange Academy with over 2,300 attendances recorded from September 2004 to March 2005.
- 4.6 The East Ayrshire Carers Centre was awarded funding in November 2004, contributing towards the cost of refurbishing a new Carers Cottage facility, which opened on 4 February 2005. Some 12,500 carers in East Ayrshire have access to the facility. Young carers activity groups take place 4 evenings each week and a range of local groups and organisations also utilise the facility, including Enable Scotland, Kilmarnock College, Alzheimer Scotland and East Ayrshire Advocacy Services Ltd.

People into work

- 4.7 A total of £49,450 was made available to the following projects and initiatives under the people into work theme:

Project	Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
North Area Individual Employment Fund	£ 8,600*
North Area Drama Project	£ 2,500*

Future Steps Project	£ 9,900
CONDUIT Training Base	£28,450

(*) previous years budget

- 4.8 East Ayrshire Employment Initiative's North Area Individual Employment Fund operated from May 2004 to March 2005 and enabled over 20 unemployed residents within identified areas of the north of East Ayrshire to have increased opportunity to move into employment by providing them with financial assistance to remove barriers to work. The North Initiative part-funded the project in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.
- 4.9 The North Area Drama Project has to date allowed 6 CONDUIT trainees to participate in drama workshop sessions to help them gain new skills to assist them with job applications and interviews. Another series of drama workshop sessions is scheduled to take place in 2005/06.
- 4.10 The Kilmarnock College Future Steps project aims to increase the level of support made available to disadvantaged individuals in the north of East Ayrshire in respect of securing employment or progressing to further education or training. Progress to date includes the establishment of an Employability Centre located within the Student Union at Kilmarnock College and the recruitment of an Employability Officer.
- 4.11 In November 2004, the North Initiative agreed to part fund the refurbishment costs of a new CONDUIT training and administrative base in Kilmarnock town centre. The new premises will increase the capacity of CONDUIT Kilmarnock from 8 to 12 places. The premises will also be utilised by the Working for Families Fund project and it is anticipated that the building will be ready for use by June 2005.

Improving the environment

- 4.12 A total of £4,000 was made available to one project under the improving the environment theme:

Project				Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
East Ayrshire	Woodlands	Community	Facilitation Project	£4,000

- 4.13 The East Ayrshire Woodlands (EAW) Community Facilitation Project assisted community based and led woodlands group activity in Stewarton working primarily with Stewarton Woodland Action Trust (SWAT) and a further 4 communities within the north of East Ayrshire. These objectives were met throughout the lifetime of the project.

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The priorities of the North Social Inclusion Initiative link strategically to the themes contained within the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to:

- i) note the work being progressed in the North of the Authority to tackle social exclusion; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

13 May 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

North Social Inclusion Initiative Annual Report 2004/05, a full copy of which is available in the Members' Information Point.

Anyone wishing further information should contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication on 01563 576165 or Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager on 01563 554602.

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