

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 20 SEPTEMBER 2005

EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP 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 a summary of the published edition of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Annual Report 2004/05.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The submission of an Annual Report is a formal requirement of the Scottish Executive's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Social Inclusion Partnerships and guidance on the format of the report has been provided by Communities Scotland.
- 2.2 At the meeting of 23 June 2005, the Board of the new Community Planning Partnership (CPP) endorsed the 2004/05 SIP Annual Report, which was subsequently submitted to Communities Scotland by the required timescale of 30 June 2005.
- 2.3 The 2004/05 report is the sixth and final Annual Report of the Coalfield Area SIP, which was dissolved by the SIP Board on 26 May 2005.

3. FUTURE DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 At its joint meeting with the North Social Inclusion Initiative on 26 May 2005, the SIP Board endorsed proposals to establish one East Ayrshire wide Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the first meeting of which was convened on 23 June 2005.
- 3.2 The establishment of the new CPP completes the SIP transition to the new strategic context of community planning.
- 3.3 At its meeting of 31 May 2005, Committee subsequently approved proposals to establish the CPP, with delegated responsibility for the new Community Regeneration Fund and any future funding allocated to the Community Planning Partners.

4. ANNUAL REPORT – 2004/05

- 4.1 The Annual Report summarises the progress of the SIP over the year, highlights achievement over the lifetime of the SIP since its inception in 1999, and sets out a forward plan for the year ahead.

4.2 Included is a report on the activity of the projects funded by the additional allocation of funds from Communities Scotland's Tackling Drug Misuse and Community Empowerment monies.

4.3 A summary of progress regarding project performance and achievement throughout 2004/05 is provided in the Appendix to this report. Copies of the full report will be issued to all Elected Members.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The priorities of the SIP link strategically to the themes contained within the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

5.2 At its meeting on 31 August 2005, the Council's Corporate Management Team approved the contents of this report.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 NIL

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to:

- i) note the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Support
8 September 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership – Annual Report 2004/05 – The full Report will be distributed to Members.

Members 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.

Implementation Officer: John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication



PROJECT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

REPORT 2004-2005

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) has supported approximately 40 projects from the Core Budget in 2004/05. Additional projects are funded via the Tackling Drug Misuse and Community Empowerment budgets
- 1.2 The projects and initiatives have continued to provide a range of quality services, responding to the needs of the residents of the Coalfield Area. In addition, the SIP ensures that the projects which it funds link strategically to the activity of partner agencies operating in the Coalfield Area and to the identified community planning priorities in East Ayrshire.
- 1.3 The SIP Board has remained firm in its commitment to ensure that the projects, which it funds, are sustained, where appropriate, beyond the current funding period. Consequently, the Board allocated resources during 2004/05 to commission specific research to support projects in this process, including the independent evaluation and sustainability study of yipworld.com.
- 1.4 Many of the projects funded via the SIP Fund in 2004/05 have been included in the programme of activities implemented under the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA).
- 1.5 In addition, a number of SIP funded projects continue to move towards mainstream funding, including the Recreation Partnership Project, which has secured mainstream funding from NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Health Improvement Fund, while others are committed to developing their own income generating activities.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREED TARGETS 2004/05

- 2.1 Performance information has been grouped under the SIP's five core themes:
 - People into work
 - Positive health opportunities
 - Community learning
 - Living in a quality environment
 - Community participation.
- 2.2 Significant progress has been achieved by a range of high quality and innovative projects supported by the SIP throughout 2004/05. Listed below, under the themes to which they most directly relate, is the Programme of

Projects for 2004/05 and a summary of progress and achievement for the year.

People into Work

- 2.3 Throughout 2004/05, the SIP has continued to support initiatives which provide opportunities into employment. Approximately 19% of the total SIP Budget for 2004/05, totalling £409,000, has been allocated to seven projects under the 'People into Work' theme. The projects funded under this theme are:
- CONDUIT ILM;
 - East Ayrshire JobRotation;
 - East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY);
 - East Ayrshire Woodlands;
 - East Ayrshire Works;
 - Enterprising Towns Initiative; and
 - Individual Employment Fund.
- 2.4 The excellent performance of the EASY project, which is managed by the Council's Skills Training Unit, in tackling the disadvantage facing 16-18 year olds who are distanced from the jobs market continued throughout 2004/05. A total of 87 young people participated in the programme in 2004/05 and 58 of these individuals completed real work experience placements, compared to 41 last year. A total of 14 of these beneficiaries moved into employment, compared to 6 last year, 11 continued into further training and 6 into full time education.
- 2.5 The Individual Employment Fund continued to provide excellent value for money and total grant awards of £15,000 in 2004/05 enabled 49 Coalfield Area residents to access employment or training opportunities. A total of 47 individuals were supported into employment in 2004/05, compared to 28 people last year. In many cases, a relatively small financial contribution enabled individuals to make the transition from unemployment into work.
- 2.6 This year, under the 'People into Work' theme, 118 individuals have been supported into work, a significant improvement on last year's total of 82; 27 individuals entered further education/training, compared to 35 last year; 23 people achieved vocational qualifications, compared to 14 last year; and 19 individuals achieved the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), compared to 16 last year. A total of 213 individuals accessed training opportunities, which maintained the same level as last year.
- 2.7 Approximately 500 people have been directly assisted into employment via SIP funded projects under the 'People into Work' theme since 1999. This total does not include the many individuals who have accessed job opportunities through projects under the other four themes, or people who have taken up employment with the projects. In addition, over 300 SIP project beneficiaries have benefited from work placement opportunities in 'real' jobs with local employers.

Positive Health Opportunities

- 2.8 The SIP Board has committed £235,000, approximately 11% of the SIP Budget in 2004/05, to improving health opportunities. Projects have continued to support activity and provide access to information for improved health within local communities. The projects funded under this theme are:
- Healthy Living Initiative (C.H.I.P. Van);
 - Recreation Partnership Project; and
 - Creative Skills Programme.
- 2.9 The Community Health Improvement Partnership (C.H.I.P.) Van, managed by the Council's Leisure Development Services, has made over 70 visits to the SIP area during 2004/05, compared to 50 in the previous year. In addition, individual attendances increased this year from 500 to almost 700. The GP Referral Exercise Programme has been utilised by more SIP residents than in previous years, with 721 programme participants compared to 240 last year. There were 268 GP referrals to the Lifestyle Referral Scheme, maintaining previous service levels. The Community Food Initiative was successfully integrated with the C.H.I.P. project this year and continues to develop and progress.
- 2.10 The Recreation Partnership Project, also managed by Leisure Development Services, continues to deliver a package of services, which has a major impact on the health and well being of primary school children within East Ayrshire, linked to key local and national strategies. For the fourth consecutive year, all primary schools in the Coalfield Area agreed to participate in 'Active Recreation and Health Awareness' sessions offered to P3, P4 and P5 pupils. In addition, a new initiative to train P6 and P7 pupils as 'mini motivators' has been successfully piloted in the last year at Muirkirk Primary School and this initiative will be rolled out across East Ayrshire in 2005/06. The project has secured mainstream funding from NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Health Improvement Fund.
- 2.11 Two additional primary schools in the SIP area have been involved in the Playground Design Initiative over the last 12 months, namely Dalmellington PS and St Xavier's PS, maintaining the level of service provided in previous years.
- 2.12 The Kids Clubs and holiday activity initiatives continued to expand and received positive feedback from project participants as well as their parents. Over 2,000 Saturday Kids Club attendances were recorded at the four clubs operating in Auchinleck, Catrine, Mauchline and Muirkirk, while the After-School Clubs in Cumnock, Auchinleck, Ochiltree and Sorn recorded a total of 1,416 attendances. Sessions implemented during the Easter, Summer and October school holiday periods at venues across the SIP area attracted over 3,400 visits, a significant increase on the 2,580 visits made in the previous year.

Community Learning

- 2.13 Over 4% of the total SIP Budget allocation, totalling £94,500, is spent to ensure that individuals have the necessary education/training and learning opportunities to fully participate in society. Two projects under the 'Community Learning' theme continue to provide individuals in the Coalfield Area with a range of educational and training opportunities.
- 2.14 The Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC), located in Dalmellington town centre, has provided business training and support to 46 SME employees during 2004/05. Although this represents a slight reduction in participant numbers from last year, a total of 42 business employees completed courses compared to 25 in 2003/04. The project provides drop-in facilities, Internet access, ECDL support and meeting room facilities, as well as an outreach base for the Jobcentre Action Team and Careers Scotland.
- 2.15 Bellsbank Women's Project embarked on an innovative pilot project in 2004/05, which sought to develop a Men's Group and encourage male residents to become more involved in community based learning activity. A core group of 15 men regularly attend the Wednesday evening meetings, which include discussion groups and presentation sessions by guest speakers on a range of health and lifestyle related topics.

Living in a Quality Environment

- 2.16 Approximately 11% of the SIP Budget, totalling £256,000, is allocated to ensure that all residents within the Coalfield Area benefit from living in a quality environment. Local communities continue to be involved in identifying environmental improvements throughout the Coalfield Area.
- 2.17 Action Plans were produced for Netherthird, Cumnock Town Centre and Cumnock (excluding town centre), and a reformatted Muirkirk Action Plan was also completed. An additional five identified projects were implemented in Auchinleck, Catrine, Bellsbank, Dalmellington and Logan. In addition, 33 funding applications were approved, compared to 25 last year, securing financial resources of £401,000, a significant increase on the £133,500 secured in 2003/04.
- 2.18 A wind turbine and lighting system were purchased for the Barony 'A' Frame project, which continues to be developed. External Funding and Sustainability staff have worked closely with this project in recent months to develop a range of future funding applications and a grant award of over £237,000 has recently been confirmed by Historic Scotland.
- 2.19 The Restoring Communities Programme continues to be progressed in Auchinleck. A total of 7 properties have been improved via the Main Street Property Improvement Scheme, compared to 4 in 2003/04. The Well Road Park Project was completed and future maintenance work will be carried out by East Ayrshire Council's Outdoor Services Department.

Community Participation

2.20 The highest proportion of funding, over a quarter of the SIP Budget totalling £574,600, is allocated to the projects under the 'Community Participation' theme. These projects have consistently displayed significant achievement and continue to make progress by ensuring that each individual has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the communities in which they live.

The projects funded under this theme are:

- Active Citizenship;
- Alternatives to Addiction;*
- Coalfield Communities Federation;**
- Coalfield Community Transport;
- Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union;
- Dalmellington Primary and Nursery Parents Association;
- East Ayrshire Carers Centre (Satellite Service)/Young Carers Initiative;
- Ethnic Minority Inclusion;
- Investment in Drama;
- Kickstart Programme;
- Muirkirk Enterprise Group.
- New Cumnock Swimming Pool;
- Prince's Trust Volunteer Programme;
- Sport and Social Inclusion (New Sporting Futures);*
- The Children's Holiday Project;
- Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire: and
- yipworld.com.

*Funded via Tackling Drug Misuse

** Funded via Community Empowerment

2.21 The achievements of the projects and initiatives funded under the 'Community Participation' theme are extensive and a summary of achievement for 2004/05 is provided below.

- **Coalfield Community Transport** has continued to tackle disadvantage in rurally isolated Coalfield communities through the ongoing development of new and innovative transport solutions to address the expressed needs of the local community. The 'Wheels2Work' initiative was launched in April 2004 and is the first of its kind in Scotland. It became apparent from the success of the launch that the ten scooters initially purchased would not meet demand and an external funding bid to Jobcentre Plus secured an additional ten scooters. Yet again, this CCF managed project has exceeded the targets agreed for the year. Passenger numbers increased from 15,900 to 19,376; group membership is up from 138 to 166; and group bookings increased from 1,383 to 1,542. The 'Dayhopper' service has continued to expand, with membership increasing from 500 to over 900, and the service now operates seven days per week. A feasibility study was completed, which explored the development of an 'Awayhopper Service' offering overnight stays. The findings of the study were positive and funding has been secured to introduce the service in 2005/06.

- **East Ayrshire Carers Centre** continued to provide an outstanding service to Carers across the Coalfield Area. A total of 600 carers and 138 young carers were registered with the Centre at the end of March 2005, compared to 581 carers and 87 young carers at the same time last year. Links have been established with 8 local GP practices/health centres, compared to 5 establishments last year. A total of 78 young carers accessed residential respite breaks, more than twice as many as last year's total of 37. In addition, a total of 98 children and 85 adults accessed holidays via the Children's Holiday Project.
- **Sport as an Alternative to Drug Misuse**, which is part of the New Sporting Futures Project managed by Leisure Development Services, established Night Leagues at Auchinleck, Cumnock and Doon Valley academies. A total of 1,215 children and young people participated in this activity, compared to the 320 attendances recorded at the pilot projects last year. In addition, mini football and basketball leagues operate at Bellsbank Adventure Playground's Multi-Use-Games Arena two nights per week.
- Now in its fifth year of operation **yipworld.com** attracted 503 new registered users in the last year and approximately 50 volunteers continue to actively contribute to the service, including 20 young people. Continued delivery of the 'Pathways to Progress' initiative enabled 20 young people aged 17-25 years to access employment and work experience, compared to 9 individuals in the previous year. A SIP funded independent evaluation of the project was completed in June 2004 and highlighted a number of potential areas for future service development, which are now being explored by the project, including a mobile Internet café.

3. CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 3.1 Approximately 16% of the SIP Budget, totalling £356,000, is committed to the following projects:
- Dalmellington Brass Band;
 - Dalmellington Youth Centre;
 - Dalrymple Youth Provision;
 - Glaisnock Trust; and
 - Nith Valley Co-op Regeneration Project.
- 3.2 Building work at Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone) has been progressed and it is anticipated that the centre will be open to the local young people from September 2005. In addition, it is anticipated that Dalmellington Brass Band's hall will be completed during summer 2005.
- 3.3 Capital work on the Dalrymple Youth Provision project was completed in September 2004 and offers young people a much needed local facility in an isolated community.
- 3.4 The extensive refurbishment of Glaisnock House has been progressed and the structural element of the capital works has been largely completed. The remaining decoration and furnishing of the main floors have been progressed

and it is anticipated that the Centre will open to the public on a non residential basis by December 2005. This ambitious project, which will offer a centre of excellence for youth enterprise training as well as a local community facility, has continued to attract funding from a range of external sources, including the Big Lottery and Europe.

- 3.5 Nith Valley Co-operative Regeneration Project, to consolidate and regenerate a collection of disused and derelict buildings in New Cumnock town centre, is progressing and work has commenced on site.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The high quality and innovative projects funded by the SIP in its 2004/05 programme, which address local needs and priorities, have made a significant contribution to the overall achievements of the SIP. In addition, a range of SIP funded initiatives has continued to develop and grow, with a number receiving national as well as local recognition over the last year. The Carers Centre, for example, won the Great Scot Award Better Life Category and was actively involved in the production of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers Good Practice Guide.
- 4.2 The SIP has continued to work to ensure that the good practice identified in the projects and initiatives which it funds is taken forward, where appropriate, by the Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire.
- 4.3 Many of the most successful SIP funded initiatives have been included in the programme of projects funded via the new CRF in 2005/06. This programme forms the core activity of the ROA, which received Ministerial 'sign off' on 29 July 2005.

29 August 2005