

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 20 MAY 2004

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION WITH COLUMBA 1400 LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Social Work Committee of an initiative by the Scottish Executive to enable young people from East Ayrshire to participate in the Columba 1400 Leadership Programme on the Isle of Skye.

2. THE INITIATIVE

- 2.1. This initiative, established by the Scottish Executive, followed discussions with COSLA and the ADSW. It is proposed that six local authorities, including East Ayrshire Council, participate in the pilot programme which will commence this year and is intended to run until the end of 2005.
- 2.2. The pilot is aimed at care leavers and other vulnerable young people participating in four programmes which are designed to promote the ability of young people to extend their leadership potential and to improve their capacity to have a positive attitude towards work, education and citizenship.

3. THE ORGANISATION

- 3.1. Columba 1400 is a UK charitable organisation established in 1997 committed to finding, developing and positioning leaders in their own communities.
- 3.2. Headquartered at its Community and International Leadership Centre in Staffin on the Isle of Skye, Columba 1400 designs, develops and delivers residential experiences focused on eliciting leadership potential from all corners of society.

4. THE PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The programme structure has three phases.
 - a) A preparation phase to be organised in the local community in which the five participants and two support staff undertake group preparation tasks. Participation will be on a voluntary basis and individuals will gain an insight into the methods and structure of the course programme.
 - b) A residential course on Skye of seven days duration. A variety of groupwork programmes and non-directive coaching techniques will be employed to encourage participants to examine their core values, to set goals, to extend

their problem solving capacities and to develop a strategy for identifying opportunities for their self development.

- c) A follow-on phase in which ongoing support is provided by workers and the other course participants in their local communities to enable each participant to pursue their own developmental goals.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is envisaged that the staff costs of this initiative can be contained within the settlement figure of £105,000 determined by the Scottish Executive to fund the transfer of responsibilities from the Department for Work and Pensions to the local authority in respect of young people who cease to be looked after. The costs of participation for the young people will be funded by the Scottish Executive.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Staff will require to be released from their existing duties to participate in this initiative.
- 7.2 Two staff members will be required for each of the four programmes which are to be scheduled in 2004. It is envisaged that the demands of supporting this initiative can be contained within a managed workload schedule.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 It is envisaged that this initiative will provide valuable opportunities for self-development to twenty young people who are currently experiencing significant degrees of social exclusion.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:-
 - (i) agree to authorise participation in this initiative; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
Enc (0)
23rd April 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information please contact Bill Eadie, Senior Manager, Operations Social Work Services, Council Offices, Civic Centre, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock (Tel : 01563 56728).

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : JACKIE DONNELLY