



ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

Board Meeting – 23 June 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Board's endorsement of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership's 2003/04 Annual Report, due to be submitted to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Submission of an Annual Report is a 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 the Executive and Communities Scotland.

3. ANNUAL REPORT: 2003 / 2004

- 3.1 The fifth Annual Report of the Coalfield Area SIP summarises progress made over the year, 2003/04, and sets out forward information in the form of a resource plan.
- 3.2 Included is a report on the activity of the projects funded by the additional allocation of funds from Communities Scotland's Tackling Drug Misuse monies.
- 3.3 In addition, a progress report in relation to the extra resources provided by Communities Scotland as part of the empowering communities agenda has also been included.
- 3.4 A range of background information is requested by the Executive and Communities Scotland including:
 - Appendix 1(a) - East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Board 2003/04 Membership
 - Appendix 1(b) - East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Board 2004/05 Membership
 - Appendix 2(a) - East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Staff Structure 2003/04
 - Appendix 2(b) - East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Staff Structure 2004/05
 - Appendix 3 - Summary of Financial Out-turn Expenditure for 2003/04
 - Appendix 4 - Monitoring Report 2003/04
 - Appendix 5 - Work Plan 2004/05
 - Appendix 6 - Resource Plan 2004/05

These appendices will be forwarded to Communities Scotland with the main document and will be available for inspection at the Board Meeting on 23 June 2004.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) endorses the 2003/04 Annual Report, subject to minor textual changes, for submission to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2004;
- ii) remits the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to commission the production of the Annual Report in an interesting and attractive format, which can be widely circulated within the Coalfield Area; and
- iii) otherwise notes the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
14 June 2004



EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA
social*inclusion*partnership

EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP

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ANNUAL REPORT 2003 / 2004

Our Shared Vision

The vision for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership shared by the partners is:

“To enable each person within the Coalfield Area to realise his/her potential. To prevent social exclusion and promote social inclusion. To create sustainable communities in an attractive environment through co-ordinated and innovative action and community participation.”

This is an ambitious aim and will only be achieved over time with the combined efforts of all of our partners.



FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the SIP Board, to the fifth East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Annual Report 2003/04.

This has been the year when the evaluation of the SIP was undertaken by an independent consultant, to examine the impact and effectiveness of the SIP programme and its activities locally. The evaluation will form part of a national overview to inform the development of national policy on regeneration and social justice.

The local evaluation has provided an assessment of the SIP's performance since it was established in 1999, including what has worked well and the factors contributing to its achievements. Many of the SIP funded projects and initiatives have been identified as examples of good practice and innovation, and a major strength of the SIP itself is in relation to partnership working and community engagement.

I am, therefore, delighted to confirm that the main findings of the evaluation have been very positive and clearly demonstrate the difference made to the people living in our communities.

However, there are no quick fixes or easy answers to tackling poverty and disadvantage and it is important that work to regenerate our communities continues to be taken forward through the community planning process in East Ayrshire.

Through the contribution and commitment of everyone working together we have gone some way to achieving our vision, providing opportunities for everyone. We remain determined to build on this success.

Councillor William Menzies
Chair, East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2003-2004

The fifth Annual Report for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) provides us with an opportunity to share some of the significant achievements of 2003/04. The SIP Board takes pride in its progress to date in tackling poverty and disadvantage and promoting social inclusion in the post mining Coalfield Area. We are confident that through a joint working approach, we are making a real and lasting difference to people's lives.

This year we reached a significant milestone in the SIP's lifetime, as the independent evaluation to examine the impact of SIP activity was undertaken by a consultant commissioned by the SIP Board on behalf of Communities Scotland, providing an assessment of the SIP's performance to date.

The independent evaluation has been extremely positive, particularly highlighting the achievements of the SIP in relation to engaging and empowering local communities and as an excellent example of partnership working.

In addition, the evaluation identifies a range of projects and initiatives which have been cited as examples of good practice. Individually and collectively they have been working towards making the vision for the Coalfield Area a reality. A few excellent examples of good practice, which can be seen in all the initiatives in the SIP programme are identified below:

- **Coalfield Community Transport**

One of the success stories of 2003/04 is the achievements of Coalfield Community Transport (CCT), which provides accessible, affordable and appropriate transport solutions for voluntary and non-profit making groups and socially, economically and geographically disadvantaged individuals in the Coalfield Area.

CCT was the Coalfield Communities Federation flagship project, far exceeding the agreed targets set for the year, and has provided a range of transport options between isolated villages and opened up new opportunities in training and employment.

The big yellow buses are a familiar sight around the area, with many community and voluntary organisations using the vehicles to transport their members to various club activities and social events.

A significant increase in the usage of the service has been demonstrated since 1 April 2003 and by the end of March 2004 group membership increased from 106 to 138; volunteer drivers had increased from 140 to 177; bookings were up from 468 to 1383; and passenger numbers had increased from 5400 to 15,900.

The 'Dayhopper' service was launched in June 2003 and provides a shopping and excursion service to individuals in receipt of benefit, older or unemployed people,

lone parents, and people with a disability or who are geographically disadvantaged. The initiative provides a regular weekly shopping service to Ayr, Kilmarnock and Irvine as well as to the local shops in Cumnock and Auchinleck. Members pay a nominal fee of £1 or £2 depending on their destination. The travel club has organised excursions to a number of places of interest, including Moffat, Dumfries, Stirling and Edinburgh.

CCT has enjoyed two Ministerial visits this year and following a successful funding application to the Scottish Rural Transport Initiative, the 'Wheels2Work' initiative will be introduced from April 2004, assisting young people to gain access to work or training.

- **Healthy Living Initiative (C.H.I.P. Van)**

The mobile healthy living initiative visits targeted Coalfield settlements on a regular basis and has developed a range of highly effective programmes of activity. The project combines health checks, advice on exercise and healthy eating, exercise classes and a range of taster sessions. A range of fitness classes have been established and a GP referral scheme, which links the service with priority health care, has been particularly successful.

The project has been recognised, both locally and nationally, as an example of good practice and over the last year has received a range of top awards for its unique community development approach, including:

- finalist in the Association of Public Service Excellence awards;
- finalist in the Coalfields Regeneration Trust 'Best Project' award category; and
- winner of the Labour Party Best Practice Award.

The project has succeeded in engaging a wide range of individuals within the community in healthy eating and exercise, and users have reported that the changes in their eating and exercise habits can be attributed to the C.H.I.P. Van. The mobile resource has provided facilities for dispersed communities, which were not previously available to them.

- **Outdoor Access**

In October 2003, the 'Outdoor Access' project was officially launched by broadcaster Fred McAuley, following the confirmation of £2.5million grant support from a range of funders over a 3-year period.

The project will provide a 385 kilometre sustainable path network, linking Coalfield communities internally, and regional and national networks externally. Key to the project's success is the involvement of local people through community planning and consultation and the project will develop trails for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The trails are planned to complement a range of environmental initiatives, which include the restoration of opencast sites.

The project will support local employment and training opportunities, including the creation of five full-time posts and 12 training placements through a 'job-rotation' type scheme. In addition, accessible opportunities are provided to increase levels of physical activity for both residents and visitors to the area.

To date, 42 kilometres of pathway has been created, 3 local action groups established, 6 voluntary path wardens and 5 volunteer walk leaders recruited, and 2 sites of social, cultural or natural interest improved. The project has made an excellent start and we expect to see the full benefits of activity over the coming year.

- **Prince's Trust European Programme**

The Prince's Trust Volunteer Programme is a personal development and training programme assisting young people aged 16-25 years to develop motivation and skills through team work in the community. Over the last year, thirty young people have participated in the Cumnock based initiative, implementing a range of projects which have benefited the local community.

This year, three young members of the Cumnock teams were selected to take part in the Prince's Trust European Programme, which provides opportunities for young people to participate in a three-week structured work placement in another European country. Owen Currie and Chris Brodie secured work placements near Naples in Italy and Alan Mitchell's placement was confirmed as a village close to Valencia in Spain. European partner agencies provide accommodation, guidance and support as well as work placements for individuals participating in the 'Work Away' programme.

In preparation for the European work experience, participants have the opportunity to attend a residential course in Scotland, where they receive an insight into their own individual work placement as well as learning about the host country's language and culture.

- **yipworld.com**

Based in Cumnock, yipworld.com has quickly established itself as the hub of the local youth community, delivering a range of services for 10-25 year olds in a safe and stimulating environment, where young people can interact, build self-confidence and skills, and benefit from joined-up opportunities.

Established in April 2000, yipworld.com has engaged innovatively with young people, so that many progress onward through volunteering to train in related fields or become actively involved in the project itself. Employing approximately 30 staff members, staff development and training has been recognised through the achievement of the 'Investor in People' Award. The project recently added to its list of prestigious honours by winning the 'Business in the Community' category at the Ayrshire Business Awards 2003/04 and is currently on the shortlist for the Enterprising Scotland awards, organised by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire. We wish them well!

CONCLUSION

As the SIP progresses towards the transition to the community planning process in East Ayrshire, the partnership approach provides a firm foundation upon which we can build, to ensure a real and lasting difference is made to people's lives.

The achievements of the projects and initiatives highlighted above provide a flavour of the success enjoyed by the SIP this year and the Annual Report 2003/04 demonstrates a range of exciting developments which have been progressed throughout the year.

The SIP has endeavoured to co-ordinate activity to ensure that we continue to strive towards making our vision a reality. We know that we are making a difference and the independent evaluation of SIP activity highlights that the strategy adopted appears to have been an effective response to the needs of the area. We are determined to build on our achievements to date and will continue our work through the community planning process, linking directly to the Community Planning Action Plans, to ensure that we deliver change, improvement and social justice, and make a lasting difference in our communities.



PART A – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2003 / 2004

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth Annual Report prepared by East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP), which provides an opportunity for us to share our achievements of 2003/04.

The SIP was established in 1999 and has, since that time, undertaken to improve the circumstances and quality of life of the residents of the Coalfield Area. Five years on, we continue to make real progress in tackling poverty and disadvantage locally, and promoting social inclusion.

The SIP has, again this year, continued to make significant progress, through the provision of funds to support a range of high quality, innovative projects and initiatives, which address priority issues identified by local communities and a range of partners.

At last, we reached a significant milestone in the SIP's lifetime, as the long awaited evaluation of SIP activity was undertaken by an independent consultant commissioned by the SIP Board on behalf of Communities Scotland. The evaluation examined the impact of the SIP programme and its activities locally and provided an assessment of the SIP's performance to date.

The independent evaluation of the SIP has been extremely positive, particularly demonstrating the high level of community involvement and engagement, and its impact in the Coalfield Area. The final report was submitted to Communities Scotland in January 2004 for consideration as part of the national overview of the SIP programme and is designed to support the integration of SIPs into the Community Planning Partnership structure.

As the SIP progresses towards the transition to the community planning process in East Ayrshire, the partners remain firm in their commitment to making a real and lasting difference to people's lives and are determined to build on the foundation of success through the joint working approach, which will continue to make a significant impact on the communities we serve.

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES 2003 / 2004

The objectives and priorities agreed by the SIP Board for 2003/04 include:

- continuing to listen to and responding to community needs;
 - continuing to develop community involvement/community engagement on the SIP Board;
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- preparing for and co-ordinating the independent evaluation process to be undertaken during summer 2003;
- developing the links already established within the East Ayrshire community planning process;
- supporting all SIP funded initiatives in terms of sustainability beyond March 2004, as appropriate, including the provision of training in business planning as well as exit strategies;
- ensuring that the quality of work in relation to regeneration initiatives is appropriately evaluated and that areas of best practice are transferred to and taken forward through the community planning process;
- responding effectively to the requirements of the Transition Framework guidance prepared by Communities Scotland;
- ensuring the smooth transition of the SIP to the strategic context of community planning;
- assisting in the development of monitoring/evaluation arrangements within the community planning process; and
- establishing closer links between the local targets/indicators and the Social Justice Milestones.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS 2003 / 2004

The SIP Board has a firm commitment to making a real difference in the Coalfield Area and the partners have continued to work together to ensure the effective implementation of the SIP Strategy. The summary below demonstrates the progress in relation to the agreed priorities for 2003/04.

- **Listening to and responding to community need**

The SIP continues to co-ordinate activity to address the priorities identified locally and a key priority for the SIP Board has been to assist people into work.

A consultant was commissioned by the Employment Working Group to explore perceived barriers to employment within the Coalfield Area. An 'Employment Seminar' was organised at the end of May 2003 to allow Board members to fully consider the consultant's findings and the Employment Working Group was subsequently remitted to take forward a range of agreed initiatives to address the perceived barriers to employment, which have been progressed as follows:

- **Childcare Needs**

In partnership with Jobcentre Plus and the Childcare Partnership, the Recruitment Sub Group, established by the Childcare Partnership, will:

- develop flexible packages of support which accommodate the needs of individuals;
- provide support and advice for childminders in relation to registration;
- provide assistance and advice for childminders who require a business plan; and
- organise and deliver sessions to raise awareness of and generate interest in childminding as an employment option.

In addition, the Childcare Partnership is in the process of developing a flexible 'sitter service', which will address the needs of individuals whose shift patterns require flexible childcare arrangements.

The Ayrshire Childcare Information Service has established a working group to:

- re-brand and re-launch its service; and
- promote its service through attending appropriate events.

- **Transport to Work**

An application for funding to develop a 'Wheels2Work' initiative in the Coalfield Area was approved by the Scottish Rural Transport Initiative (SRTI), which will provide up to ten scooters to assist young people aged 18-25 years to gain access to work or training. The initiative will commence in April 2004.

In addition, a feasibility study will be undertaken in 2004/05 in relation to providing access to services and employment, particularly to connect residents of outlying areas to central transport provision

- **Skills and Aspirations**

The Employment Working Group is considering the development of Roadshow/Motivational Sessions aimed at raising the confidence and aspirations of residents of the Coalfield Area. Further work will be undertaken to ensure a more community based approach, which is sustainable and links to the further education sector.

- **Annual Review process**

The Employment Working Group has been requested to consider a range of employment related issues arising from the SIP Annual Review process, in particular, how an integrated package of employment related projects can be taken forward beyond 31 March 2005. The recommendations arising from this area of work will be presented to the SIP Board in the coming year.

- **Developing community involvement/engagement on the SIP Board**

Four community representatives participating on the SIP Board were required to stand down on 31 March 2003. It was agreed by the Board that an advertisement be placed in the local newspaper seeking nominations to fill the four vacancies.

Eight nominations were received in response to the advert, three of which were new to the SIP process. Following informal discussions with the new nominees

by a panel of Board Members, two new community representatives were appointed to the SIP Board. In total, eight community representatives, four from the wider community and four from the Coalfield Communities Federation, participate as full members of the SIP Board.

In addition, two SIP Board representatives from the Coalfield Communities Federation have been appointed to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group, which has responsibility for making urgent decisions outwith the Board cycle.

- **Preparing for and co-ordinating the independent evaluation process**

DTZ Pidea Consulting, an independent agency, was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the SIP, which commenced in September 2003. As part of the Research Specification, an Advisory Group was established to oversee the evaluation process, comprising four members of the SIP Board, including two community representatives, plus two staff members from the SIP Support Team and a designated representative from Communities Scotland.

The independent evaluation of the SIP was concluded in January 2004 and the final report was subsequently submitted to Communities Scotland for consideration as part of the national evaluation process. The SIP Board is currently considering the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report, with a view to establishing a range of proposals to take forward the future regeneration of the Coalfield Area.

- **Developing established links with the East Ayrshire community planning process**

The first stages of the integration process have been progressed in East Ayrshire, as the Manager Social Inclusion has been re-designated as Community Planning and Partnership Manager within the newly established Community Planning and Partnership Unit. Duties of the above post holder include routine reporting to the Community Planning Core Partners' Group and Joint Officers' Group, which respectively determine the strategic policy direction for East Ayrshire and ensure the implementation of agreed actions. The Community Planning and Partnership Manager will retain responsibility for the SIP, ensuring the smooth transition to Community Planning.

- **Sustainability**

The SIP Board remains committed to ensuring that the projects which it funds are sustained beyond the current funding period and agreed to commission an independent consultant to assess the sustainability of three identified projects, namely Coalfield Community Transport, East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (E.A.S.Y.) and Investment in Drama. The sustainability reports have been positively received by each of the identified initiatives and the recommendations will provide a co-ordinated approach to assist in the implementation of future sustainability plans.

In addition, the SIP Board allocated resources to commission an independent evaluation and sustainability study of yipworld.com. It is anticipated that the findings of the research study will be available in Summer 2004.

- **Quality and Good Practice**

The SIP evaluation report notes that the SIP is “an excellent example of partnership working and there is a wealth of good practice in the way the SIP and the projects it supports operate”.

In addition, the report particularly highlights the level of community engagement and empowerment achieved during the lifetime of the SIP. The Board is committed to building on and improving these structures and is working to ensure that the most successful features of the SIP are taken forward as part of the community planning process.

- **Social Inclusion Partnership/Community Planning Partnership Transition Framework**

The guidance in relation to integrating SIPs and Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) was issued at the end of August 2003. The document sets out the key principles and outlines the process of integrating SIPs within the CPP framework.

To allow full consideration of the document, the SIP Board hosted a seminar in December 2003 to examine the content of the guidance and discuss the implications for the SIP. A presentation to the Coalfield Communities Federation was delivered by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager in respect of the ‘SIP Transition’ in January 2004.

To ensure the smooth transition of the Coalfield Area SIP to the local community planning process, an Action Plan of core activity has been developed. The ‘Transition Action Plan’ is a standing item at SIP Board meetings and at the Community Planning Joint Officers’ Group, and relevant updates are provided, as appropriate. The Action Plan will ensure the successful completion of the overall integration process and effective implementation of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

As part of this process, a series of participatory workshops, with the community and voluntary sector, projects in the current SIP programme and partner agencies, will take place during the summer 2004.

- **Monitoring and evaluation arrangements within the community planning process**

The SIP is represented on the Community Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, which has been established to ensure that robust systems are in place to measure progress towards meeting the targets identified in the Community Planning Action Plans over time. In addition, systems are being developed to ensure a co-ordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation across a range of jointly funded projects throughout East Ayrshire.

- **Links to the Social Justice Milestones**

The SIP is represented on the Community Planning Research and Information Group, which has been remitted to identify performance indicators, against which

progress can be measured against the outcomes of the Community Plan. The Working Group has been considering appropriate links to the national Social Justice Milestones and a request has been submitted to Audit Scotland for East Ayrshire to assist in the development of appropriate national indicators during 2004/05.

The SIP's Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator has been nominated, together with the Chair of the Community Planning Research and information Group, to sit on the national reference group established by Audit Scotland to identify appropriate performance indicators for the community planning process.

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Anti Poverty/GP Initiative**

Activity has been ongoing since 2001 to fund a range of measures to address anti-poverty issues jointly with East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative and is delivered in partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Department of Educational and Social Services, the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and health care partners.

In April 2003, material was developed under the Pilot GP Initiative, which highlights the specialist advice and information available to patients with regard to maximising income from benefits and tackling unmanageable debt. The pack also provides GPs and other practice staff with an overview of the benefits available to individuals and families whose income is reduced as a result of chronic ill-health and/or disability.

In addition, Welfare Rights and Money Advice specialists, from both East Ayrshire Council and the Citizens' Advice Bureau, have worked with the GP practice in Auchinleck taking referrals from a range of health professionals working within practices and self-referrals from individuals.

Across the pilot, 144 people have accessed the service, resulting in 94 people securing additional claims for benefit or follow up support. To date, £31,300 of additional benefit has been awarded for the year.

- **The 'Screen Machine' in the Coalfield Area**

A working group, led by the Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF), has been investigating the feasibility of establishing a mobile cinema in the Coalfield Area. The project idea is based on the 'Screen Machine', which was developed by Highlands and Islands (Hi-Arts) to serve the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Established in 1999, the Highlands and Islands Screen Machine gave 508 screenings to a total audience of 21,500 in its first year of operation. It has also proved its adaptability by hosting major conferences and providing a venue for live music, combined with film projection, and travelling abroad to provide entertainment for British Forces.

As part of the feasibility study, the CCF, in partnership with the SIP and the Investment in Drama project, hired the Screen Machine to tour the Coalfield communities for one week in August 2003. Over 470 people attended three local

venues and questionnaires were distributed to audiences and the wider community to ascertain support for the project, which subsequently provided a positive response.

If progressed, the project will require to secure substantial funding and a partnership agreement with neighbouring local authorities is currently being explored, which may make the project more cost effective and sustainable.

- **Wheels2Work**

Coalfield Community Transport secured a funding package to develop a new initiative, 'Wheels2Work', which will be launched in April 2004. The project aims to assist young unemployed people gain access to work or training. The 'Wheels2Work' pilot offers young people aged 18-25 years a scooter, driver training and safety clothing.

Initially, 10 scooters will be available for up to nine months and young people will be referred to the project by a range of local agencies, including Careers Scotland, East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (E.A.S.Y.) and East Ayrshire Employment Initiative.

In addition, the project will provide a job opportunity for a part-time Transport Development Worker, who will be employed to operate the project on a day-to-day basis. It is anticipated that the full benefits of the project will be realised in the coming year and, if successful, an application will be submitted to expand the service.

- **Pathway to Progress**

Nine young people from the Coalfield Area were afforded the opportunity to train in business enterprise following a Coalfields Regeneration Trust award of £90,000 from the Regenerate Fund, which was secured by yipworld.com.

The 'Pathway to Progress' project started in September 2003 and will operate for 9 months. The project is available to SIP residents aged 17-25 years, providing participants with an opportunity to learn about all aspects of successful business as well as achieving vocational qualifications and earning a wage. Local business people have provided support to the programme by sharing their skills, knowledge and business acumen with project participants.

The project is proving to be highly successful and provides training and support to suit the individual needs of young people in respect of business skills. Two 'Pathways' candidates have already secured employment and will take up their posts on completion of the programme.

- **New Sporting Futures (Sport and Social Inclusion)**

Sport can play a very important and influential role in the lives of young people. As well as being fun and contributing to a healthy lifestyle, participation in sports can positively affect educational attainment, self-confidence and social interaction skills, and provide a positive alternative to youth crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

The SIP, therefore, welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership with East Ayrshire Council, sportscotland and the New Opportunities Fund to provide a new, dynamic youth initiative, 'New Sporting Futures', for 12-18 year olds living in East Ayrshire.

The project is managed by East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Services and is committed to delivering a dynamic and innovative range of services, aiming to capture the imagination of every young person living in East Ayrshire. It has already achieved significant success in its short lifetime. A range of services, implemented since July 2003 includes Night Leagues, Sports Development and Performance Squads, coach education and support, and sports club development.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- **Community involvement and development**

Eight community representatives, including four members of the Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF), continue to participate as full members of the SIP Board, providing a valuable contribution to the success of the SIP. The CCF ensures that those living in the Coalfield communities inform, on a routine basis, the strategic direction and future programme activity of the SIP. The independent evaluation report highlights that community representatives have confirmed that they feel that their influence on decision-making has grown and developed and that they are genuine partners.

The community is fully involved and represented in decision-making structures, and enabled and supported to play an active part in the regeneration of the Coalfield Area. The partners remain committed to community engagement.

A broader level of community involvement can also be seen in the very high levels of volunteer activity in many projects and initiatives funded by the SIP Board. A high proportion of projects operate with the assistance of volunteers from the community, many of whom are also involved on the management boards.

- **Private sector involvement**

The role of the private sector in the SIP has been limited to that of a partner in the various employment initiatives and on the management committees of a range of projects. Local employers have indicated that they can best assist in the regeneration of the area by providing support for the projects at operational level, by providing work placement opportunities, rather than by participation on the SIP Board. The SIP has developed solid relationships across the private sector and local businesses will be invited to participate in the Regeneration Outcome Agreement consultation events during the summer months.

- **Voluntary sector involvement**

The local Council of Voluntary Organisations represents the voluntary sector on the SIP Board. In addition, two voluntary sector projects are currently supported

by the SIP and a range of SIP funded projects are managed by a voluntary management committee.

A growing number of volunteers are becoming involved with SIP funded projects and for many individuals, this is a first step towards employment or a new career.

- **Public sector involvement**

The SIP benefits from the active and high-level involvement of almost all its partners, with a particularly significant role played by East Ayrshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Key decision-makers have been brought together as representatives on the SIP Board, who have authority to carry matters forward. The involvement of the partners has also provided opportunities to mainstream projects and to support worthwhile activity with mainstream funding.

- **Partnership structures and their effectiveness**

The evaluation report has identified that partnership working is one of the major strengths of the SIP. Excellent relationships have been developed between partners and, in particular, strong and active relationships with the local community. The SIP has worked harmoniously and decisions are made by consensus.

The SIP Board is autonomous and formally constituted and the partnership structures have continued to be effective throughout 2003/04. Details of Board membership have been included at Appendix 1(a) and 1(b).

The Social Inclusion Implementation Group addresses urgent matters outwith the meeting cycle of the SIP Board. Sub-groups, including the Employment Working Group, are established to focus on specific issues and pre-discussion of agenda items takes place with the Coalfield Communities Federation.

A Scheme of Delegation, provides the Community Planning and Partnership Manager with delegated powers to manage a development budget to fund smaller initiatives linked to the SIP's priorities and reports are presented to the Board retrospectively.

- **Support Team**

The current staffing structure of the dedicated SIP Support Team has been included at Appendix 2(a).

The Support Team is managed by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, who has responsibility for community planning, Better Neighbourhood Services Fund, Community Based Youth Justice, external funding and corporate public health as well as social inclusion, not only in the formally designated SIP area but across the whole of East Ayrshire. In addition, the Community Planning Officer is based at the SIP Office and supports SIP activities.

Over the past year, a management structure for the Community Planning and Partnership Unit, established in June 2003, has been put in place to assist both the SIP Board and the Community Planning Partners to ensure the effective transition of social inclusion to community planning and strategically drive forward the corporate social justice and community regeneration agendas. As a result of this process the following revisions were implemented:

- Manager Social Inclusion redesignated as Community Planning and Partnership Manager; and
- Community Partnership and Regeneration Officer post created.

To ensure that operationally the SIP and Community Planning Partners are able to respond to the growing and developing agenda, the SIP Board remitted the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to review the longer term requirements of the SIP Support Team.

The staffing review was concluded and the SIP Board endorsed the proposals relating to its sphere of responsibility in March 2004. The revised staffing structure will ensure that the future needs of the emerging community planning process are met and is attached at Appendix 2(b).

- **Links to other organisations**

The SIP has continued to link to a range of organisations throughout the year including those listed below:

- **East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative** – close links continue to be maintained through the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and, wherever possible, the good practice and innovative activity undertaken in the south is implemented in the north of East Ayrshire. Representatives of the Coalfield Communities Federation have been actively supporting community representatives from the North Social Inclusion Initiative to establish a Federation of Community Groups in the north of East Ayrshire.

- **East Ayrshire Council Departments** – provide administrative support for the SIP Board and is the accountable body for the SIP Fund. A supervising officer is provided for each SIP funded project, who performs a support and liaison function and is accountable for ensuring compliance with the Standard Terms and Conditions of Grant. In addition, the Council provides significant in-kind support, including the SIP Office base, IT support and assistance with promotional material and publicity.

- **East Ayrshire Community Planning Process** – links continue to strengthen, facilitated by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and the SIP Board participated in the 'SIP Integration Planning Day' in December 2003. In addition, a presentation in respect of the SIP and the community planning process in East Ayrshire was delivered to the Coalfield Communities Federation. Further core activity will be undertaken throughout the transition year.

- **Barony 'A' Frame Trust** – links have been established to support the restoration and preservation of the pithead gear at the former Barony Pit site, which closed in 1989. The pithead gear is the only one of two 'A' type frames

constructed in the UK in existence and remains a unique example of mining heritage.

- **Strathclyde European Partnership** – the responsibility for making comment, on behalf of the SIP Board, on funding applications submitted to the European Partnership relating to the Coalfield Area SIP is delegated to the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, who reports recommendations retrospectively to the SIP Board.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- **Financial and performance monitoring systems**

Rigorous and effective systems remain in place for the management and administration of SIP funds. Grant payment claim forms are required to be submitted to the SIP on a quarterly basis and are subject to strict auditing procedures, which are imposed by both the SIP and East Ayrshire Council, as grant recipient.

Performance monitoring procedures continue to operate effectively on an ongoing basis as follows:

- project performance monitoring reports require to be submitted to the SIP on a quarterly basis and presented to the SIP Board bi-annually;
- annual review meetings are undertaken by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and the Community Partnership and Regeneration Officer throughout October and November each year;
- projects previously allocated an indicative funding allocation for 2004/05 were formally reviewed in February 2004;
- members of the Implementation Group meet with new projects, which appear to cause concern or have particular issues requiring to be addressed, and projects which are of particular interest.

- **Community Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group**

A multi-agency, multi-disciplinary working group has been established to ensure that robust systems are established to measure progress towards meeting the targets identified in the Community Planning Action Plans. The SIP's Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator has participated and contributed to the Working Group's activity since it was established in April 2003.

In addition, the Working Group has been remitted to prepare a standard toolkit, which will be used to monitor and evaluate jointly funded initiatives, on behalf of the Community Planning Partners, and will act as a reference group to ensure progress towards overall outcomes.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL OUT-TURN EXPENDITURE FOR 2003 / 2004

Robust and effective systems to ensure regular financial reporting to the SIP Board by both the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and East Ayrshire Council's Executive Head of Finance remain in place.

Detailed in Appendix 3(a) and 3(b) is the full financial expenditure for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. Financial contributions from partners over the year have been included at Appendix 3(c).

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS AMONG THE MANY

- **Coalfield Community Transport – beats its targets**

One of the success stories of the year in the Coalfield Area is 'Coalfield Community Transport' (CCT). Serving the whole of the SIP area, the transport initiative is seen as the way forward in building a bridge between isolated villages and opening up new opportunities in training and employment. CCT is the Coalfield Communities Federation flagship project and has far exceeded all the targets set for the last 12-month period.

The big, yellow minibuses are well known around the area with many community and voluntary organisations, as well as youth clubs and after school clubs, relying on them to take their members to club activities and social events. The targets set at 1 April 2003 have been far exceeded at the end of March 2004, in particular, passenger numbers increased from 5,400 to 15,900; group membership up from 106 to 138; volunteer drivers up from 140 to 177; and bookings increased from 468 to 1383.

Additional funding provided a new 'Dayhopper' service, which was launched in June 2003, to operate a weekly shopping service from the Coalfield Communities to Kilmarnock, Ayr and Irvine and the travel club offers trips to a range of places of interest.

The project was delighted to welcome local MSP, Cathy Jamieson, and Margaret Curran MSP, Minister for Communities, who visited the project on two separate occasions throughout the year.

- **Healthy Living Initiative – (C.H.I.P. Van) – national recognition**

Nationally, the Community Health Improvement Project (C.H.I.P.), managed by East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Services, has achieved considerable recognition for its unique community development approach to health improvement. The project was, therefore, delighted to be the only Scottish finalist to reach the last four in the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards held in Belfast and achieved top three recognition in the Best Community Initiative category.

The C.H.I.P. Van, a mobile outreach health promotion facility, has carried out over 250 community visits throughout East Ayrshire and undertaken almost 600 health consultations with local residents since it was established in 2001. The project provides a range of essential health improvement services, participating in the development of the Lifestyle/GP Referral scheme, and addresses the main risk factors associated with developing coronary heart disease and stroke.

The project has also received a top award in the 'Best Project' category at the Coalfields Regeneration Trust Conference in Sheffield and was the overall winner of the national Labour Party Best Practice Award 2004.

- **Outdoor Access – path network boost**

A massive project, which will see the creation of a network of pathways established throughout the Coalfield Area, was launched in October 2003.

The Outdoor Access project, managed by East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Services, was officially unveiled by broadcaster Fred McAuley after news of £2.5 million grant support over a 3-year period was secured from a range of funding bodies.

The project will see the implementation of a 385 kilometre sustainable path network, linking Coalfield communities internally and national networks externally. The network will be devised by local people through community planning and will be used by both visitors to, and residents of, the area.

Key to the project is the creation of job opportunities and training programmes for local people. In addition, the project will also encourage community participation and decision making in route planning, provide healthy lifestyle choices and help to contribute to local regeneration strategies. It is anticipated that the full benefits of the project will be realised over the next two years.

- **Volunteers off to Europe**

Three young people from Cumnock Prince's Trust Volunteers were nominated to take part in the Prince's Trust European Programme. Owen Currie, Chris Brodie and Alan Mitchell took part in the 'Work Away' programme, which provides an opportunity for young people aged 18-25 years to participate in a three-week structured work placement in another European country. Partner agencies in Europe provide work placements, accommodation, guidance and support to individuals participating on the programme.

Prior to departure, trainees have the opportunity to attend a four-day residential course in Scotland to meet other participants and European Support Workers, and learn about their individual work placements as well as the host country's language and culture.

Owen and Chris worked near Naples in Italy and Alan's work placement was close to Valencia in Spain.

- **yipworld.com – doing the business**

A 'leading light in the social economy sector', yipworld.com scooped prestigious honours at the Ayrshire Business Awards 2003/04, as winners of the 'Business in the Community' category.

Established in 2000, the project has quickly established itself as the hub of the local youth community, offering a diverse range of services, including training opportunities, as well as employing approximately 30 members of staff.

yipworld.com is now on the shortlist for the Enterprising Scotland awards, organised by Scottish Enterprise, which is regarded as the biggest national business award event. We wish them well!

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS 2003 / 2004

The SIP is committed to ensuring that every initiative within its programme is of the highest quality and that services are developed based on identified need rather than the availability of funding. In addition, the SIP continues to ensure that the projects, which it funds, link strategically to the activity of all partner agencies working in the Coalfield Area and to the community planning priorities in East Ayrshire.

To this end, the SIP has funded and supported a range of projects and initiatives, which can deliver an effective, quality service and assist the SIP to realise its vision. It is these projects, which deliver the achievements of the SIP. Listed below, under the themes to which they most directly relate, is the Programme of Projects 2003/04 and a summary of achievement for the year.

THEME: PEOPLE INTO WORK

- **CONDUIT ILM** provides training and support to enable unemployed people to access employment opportunities in administration and information and communication technology. Participants also provide assistance to access a public intranet service and practical support to local community and voluntary groups and small businesses. Achievements include:
 - 37 individuals (11 male and 26 female) participating on the programme, 15 of whom had been unemployed for more than 12 months;
 - 9 participants (4 male and 5 female) securing employment and still in employment after 3 months;
 - 8 individuals achieving SVQ Administration Level 2 and 14 individuals achieving part SVQ Administration Level 2;
 - 9 participants achieving the European Computer Driving Licence qualification;
 - 21 local employers providing a range of work experience placements to all project participants;
 - 80 community/voluntary organisations receiving assistance from the project through the provision of administrative and IT support;
 - 14 trainees completing the Investment in Drama Level 2 (Interview Techniques) course; and
 - the provision of support in a range of development opportunities, including the driving theory and practical tests, Sage accounting and first aid.

 - **East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY)** provides a programme of intensive support, guidance and training to assist young people aged 16-18 years to realise their full potential and to secure work or further training. An aftercare service provides continued support for up to six months. Achievements include:
 - 57 participants (33 male and 24 female) recruited, 3 of whom had been unemployed for more than 12 months;
-

- 6 participants securing employment, 20 into further training and 8 into full-time education;
 - 45 participants completing basic first aid training and 28 completing the ASDAN Lifeskills training programme;
 - 41 participants completing a work experience placement with a local employer;
 - 6 individuals completing the Pacific Institute Investment in Excellence 'Breakthrough' training;
 - 30 participants attending a 3-day residential course at Loch Eil Outdoor Centre, which promotes planning, team building and assertiveness skills; and
 - the submission of a funding application to ESF Objective 3 at the end of March 2004 to provide an outreach programme to local communities, the outcome of which is currently awaited.
- **East Ayrshire Woodlands** is an intermediate labour market (ILM) project, which provides opportunities for long-term unemployed people through the planting and management of native woodlands. SIP funding has allowed the project to extend the range of training and temporary employment opportunities in the Coalfield Area and to enhance the range and nature of the environmental improvements undertaken. Achievements include:
 - 42 individuals participating in training and 23 completing the programme;
 - the provision of maintenance work and community liaison focussing on a number of sites throughout the SIP area;
 - 9 participants achieving SVQ Forestry Level 2 and 8 completing work-based Core Skills courses;
 - 32 participants achieving certificates of competence in sectoral related skills, including, chainsaw operation, fencing and brushcutter/strimmer operation;
 - 20 participants achieving a Safe Use of Pesticides module and 13 achieving a Hand Held Applicators Pesticides module;
 - 9 participants securing full time employment; and
 - the implementation of a pilot project to provide practical support to communities in respect of developing Community Woodland Groups.
- **East Ayrshire Works** is an ILM project for long-term unemployed individuals. It is a 52-week programme mixing work experience with SVQ and on-the-job training. Achievements include:
 - 3 participants attending the 18-24 programme and 7 participants attending the Doon Valley programme secured employment;
 - 7 achieving European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) qualifications;
 - 15 employers providing work placement opportunities for programme participants;
 - 14 participants completing short-term job focused training, including health and safety, chainsaw, welding, pesticide, Sage 1 accounting and advanced ECDL courses; and
 - the project being 'showcased' to mark the success of New Deal within the Voluntary Sector at the SCVO event in the Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow on 31 October 2003.
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- **Individual Employment Fund** assists unemployed people to re-enter employment by providing grant assistance and vocational courses which link to skills shortages and job vacancies. Achievements include:
 - 35 applications supported, 28 individuals supported into employment, 4 into training and 3 to interview;
 - the co-ordination of support maintained with the Action Team for Jobs;
 - the installation of an Internet connection and appropriate hardware purchased to provide online access to the Jobcentre for local residents; and
 - the provision of a range of support, including childcare, clothing, travel and training.

- **Ayrshire Electronic Community (AEC)** seeks to build community capacity across Ayrshire through use of ICT. Achievements include:
 - 88 community events/networks/initiatives supported in the Coalfield Area;
 - 117 organisations using ICT;
 - 18 unemployed individuals supported into employment;
 - 56 existing SMEs and 19 new SMEs receiving advice/consultancy and 17 business employees participating in European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) on-line, supported by AEC staff;
 - 39 volunteers trained, 20 of whom achieved ECDL qualifications; and
 - 20 community websites supported.

- **East Ayrshire JobRotation Project** assists small/micro/medium enterprises (SMEs) in relation to the training and development of staff. In addition, the project tackles unemployment by providing work, training and paid employment for long-term unemployed people. Achievements include:
 - 5 local SMEs registering and 25 SME employees from the SIP area released to attend a wide range of training opportunities, including ECDL, SVQ Level 2/3, SVQ Assessor Units and REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene courses;
 - the recruitment of 9 JobRotation trainees (1 male and 8 female) from the SIP area, 8 of whom were aged 25+ years; and
 - 6 JobRotation trainees securing employment and 1 entering further education/training.

- **People into Work Summary**

A total of 82 individuals have been supported into work, 35 into further education/training, 14 completed vocational qualifications, 16 achieved the European Computer Driving Licence qualification and 214 accessed training opportunities throughout 2003/04. In addition, the SIP has contributed to employment opportunities for 84 full-time and part-time project staff as well as continuing to fund 7 full-time posts within the SIP Support Team.

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| THEME: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION |
|---------------------------------------|

- **Alternatives to Addiction** provides an innovative service to local primary and secondary schools, youth groups and service users. This preventative work creates a package, which develops awareness of the risks associated with drugs and alcohol. Achievements include:
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- 128 pupils registering and approximately 300 attendances recorded at Drongan Summer School;
 - the implementation of work awareness raising sessions with 41 P6 pupils in Drongan Primary School;
 - 27 Women's Group Service Users meetings organised and 111 attendances recorded;
 - approximately 50 young people participating in the Board Game pilot across the Coalfield Area;
 - 17 participants from Doon Academy participating in the Pacific Institute 'Breakthrough' training;
 - 650 P7 pupils from local primary schools attending the 'Big B.A.S.H.' Conference on 27 October 2003 at the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock; and
 - 132 individuals per day attending workshop sessions and participating in a range of activities, including visual art, drama, street dance and animation.
- **Arts for Adults with Disabilities** supports adults with a disability to participate, either on an individual or group basis, in a range of arts. Achievements include:
 - the continuation of the 'Irky Pirky' mixed ability dance group in Cumnock, which holds weekly classes;
 - the establishment of links with Hillside School, and an art project implemented, which culminated in an exhibition of the pupils' work;
 - the delivery of 160 sessions, with approximately 24 individuals attending the sessions each week; and
 - the establishment of links to national dance companies.
- **The Children's Holiday Project** provides the opportunity for a low cost, one-week break for children and families in most need. It can also help families who cannot afford a holiday, carers who need to relax and recharge their batteries or youth or lone parent groups. Achievements include:
 - awareness raising of the project continuing throughout the Coalfield Area and promotion of the service in 8 targeted communities and 5 rural areas;
 - 111 children and 91 adults accessing 36 holiday opportunities;
 - 2 new members from the SIP area agreeing to actively participate on the voluntary management committee;
 - the continuation of the healthy eating, dental awareness, home security and saving scheme initiatives as well as the book project; and
 - the confirmation of funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to provide 2 new decking systems for easier access to the caravan adapted for disabled people.
- **Coalfield Community Transport** provides affordable, accessible transport to community and voluntary groups within the Coalfield Area, which enables them to participate in community activities. Achievements include:
 - the purchase of 2 new vehicles, bringing the total number available to 5 minibuses;
 - the reaffiliation of 138 new or existing groups during the year;
 - the recruitment of 74 new volunteer drivers bringing the total drivers available to 177;
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- the success of a female volunteer driver, as 'Scottish MiDAS Driver of the Year', who is subsequently participating in the UK national finals;
 - 15,900 passengers using the service and 1383 bookings recorded;
 - the registration of over 500 members with the 'Dayhopper' service, which was launched in June 2003 and 76 shopping trips and 73 excursions provided;
 - the provision of 'Disability Awareness' training for East Ayrshire Council and taxi and private hire car drivers; and
 - the project being identified by the Scottish Executive as an example of good practice with the recommendation to appear in a BBC Community Transport promotional video.
- **Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union** has been established to promote thrift by encouraging members to save regularly and to provide loans to members at a reasonable rate of interest. Achievements include:
 - 1 full-time and 1 part-time staff in post and 23 volunteers actively participating in the project;
 - the registration of 261 qualifying members and 39 junior savers to date;
 - a total of over £25,000 saved and 87 loan applications approved totalling almost £38,000; and
 - the establishment of an outreach collection point at Bellsbank.
- **East Ayrshire Carers Centre (Satellite Service) and Young Carers Initiative** - The Centre provides information, advice and support to carers of all ages who have responsibility for looking after someone who is ill, frail or has a disability. Achievements include:
 - 581 carers/87 young carers registered with the Centre at 31 March 2004;
 - 5 carers' support groups being supported on a regular basis;
 - 40 group sessions attracting 81 participants (8 male and 73 female);
 - 3 young carers' support groups established and 84 group sessions attracting 965 attendances (203 male and 762 female);
 - the continuation of one-to-one sessions and a total of 907 sessions, including 284 sessions with young carers, undertaken;
 - 35 awareness raising presentations delivered to S2 pupils in schools throughout East Ayrshire;
 - continuation of joint working with 5 local GP practices/Health Centres to identify 'hidden' carers;
 - 6 carers attending the 'Carers Week' break in Blackpool; and
 - 37 young carers accessing residential respite breaks at either Skye, Aberfeldy, Devon or Southampton.
- **Ethnic Minority Inclusion** will develop effective communication strategies with ethnic minority families to facilitate better access to services, resources and community initiatives; offer a range of supports, using community languages where appropriate; allow informed decision-making; and increase opportunities and participation. Achievements include:
 - 2 Bilingual Support Assistants working in nurseries and schools to support ethnic minority pupils and their families;
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- the availability of dual language resources to ethnic minority groups and educational establishments;
 - the implementation of twice weekly translation/interpreting support sessions for members of the Chinese community;
 - the implementation of Persona Dolls training, an effective equality and inclusion tool, provided to early years establishments; and
 - the establishment of links with Ayrshire Electronic Community to progress the roll out of community languages ICT resources to local learning centres.
- **Investment in Drama** – Over two years, this initiative has increased access for excluded people over 16 years to professional drama activity designed to respond on three levels:
 - Level One Outreach into Rural Communities;
 - Level Two Training to Employment - Skill Building; and
 - Level Three Investing in the Future of Drama.

Achievements include:

- the establishment of 4 community drama groups and 90 workshops implemented, with an average of 9 participants attending each session;
 - 90 participants taking part in 9 courses of skill building workshops, including role play, relaxation and interview techniques with 2 Glasgow based actors contributing to the sessions;
 - the recruitment of 3 Level 3 trainees, bringing the total number in post to 5 individuals;
 - 5 Level 3 trainees completing the formal training programme and delivering Level 1 and 2 workshops as well as additional activity to meet demand; and
 - the implementation of a tour of the SIP area by the 'Wee Stories' Theatre Company and a stage play performed by Borderline Theatre at Cumnock Town Hall.
- The **Kickstart Programme** managed by the local Council of Voluntary Organisations (CVO) provides support to assist groups to secure external funding and build the capacity of local organisations. Achievements include:
 - the registration of 50 groups with CVO (East Ayrshire) and 104 groups receiving support throughout the year;
 - the completion of 14 training events, including a fundraising day, 'Disclosure' awareness sessions and fundraising workshops; and
 - the preparation of 54 applications, 51 submitted and 23 approved to date, with resources of over £126,000 secured for local groups.
 - The **Outdoor Access Project** will develop a sustainable path network of 358 kilometres linking communities internally and regional and national networks externally. The trails are planned to complement a range of environmental initiatives, including the restoration of opencast sites, and provide improved connectivity to isolated communities. Achievements include:
 - the confirmation of award of a funding package totalling over £2.5million, phased over 3 years;
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- the formal launch of the project in October 2003, with Fred McAuley as the key speaker;
 - the completion of 42 kilometres of pathway network, with provision for people of all ages and abilities;
 - the improvement of 2 sites of social, cultural or natural interest;
 - the recruitment of 6 volunteer path wardens and 5 volunteer walk leaders; and
 - the establishment of 3 local action groups within the Coalfield Area.
- **Prince's Trust Volunteer Programme** is a personal development and training programme, assisting 16-25 year olds to develop motivation and skills through team work in the community. Achievements include:
 - the recruitment of 30 participants (18 male and 12 female);
 - 26 participants (16 male and 10 female) completing the programme and achieving SVQ qualifications;
 - 3 unemployed participants (2 male and 1 female) securing employment, 7 unemployed participants (3 male and 4 female) entering full-time education and 5 male participants continuing to work in a voluntary capacity;
 - the completion of a community project and a team challenge by each of the teams, which benefited local communities; and
 - 3 individuals participating in the 'Work Away' European work placement programme.
- The **Rugby Development Initiative** plans, leads and delivers intensive rugby development programmes throughout East Ayrshire, encouraging socially excluded young people to participate in the sport. Achievements include:
 - the procurement of £30,000 from the Scottish Rugby Union and over £57,000 from 'Quality of Life' match funding towards the cost of the project;
 - the appointment of a Rugby Development Officer to develop the sport throughout East Ayrshire;
 - the organisation of rugby coaching to all primary schools in the Cumnock Learning Partnership;
 - the joint organisation of the Primary School Festival with Cumnock Rugby Club; and
 - the organisation of the 'New Image Rugby Leaders Course' for new coaches.
- **Sport and Social Inclusion** aims to develop sport, physical recreation and healthy lifestyle choices among young people aged 12-18 years, ensure equitable participation in sports activity and create sustainable sports infrastructure within East Ayrshire. Achievements include:
 - the implementation of the project in July 2003 after securing a 3-year funding package;
 - the completion of over 100 consultations with young people and the identification of 4 priority sports, namely badminton, basketball, athletics and volleyball;
 - 162 young people, including 28 female participants, attending informal sports activities in the Coalfield Area;
 - 13 badminton players, 14 athletes and 33 basketball players participating in East Ayrshire Sports Development Squads; and
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- the implementation of an extensive programme of coach education designed to build the capacity of volunteer sports clubs, including child protection and injury prevention and management.
 - The **Sportswalls** project aims to encourage informal sport and play participation among young people, specifically targeting the 12-16 years age group. Achievements include:
 - the installation of sportswalls in 3 local areas, namely New Cumnock, Dalmellington and Patna; and
 - positive feedback from local communities indicating that the facilities are well used and provide opportunities for health improvement, sports skills development and positive social interaction.
 - **Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire** supports the development of volunteering within East Ayrshire. Achievements include:
 - 117 volunteers (40 male and 77 female) assisted;
 - 90 groups registered, 57 from the SIP area and 110 volunteer engager groups assisted, 64 from the SIP area;
 - the organisation of 10 training courses for volunteers and staff, including 'Disclosure Scotland' awareness;
 - accreditation to deliver 'Disclosure Scotland' training; and
 - the commencement of joint working with East Ayrshire Council to review the volunteering policy.
 - **yipworld.com** is an Internet model of youth provision incorporating a range of formal and informal activities for young people aged 10-25 years living in the Coalfield Area. yipworld.com hosts a range of initiatives designed to address issues such as drug misuse, community safety and healthy lifestyles. Achievements include:
 - an increase in membership of 150 during the year, to bring the total to 2200 young people registered, and approximately 3,000 attendances recorded each month;
 - 49 adult volunteers, including 13 young people routinely contributing to the service;
 - the establishment of the Saturday 'drop-in' facility extended to junior members;
 - the promotion of the after school club in primary schools and a transport service to the yipworld.com facility from local schools;
 - 11 staff members achieving European Computer Driving Licence qualifications, 4 achieving A1/A2 Assessor qualifications and 8 participating in food hygiene training;
 - the provision of 3-month training placements for Strathclyde Police Cadets;
 - the implementation of the 'Pathway to Progress' business initiative for young people aged 17-25 years who live in the Coalfield Area and 9 candidates recruited; and
 - yipworld.com winning the Business in the Community Award 2003/04 at the Ayrshire Business Awards.
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THEME: POSITIVE HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Food Initiative** works with local community based food initiatives, community dieticians, health promotion staff and the private sector to address issues of food poverty and promote healthy eating by increasing awareness of the issues and range of food choices. Achievements include:
 - 34 groups/765 key individuals contacted and 91 cooking/information sessions delivered by Community Food Workers (CFWs);
 - the implementation of a 'weaning foods' project delivered in targeted communities throughout the Coalfield Area; and
 - the conclusion of the independent evaluation of the CFW project, the key findings of which demonstrated that the project had been successful and made a contribution to effecting behaviour changes towards healthier eating in at risk groups. The project will develop a more strategic link in the future as part of the Community Health Improvement Partnership (C.H.I.P.)
 - **Healthy Living Initiative (C.H.I.P. Van)** provides a mobile resource which ensures improved access to health information and advice, greater community participation through the establishment of local health forums, greater access to specialist health services, such as community dieticians and exercise consultants, and improved health and well being. Achievements include:
 - 50 visits/500 visitors to 14 targeted communities in the Coalfield Area;
 - 130 individuals attending demonstrations / classes each week;
 - 240 individuals participating in the GP referral exercise programme and 2270 referrals to the Lifestyle Referral Scheme;
 - 3 community health forums, supported by an average of 8 volunteers at each forum; and
 - recognition at local and national level as an example of good practice and receiving a range of prestigious awards, including:
 - finalist and the only nomination from Scotland for the Association of Public Service Excellence awards;
 - finalist for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust awards; and
 - winner of the national Labour Party Best Practice Award.
 - **Creative Skills Programme** is aimed at people who require support with learning, specifically those disadvantaged by mental health problems and/or learning difficulties, and focuses on personal and social development within an art and craft type environment. SIP funding allows the project to expand and develop in the Coalfield Area. Achievements include:
 - 20 participants (7 male and 13 female) from the Coalfield Area achieving 'Access 2 IT' Core Skills qualifications;
 - the implementation of both modular and non modular programmes of achievement; and
 - the organisation of a very successful open day to raise awareness of the initiative within the Coalfield Area.
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- **Recreation Partnership Project** focuses on primary school aged children to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities and healthy lifestyle awareness for children aged 5-12 years. Achievements include:
 - the delivery of Active Recreation and Health Awareness sessions to all P3 and P5 pupils in all primary schools in the SIP area;
 - the completion of 2 playground designs and associated training at local primary schools;
 - over 2,500 attendances recorded at 8 Saturday Kids Clubs during 2003/04;
 - over 800 RICK (Recreation Inclusion Cards for Kids) cards renewed in August 2003;
 - the provision of a range of specialist activities available during the summer, including Football Development Coaching Camps, golf tuition, tennis coaching, arts workshops and CHAMPS special needs clubs;
 - 90 sessions/over 2000 attendances recorded at 7 after-school activity clubs;
 - the launch of 3 East Ayrshire 'Fit Clubs' in September 2003 with attendances averaging between 15-20 children per session;
 - 32 volunteers from the SIP area accepted onto the sessional worker database and 22 individuals actively contributing to the project; and
 - the delivery of the health element of the 'Activity Motivation Initiative' within the school programme.

THEME: COMMUNITY LEARNING

- **Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC)** is a high quality, multi purpose facility, which provides a focal point for training, an advisory service and access to ICT for everyone. Achievements include:
 - 84 businesses/business employees receiving training/support;
 - 30 individuals accessing European Computer Driving Licence training and 4 completing the course;
 - 99 participants achieving/part achieving qualifications;
 - provision of drop-in facilities, Internet access, ECDL support, meeting room facilities and an outreach base for the Action Team for Jobs and Careers Scotland; and
 - the development of a partnership agreement with Jobcentre Plus to refer unemployed individuals for additional job search support and access to job seeking facilities.
- **Community Learning Opportunities** is working to develop and enhance existing activity in relation to parent/school partnerships, essential learning skills and young people and pregnancy. Achievements include:
 - 8 family learning sessions attracting 96 participants (56 adults and 40 children) at 3 local schools;
 - 23 individuals participating in the Driving Theory course and 11 passing the Driving Theory test;
 - 30 volunteer tutors (5 male and 25 female) participating in dyslexia awareness training;
 - delivery of the 'Virtual Baby Experience' continuing at two local secondary schools as part of the Lifestyle and Consumer course curriculum and the programme sustained in 2004/05;

- 150 individuals attending two presentation evenings to receive certificates which acknowledged their achievements as learners; and
- the mainstreaming of the project by East Ayrshire Council from 1 April 2004.

THEME: LIVING IN A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT

- **Community Environmental Action Plans and Projects** – The project produces individual environmental improvement action plans (EIAPs) for settlements within the SIP area with the full involvement of local communities. Projects identified through the EIAPs are also implemented. Achievements include:
 - the production of finalised Action Plans for 3 local areas, namely Logan, Bellsbank and Dalmellington, and 9 projects implemented throughout the Coalfield Area;
 - the approval of 25 funding applications which levered in £133,500;
 - the development of the Revolving Maintenance Fund, and Scottish Executive 'Quality of Life' funding of £25,000 secured up to 2005/06;
 - the establishment of the Auchinleck 'One Stop Shop' Management Steering Group and a constitution agreed;
 - the development of the Auchinleck Property Improvement Scheme including, the property audit completed, the prioritisation process developed and 4 properties improved, and the appointment of a project manager to progress the development of Auchinleck community website and newsletter; and
 - the development of Muirkirk Village Centre improvement project.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- **Cumnock Swimming Pool** has been in the planning stage for seven years and will provide a purpose built indoor swimming pool and health/fitness suite, which will serve Cumnock and the surrounding area. The new centre will create 11 full-time and 10 part-time jobs. Achievements include:
 - the commencement of building work in November 2003 and it is envisaged that the facility will open in Autumn 2004; and
 - the establishment of links to the 'Galleon Trust', which will assume operational responsibility for the facility.
 - **Family Centre Development** will provide a new Family Centre for people with young families in the Cumnock area. The development provides 9 places for 0-2 year olds, 10 places for 2-3 year olds and 10 places for 3-5 year olds, and is the first time that a Primary School campus in East Ayrshire is able to provide services for children from 0-11 years. Achievements include:
 - the opening of the Family Centre in January 2004, which provides an all year service to children aged 0-5 years and their families;
 - the recruitment and appointment of staff; and
 - the mainstreaming of the facility by East Ayrshire Council from 1 April 2004.
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OTHER INITIATIVES

- **Dalmellington and District Conservation Trust** manages the Dunaskin Open Air Museum set in a 110-acre site in the Doon Valley area of East Ayrshire. The site was originally an ironworks and today provides visitors with an opportunity to explore the history of ironworks, brickworks and coal mining, including a simulated mining experience. Achievements include:
 - the redesign and printing of the 'Dunaskin Experience' brochure, which will be widely distributed to promote the Industrial Heritage Centre, with a view to increasing the number of tourists visiting the site throughout 2004/05;
 - the distribution of 100,000 copies throughout designated areas, which has already increased visitor numbers by 40 percent; and
 - the completion of essential health and safety work around the existing display site.
- **The Ayrshire Key Fund** awards up to £25,000 to community based, not for profit organisations, which can demonstrate that they are operating within, or providing services to recognised SIP areas in Ayrshire. The Fund supports a broad range of activities, including employment of new staff, business planning, premises refurbishment, training and ICT development. Achievements include:
 - 8 applications received and 5 supported with grants totalling over £80,000;
 - a total of over £57,000 available from Strathclyde European Partnership to support projects within the Coalfield Area; and
 - the first Annual General Meeting of the Ayrshire Key Fund Board being held on 28 August 2003.

TACKLING DRUG MISUSE

An allocation of £102,025 was made to East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) for 2003/04 to continue the SIP's key priorities in addressing issues of addiction and gaps in priorities in the Coalfield Area.

Detailed below is the position in respect of the projects funded to tackle drug misuse in the Coalfield Area to the end of March 2004.

- **Employability Initiative – The Elevation Project**

The Elevation Project was developed in response to a locally identified need to support substance users into training, education and employment by assisting individuals to increase both their personal development and employability skills in order that they will be more "opportunity ready".

A total of 15 recovering substance users participated in the programme, of which:

- 11 individuals participated in the Investment in Drama programme, which seeks to assist people back into work by building skills through drama training;
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- 11 individuals participated in the Essential Skills programme, which works with individuals on literacy, numeracy and basic ICT skills; and
- 4 individuals participated in the Pacific Institute STEPS course.

In addition, through the Elevation Project:

- individuals benefited from social skills training and individual support;
- individuals participated in the STEPS programme, which increases self-confidence and self-esteem; and
- the group participated in a range of leisure activities, including abseiling, mountain biking, rafting, swimming and karting.

On completion of the programme, participants reported an increase in their level of self-confidence and felt that they were overcoming their individual barriers to moving on into employment. Achievements include:

- 3 individuals securing full-time work and 1 individual securing part-time work;
- 1 individual running his own 'dry stone walling' business; and
- the remaining 10 service users engaged with the mainstream Jobcentre Plus Progress2Work initiative to assist them further in accessing training and employment opportunities.

- **Capacity Building**

Funding was made available in 2003/04 to provide capacity building support to service users within the Elevation Project, specifically the programmes of the Pacific Institute. These programmes have a proven record in addressing issues of lack of self-confidence and self-esteem and poor self-image in individuals, organisations and communities. Achievements include:

- 10 service users participating in the STEPS programme; and
- 7 service users completing the course.

- **Community Drugs Worker**

The Community Drugs Worker provides a range of interventions to chaotic drug users and those attempting to rebuild their lives following prolonged drug use. The primary focus of the work is on intravenous drug users to reduce the level of self-harm, and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. In addition, the worker assists in the provision of education, training and information as co-ordinated via the Ayrshire Addiction Training Forum. Achievements include:

- the provision of support to 40 of the most chaotic drug users; and
- the provision of assessment, crisis intervention, substitute prescribing, stabilisation support and "moving on" services.

- **Sport as an Alternative to Drug Misuse**

This initiative is delivered within the Sport and Social Inclusion project and provides a range of specific coaching and physical recreation programmes aimed at widening opportunities for young people. In particular, activities are

designed to capture the imagination of young people who are at risk of offending and/or alcohol/substance misuse. The programme is targeted at young people aged 12-18 years and is managed by East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Service. Discussions are ongoing with a range of partner agencies to formalise the dissemination of Drugs Awareness information throughout East Ayrshire. Achievements include:

- the piloting of and ongoing provision of the particularly successful 'Night Leagues' activity, supported by Strathclyde Police; and 320 individuals from the SIP area participating in 'Night Leagues' activity;
- the distribution of 'Drug Awareness' information to 60 young people from the SIP area attending Sports Development Camps;
- the ongoing development of partnership working with a range of appropriate agencies, including Social Work Services and Strathclyde Police; and
- the provision of 'Drug Awareness' training for Trainers, who will provide training and support to voluntary sports clubs and staff working with young people.

- **Addiction Service Review**

The Addiction Review of Bridge Addiction Services undertaken between July 2003 and March 2004 by East Ayrshire Council's Educational and Social Services has been concluded. Key recommendations in respect of substance misuse services beyond 31 March 2005 are currently being considered.

In the interim, a revised service level agreement has been agreed with Bridge Addiction Services, which currently manages a range of SIP funded projects and initiatives, until 31 March 2005. It is anticipated that a presentation in respect of the addiction review will be made to the SIP Board in late summer 2004, providing the lead department, Social Work Services, with an opportunity to raise priorities, which will inform the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

- **Forward Plan 2004-2005**

East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership has been allocated £102,025 for the year 2004/05. The following initiatives, agreed at the SIP Board on 11 March 2004, will address the identified priorities of the SIP and Communities Scotland.

| Project | 2004/05 |
|--|------------------|
| Alternatives to Addiction | £ 42,500 |
| Community Drugs Worker | £ 30,000 |
| Employability Initiative | £ 20,000 |
| Sport as an Alternative to Drug Misuse | £ 9,525 |
| TOTAL | £ 102,025 |

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

The Community Empowerment Fund has played an important role in community capacity building by providing funds of £60,000 for 2003/04, which have been used to provide continuing support for community involvement in SIP activity.

A range of support systems designed to enhance the ability of community representatives to fully participate in SIP activity continued to be implemented in 2003/04 as follows:

- a dedicated Community Empowerment Worker employed within the SIP Support Team to support community representatives, the SIP Board and Coalfield Communities Federation;
- computers with email links and Internet access installed in the homes of community representatives on the SIP Board;
- individual training programmes provided for community representatives participating in social inclusion activity, including interview techniques to assist with recruitment decision making;
- an Induction Pack and Resource Directory; and
- community representatives' expenses.

- **Review of Expenses**

To ensure that community representatives participating in SIP activity do not incur personal expenses, the SIP Board reviewed its comprehensive expenses and allowances procedure in respect of loss of earnings, mileage, subsistence, childcare and carers' expenses. In addition, the Board agreed to extend the expenses procedure to private sector and self-employed representatives who incurred costs through SIP activity. All expense claims require to be authorised by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager.

East Ayrshire Council has agreed, where possible to allow paid leave to employees who are community representatives on the SIP Board to attend each meeting of the Board and two training events each year.

In 2003/04 financial support has been provided to the Coalfield Communities Federation and the Active Citizenship initiative via the Empowering Communities budget. A summary of the achievements for the year for each project is listed below:

- **Coalfield Communities Federation** encourages representation from all local communities to participate in a forum, which informs the strategic direction and future programme activity of the SIP. Achievements include:
 - 4 new members recruited;
 - 21 members representing local areas and communities of interest and 1 individual member;
 - the distribution of the 'Glennie' bi-annual newsletter to every household in the Coalfield Area;
 - the development of the CCF website www.coalfieldcommunities.org and over 200 'hits' recorded to date;
 - 6 sub-groups progressing a range of issues, including Broadband, Mobile Cinema, transport, events and publicity;
 - 4 funding applications prepared and submitted and 2 approved totalling over £12,000;
 - 8 individuals participating in a range of training opportunities, including IT courses, writing skills and recruitment processes;
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- 3 events planned and organised, including a highly successful 'Reminiscence Day' at Cumnock Town Hall in December 2003, and promotional activity routinely undertaken in local communities throughout the year.
- The **Active Citizenship** initiative develops a range of citizenship initiatives, which support the involvement of young people as an integral aspect of development, including improved access to information and decision-making. Achievements include:
 - the development of a 'Young Citizenship' pack and video, with approximately 10,000 'Shout Out Loud' packs distributed to young people throughout East Ayrshire;
 - the recruitment of a Community Work Assistant;
 - 16 MSYPs supported to attend local/national events and 3 MSYPs with additional support needs assisted; and
 - 3 meetings convened with young people and key decision-makers.

- **Forward Plan 2004/2005**

Communities Scotland has confirmed a budget allocation of £60,000 for Community Empowerment for 2004/05, which will be utilised to continue the existing support to community representatives and encourage further involvement and engagement by the wider community in preparation for the transfer to the community planning process.

PROGRESS IN RELATION TO TARGETS / INDICATORS

The following progress in relation to targets/indicators has been made in year:

- **Core Compulsory Indicators**

In November 2002, Communities Scotland revised arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of Social Inclusion Partnerships to simplify arrangements and establish closer links to the Social Justice Milestones.

The revised Monitoring Report has been updated with the most recent data available and has been included as Appendix 4. A summary report demonstrating changes from the baseline position, where appropriate, has been included as Appendix 4(a).

- **Project Performance Information**

SIP funded projects continue to provide a range of performance information, which is incorporated into the Performance Monitoring Reports presented bi-annually to the SIP Board to reflect progress and achievement. In preparation for the 'Community Planning Showcase' events, which took place in late August 2003, participating projects were requested to identify strategic links to the wider policy agenda, including social justice and community planning.

SUSTAINABILITY

The SIP Board is committed to ensuring that the initiatives, which it currently funds are sustained, where appropriate, beyond the current funding period. Consequently, an independent consultation was commissioned by the SIP Board in July 2003 to assess the sustainability of the following projects:

- **Coalfield Community Transport**, in terms of prioritising and developing a range of proposals put forward by the voluntary management committee for future implementation;
- **East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth**, in respect of identifying potential funding sources and options available with a range of funders as well as exploring opportunities for expansion throughout East Ayrshire; and
- **Investment in Drama**, particularly exploring the feasibility and, if appropriate, supporting the establishment of a local community business involving drama trainees.

The research study was concluded and the reports, submitted to the SIP in November 2003, were positively received by each of the identified initiatives. The conclusion and recommendations within the reports have reinforced the projects' own perceptions regarding options for sustainability and provide a co-ordinated approach, which will assist in the implementation of future sustainability plans.

In addition, the SIP Board allocated resources to commission an independent evaluation of yipworld.com to assist the project's voluntary Management Committee and East Ayrshire's Community Planning Partners in their consideration of future sustainability of the youth initiative.

Following the appropriate procurement process, consultants were appointed at the end of February 2004 to undertake the project evaluation and sustainability study. It is anticipated that the research study will be concluded by summer 2004.

Representatives from the SIP Support Team participated in a three-day training event in relation to external funding and sustainability, presented by consultants who had been commissioned by East Ayrshire Council to develop and deliver an appropriate programme.

The course was designed to address an identified need among key staff for better understanding of, and skill in, monitoring and evaluation, business planning and building in sustainability to projects and initiatives.

In addition, the SIP co-ordinated an awareness raising session for key agency/project staff in relation to the contribution that social economy organisations play in improving social and economic well-being.

The Scottish Executive's review of policies to promote the social economy identified that increased availability of loan finance would allow organisations to reduce their dependence on grant income and increase their financial independence. A representative from Social Investment Scotland was a key speaker at the event and advised delegates about loan finance and business development in this sector.

Each of the projects funded by the SIP were requested to present their plans in respect of sustainability at the Annual Review meetings undertaken in October/November 2003 and February 2004 and were advised to develop links to the relevant Community Planning Action Plans. The Community Planning Partners continue to consider options in relation to the sustainability of the current programme of projects funded by the SIP. Projects which have been mainstreamed from 1 April 2004 include:

- Arts for Adults with Disabilities
- Burns House Museum
- Community Learning Opportunities
- Cumnock Swimming Pool Project
- Doon Valley Initiative
- Family Centre Development.

SIP EVALUATION 2003

DTZ Piedad Consulting was appointed to undertake the SIP Evaluation, which commenced in September 2003. The evaluation has been concluded and the final report submitted to Communities Scotland for consideration in January 2004, as part of the national overview of the SIP programme.

The independent evaluation of SIP activity has been extremely positive, particularly highlighting the degree of community involvement and engagement and its impact in the Coalfield Area. A summary of the key findings is detailed as follows:

- **The 'Vision':** The SIP's vision has remained unchanged over the life of the programme. It remains an aspirational goal and the SIP's actions are entirely consistent with the pursuit of this goal, although clearly it is highly aspirational and ambitious in certain respects.
 - **Partnership working** is considered to be one of the major strengths of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP. The SIP benefits from high-level involvement on the part of almost all its partners, with a particularly significant role played by East Ayrshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and the health authorities.
 - **Effectiveness, efficiency and progress:** The SIP has worked effectively and with efficiency. The Partnership has remained focused on the objectives of promoting and achieving the SIP's vision and objectives.
 - **Community engagement and participation:** The strength and depth of community engagement is the biggest single achievement of the Coalfield Area SIP. Community representatives feel that their influence on decision-making has grown and developed and that they are genuine partners. The community has a voice and uses it.
 - **Good practice and innovation:** There is a wealth of good practice in the way the SIP and the projects it supports operate. East Ayrshire Council has been outstandingly supportive of the SIP and is proud of its achievements.
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As a result of the positive evaluation, the SIP received confirmation of a transitional funding package of approximately £2.3million for 2004/05.

The full evaluation report was considered by the SIP Board at its meeting on 21 January 2004 and the Board is currently considering the key remaining problems identified under the SIP's five priority themes, including:

- **People into Work:** improving access to employment locations, and where possible, creating new employment locally;
- **Living in a Quality Environment:** drabness and dereliction, particularly in and around the town centres where there has been a collapse of market demand for property;
- **Community Learning:** continuing to address the training needs of those who have not been able to obtain employment, including a more residualised and hard to reach group than in the past;
- **Community Participation:** supporting people living in remote communities on low incomes to access the same range of opportunities open to others; and
- **Positive Health Opportunities:** continuing to promote health initiatives, particularly addressed at young people, which have the potential to improve the health of future generations.

In addition, the Board is currently giving further consideration to a range of recommendations, identified within the report, including:

- attempting to attract more employment to the Coalfield Area;
- shifting the policy emphasis more towards combating the barriers to employment and, in particular, barriers to personal mobility;
- focusing on physical regeneration in the Coalfield settlements;
- focusing on smaller sub-areas within the Coalfield Area;
- maintaining social care services for a range of age and client groups; and
- retaining the best of the highly effective partnership working and community engagement structures.

A process of consultation and review, prior to finalising the Regeneration Outcome Agreement, will provide an opportunity to consider whether future attention requires to be given to the identified recommendations.

TRANSITION FRAMEWORK / COMMUNITY PLANNING

The SIP has continued to develop the established links to the community planning process throughout 2003/04 as follows:

- the Community Planning and Partnership Manager continues to take lead responsibility for driving forward community planning in East Ayrshire;
 - senior officer representatives from the core public agencies on the SIP Board are also members of the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group, which is responsible for operational activity in respect of the East Ayrshire Community
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Plan, ensuring a free flow of information and co-ordinated activity in respect of SIP integration issues, which will ensure an effective integration process;

- the Community Planning Officer is located in the SIP Office and continues to support SIP activity;
- the Community Planning Partners continue to consider sustainability options in respect of the current programme of projects, and representatives from the

Community Planning Core Partners' Group and Joint Officers' Group were invited to attend the 'Employment Showcase' event and the 'Health and Community Participation Showcase' event in late August 2003 to facilitate this process;

- the Community Planning and Partnership Unit was established in June 2003, which includes the SIP Support Team;
- the SIP Board actively participated in the 'Integration Seminar' in December 2003 to consider the guidance in respect of the Transition Framework; and
- the Transition Action Plan is a standing item on the SIP Board and Community Planning Joint Officers' Group meetings agenda.

The SIP Board recognises that the transitional period is well underway and has actively contributed to the process, which will lead to full integration with community planning in East Ayrshire. It is clearly recognised that community planning is the way in which we will improve the lives of local people, through partnership working and community involvement. Through this process the SIP will build on its success, to date, and ensure that we make our shared vision for the Coalfield Area a reality.





PART B – FORWARD LOOK TO THE COMING YEAR

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

There are no major adjustments to be made to the objectives set in the Strategy for Social Inclusion in the Coalfield Area 2002/2004. The SIP will continue to tackle the issues and priorities identified within the local area by the communities and partner agencies under the five key themes. Any adjustments, which are required as a result of the rigorous monitoring and evaluation process, will be addressed timeously by the SIP Board and considered as part of the wider community planning process.

WORK PROGRAMME AND RESOURCE PLAN

- **Work Programme**

The Work Programme for the coming year has been included as Appendix 5(a). This programme sets out the agreed targets for the 2004/05 Programme of Projects, which has been presented to the SIP Board for approval.

The SIP Board is committed to assisting the programme of projects which it funds and will continue to explore options for sustainability beyond the current funding period as a priority issue. A range of support will continue to be provided to projects, as appropriate, including training in relation to business planning.

To ensure the smooth integration of the Coalfield Area SIP to the East Ayrshire community planning process, an Action Plan for core activity has been prepared and is set out at Appendix 5(b). The Action Plan and relevant updates are presented routinely at SIP Board meetings and the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group.

- **Resource Plan**

Communities Scotland has indicated a requirement for Social Inclusion Partnerships to include a forward plan, which provides prescribed information, within the Annual Report. The SIP's Resource Plan has been included as Appendix 6.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD 2004 / 2005

The SIP looks forward to the challenges of the coming year and to preparing for and developing a key role within the strategic context of Community Planning in East Ayrshire. It is anticipated that the good practice of partnership working and community engagement will be developed through the community planning process

providing a framework to regenerate disadvantaged communities and improve the quality of life for those who live and work in them.

The main priorities for the year ahead include:

- continuing to listen to and respond to community needs, ensuring that our programme of projects is responsive to local need and assists the SIP Board to realise its vision;
 - considering the key remaining problems and recommendations identified in the independent SIP Evaluation 2003 report;
 - raising awareness of the SIP Transition process and implementing the actions detailed in the SIP Transition Action Plan;
 - organising and implementing community, project and partner engagement/consultation exercises throughout Summer 2004;
 - building on and improving community involvement/engagement structures, and continuing to ensure that communities inform the decision-making process;
 - strengthening and developing the links already established with the East Ayrshire community planning process;
 - assisting in the commissioning of a Resident's Survey;
 - continuing to provide a range of support in respect of sustainability options, where appropriate, for the current programme of projects funded by the SIP;
 - ensuring that the good practice highlighted in the evaluation report, including effective partnership working, community engagement and project activity, is taken forward in the community planning process;
 - assisting in the development of monitoring/evaluation and research/information arrangements within the community planning process;
 - informing the preparation of the Statement of Readiness and the Regeneration Outcome Agreement; and
 - ensuring that the smooth transition of the SIP to the strategic context of community planning is completed by 31 March 2005.
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ACHIEVING OUR VISION

The Coalfield Area SIP has continued to make significant progress and achievement over the last year and indeed since its inception. The independent evaluation has confirmed that the strategy adopted by the SIP appears to have been an appropriate and effective response to the needs of the area. In addition, there is statistical evidence to demonstrate that the economic situation has improved over the life of the SIP programme.

Through effective partnership working of the public sector, voluntary groups and the community as well as a range of quality projects, which are linked to the SIP Strategy to ensure that we realise our vision, we have made a real difference to the post mining Coalfield Area. However, we realise that problems remain and new challenges lie ahead. We look forward to the challenges presented in the East Ayrshire community planning process and are determined to build upon our success to date. Our vision for the Coalfield Area links directly to the identified priorities and themes of the East Ayrshire Community Plan, to provide a good quality of life and access to opportunities which meet people's needs.

Our main strengths have been identified as 'effective partnership working and community engagement' and we will work to retain and develop these structures to ensure that we continue to deliver change and improvement, and make a lasting difference to our communities. We look forward to continuing our work towards this end.
