



## **SIP PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2004 / 2005**

**Board Meeting – 23 June 2005**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Board members of progress made by East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) projects in meeting their final agreed target position for 2004/05.

### **2. PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEMS**

- 2.1 SIP projects are required to prepare quarterly monitoring reports and these have been submitted to conclude the year at 31 March 2005.
- 2.2 Final Annual Review meetings were concluded in November 2004. Within these meetings there was a particular focus on project compatibility in the future with identified outcomes of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), which is underpinned by the new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF).

### **3. PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREED TARGETS 2004/05**

- 3.1 The SIP has supported approximately 40 projects from the Core Budget in 2004/05. These projects and initiatives have continued to provide a range of quality services, responding to the needs of the residents of the Coalfield Area. Significant progress has been achieved throughout 2004/05 to assist the SIP towards realising its vision.
- 3.2 The SIP Board remains firm in its commitment to ensure that the projects, which it funds, are sustained, where appropriate, beyond the current funding period.
- 3.3 Each of the projects funded by the SIP was requested to present its future plans at the 2004/05 Annual Review meetings, with particular reference to the East Ayrshire Community Plan and the CRF designated priority areas.
- 3.4 Many of the projects funded via the SIP Fund in 2004/05 have been included in the programme of activities planned under the ROA, which has been submitted to Communities Scotland and is currently awaiting Ministerial 'sign off'.
- 3.5 In addition, a number of SIP funded projects continue to move towards mainstream funding, while others are committed to developing their own income generating activities.
- 3.6 Performance information continues to be grouped under the SIP's five core themes:

- People into work
- Positive health opportunities
- Community learning
- Living in a quality environment
- Community participation.

3.7 A summary of progress is included within the report. Further, more detailed information on project performance will be available at the Board meeting.

### **People into Work**

3.8 Throughout 2004/05, the SIP has continued to support initiatives which provide opportunities into employment. Approximately 19% of the total SIP Budget for 2004/05, totalling £409,000 has been allocated to the seven projects under the 'People into Work' theme. The projects funded under this theme are:

- CONDUIT ILM;
- East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY);
- East Ayrshire Works;
- Individual Employment Fund;
- East Ayrshire Woodlands;
- East Ayrshire JobRotation; and
- Enterprising Towns Initiative.

3.9 The Individual Employment Fund continued to provide excellent value for money and total grant awards of £15,000 in 2004/05 enabled 49 Coalfield residents to access employment or training opportunities. A total of 47 individuals were supported into employment in 2004/05, compared with 28 people last year. In many cases a relatively small financial contribution enabled individuals to make the transition from unemployment.

3.10 The excellent performance of the EASY project in tackling the disadvantage facing 16-18 year olds who are distanced from the jobs market continued throughout 2004/05. A total of 87 young people aged 16-18 years participated in the programme in 2004/05 and 58 of these individuals completed real work experience placements, compared to 41 last year. A total of 14 of these beneficiaries moved into employment, compared to 6 last year, 11 continued into further training and 6 into full time education.

3.11 This year, under the 'People into Work' theme, 118 individuals have been supported into work, a significant improvement on last year's total of 82; 27 individuals entered further education/training, compared to 35 last year; 23 people achieved vocational qualifications, compared to 14 last year; and 19 individuals achieved the European Computer Driving Licence, compared to 16 last year. A total of 213 individuals accessed training opportunities, which is around the same level as last year.

## **Positive Health Opportunities**

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

## **Community Learning**

- 3.17 Over 4% of the total SIP Budget allocation, totalling £94,500, is spent to ensure that individuals have the necessary education/training and learning opportunities to fully participate in society. Two projects under the 'Community Learning' theme continue to provide individuals in the Coalfield Area with a range of educational and training opportunities.

- 3.18 The Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC), located in Dalmellington town centre, has provided business training and support to 46 SME employees during 2004/05. Although this represents a slight reduction in participant numbers from last year, a total of 42 business employees completed courses compared to 25 in 2003/04. The project provides drop-in facilities, Internet access, ECDL support and meeting room facilities as well as an outreach base for the Jobcentre Action Team and Careers Scotland.
- 3.19 Bellsbank Women's Project embarked on an innovative pilot project in 2004/05, which sought to develop a Mens Group and encourage men to become more involved in community based learning activity. A core group of 15 men now regularly attend the Wednesday night sessions, which include talks and presentations by guest speakers on a range of health and lifestyle related topics.

### **Living in a Quality Environment**

- 3.20 Approximately 11% of the SIP Budget, £255,998 is allocated to ensure that all residents within the Coalfield Area benefit from living in a quality environment. Local communities continue to be involved in identifying environmental improvements throughout the Coalfield Area.
- 3.21 Action Plans were produced for Netherthird, Cumnock Town Centre and Cumnock (excluding town centre), and a reformatted Muirkirk Action Plan was also completed. An additional five identified projects were implemented in Auchinleck, Catrine, Bellsbank, Dalmellington and Logan. In addition, 33 funding applications were approved, compared to 25 last year, securing financial resources of £401,000, a significant increase on the £133,500 secured in 2003/04.
- 3.22 A wind turbine and lighting system were purchased for the Barony 'A' Frame project, which continues to be developed. External Funding and Sustainability staff have worked closely with this project in recent months to develop a range of future funding applications, including a significant bid to the heritage Lottery Fund.
- 3.23 The Restoring Communities Programme continues to be progressed in Auchinleck. A total of 7 properties have been improved via the Main Street Property Improvement Scheme, compared to 4 in 2003/04. The Well Road Park Project was completed and any future maintenance work will be carried out by East Ayrshire Council's Outdoor Services Department.

### **Community Participation**

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

The projects funded under this theme are:

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

\* Funded via Tackling Drug Misuse

\*\* Funded via the Community Empowerment Budget

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

- **Coalfield Community Transport** has continued to tackle disadvantage in rurally isolated Coalfield communities through the ongoing development of new and innovative transport solutions, to address the expressed needs of the local community. The 'Wheels2Work' initiative was launched in April 2004 and is the first of its kind in Scotland. It became apparent from the success of the launch that the ten scooters initially purchased would not be enough to meet demand and an external funding bid to Jobcentre Plus has recently secured an additional ten scooters. Yet again, this CCF managed project has exceeded the targets agreed for the year. Passenger numbers increased from 15,900 to 19,376; group membership up from 138 to 166; and group bookings increased from 1,383 to 1,542. The 'Dayhopper' service has continued to expand, with membership increasing from 500 to over 900, and the service now operates seven days per week. A feasibility study was completed, which explored the development of an 'Awayhopper Service' offering overnight stays. The findings of the study were positive and funding has been secured to introduce the service in 2005/06.
- Now in its fifth year of operation **yipworld.com** attracted 503 new registered users in the last year and approximately 50 volunteers continue to actively contribute to the service, including 20 young people. Continued delivery of the 'Pathways to Progress' initiative enabled 20 young people aged 17-25 years to access employment and work experience, compared to 9 individuals in the previous year. A SIP funded independent evaluation of the project was completed in June 2004 and highlighted a number of

potential areas for future service development which are now being developed by the project, including a mobile Internet café.

- **The Carers Centre** continued to provide an outstanding service to Carers across the Coalfield Area. A total of 600 carers and 138 young carers were registered with the Centre at the end of March 2005, compared to 581 carers and 87 young carers at the same time last year. Links have been established with 8 local GP practices/health centres, compared to 5 establishments last year. A total of 78 young carers accessed residential respite breaks, more than twice as many as last year's total of 37. In addition, a total of 98 children and 85 adults accessed holidays via the Children's Holiday Project.
- **Sport as an Alternative to Drug Misuse** established Night Leagues at Auchinleck, Cumnock and Doon Valley Academies. A total of 1,215 children and young people participated in this activity, compared to the 320 attendances recorded at the pilot projects last year. In addition, mini football and basketball leagues now operate at Bellsbank Adventure Playground's Multi-Use-Games Arena two nights per week.

#### **4. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

- 4.1 Approximately 16% of the SIP Budget, totalling £356,000 is committed to the following projects:
- Dalmellington Brass Band;
  - Dalmellington Youth Centre;
  - Dalrymple Youth Provision;
  - Glaisnock Trust; and
  - Nith Valley Co-op Regeneration Project.
- 4.2 Building work at the Dalmellington Youth Centre, 'The Zone', has progressed well over recent months and it is anticipated that the centre will be open to the local young people from August 2005. In addition, it is anticipated that Dalmellington Brass Band's hall will be completed during summer 2005.
- 4.3 Capital work on the Dalrymple Youth Provision project was completed in September 2004 and offers young people a much needed local facility in an isolated community.
- 4.4 The extensive refurbishment works on Glaisnock House have been progressed and the structural element of the capital works has now largely been completed. It is anticipated that the remaining decoration and furnishing of the main floors will be carried out over summer 2005 to allow the Centre to open to the public by autumn 2005. This ambitious project, which will offer a centre of excellence for youth enterprise training as well as a local community facility, has continued to attract funding from a range of external sources, including the Big Lottery and Europe.
- 4.5 Nith Valley Co-operative Regeneration Project, to consolidate and regenerate a collection of disused and derelict buildings in New Cumnock town centre, is progressing and work has commenced on site.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The high quality and innovative projects funded by the SIP in its 2004/05 programme, which address local needs and priorities, have made a significant contribution to the overall achievements of the SIP. SIP funded initiatives have also continued to develop and grow on an individual basis, with a number receiving national as well as local recognition over the last year. The Carers Centre, for example, won the Great Scot Award Better Life Category and was actively involved in the production of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers Good Practice Guide.
- 5.2 The SIP has worked to ensure that the good practice identified in the projects and initiatives which it funds is taken forward, where appropriate, by the Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire.
- 5.3 Many of the most successful SIP funded initiatives have been included in the draft programme of projects to be funded via the CRF in 2005/06. This programme forms a core part of the ROA, which has been submitted to Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive. Ministerial 'sign off' of the ROA is anticipated by July 2005.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i) notes the progress and achievement made by the projects against their final targets for 2004/05, and
  - ii) otherwise notes the content of the report.

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**9 June 2005**