



**EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR AND OPEN
EVENT UPDATE**

Board Meeting – 12 August 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Board a summary of findings in relation to the 'Employment and Young People' seminar and the 'Open Event on the Future Development of the East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 'Employment and Young People' seminar and 'Open Event' were convened by the North Social Inclusion Initiative. The main findings of both events have been circulated to all participants/delegates for noting and comment.

3. EMPLOYMENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE SEMINAR

- 3.1 The 'Employment and Young People' seminar was organised to bring together organisations and individuals with an interest in identifying ways in which to address issues around the transition of vulnerable young people from school to employment.
- 3.2 The format of the event focused on both presentation and workshops sessions. Presentations were delivered by representatives from East Ayrshire Action Team for Jobs, Careers Scotland and the Pathways to Progress project.
- 3.3 Three workshop groups each addressed the following three questions:
- What are the barriers faced by vulnerable young people in their transition from school to employment?
 - Does the existing service provision available in East Ayrshire do enough to address the barriers identified?
 - How can we address gaps in service provision and who can take the solutions forward?
- 3.4 A summary of the issues raised during discussion includes the following:

What are the barriers faced by vulnerable young people in their transition from school to employment?

- Access to and cost of transport, particularly for young people living in rural areas.
- Lack of experience, low self-confidence and self-esteem in young people.
- Limited vocational training opportunities.
- Limited co-ordination between referral services/agencies.

Does the existing service provision available in East Ayrshire do enough to address the barriers identified?

- Employability skills training is not effectively provided in schools.
- Employers are not currently involved in existing programmes.
- Better communication/information sharing is required between relevant agencies.
- Earlier intervention by Careers Scotland in local schools.

How can we address gaps in service provision and who can take the solutions forward?

- A mapping exercise will assist to increase communication/links between services.
- Increased funding/resources are required to support existing programmes/fund new initiatives.
- Additional support and information is required for parents.

4. EMPLOYMENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE – THE WAY FORWARD

4.1 In response to the key findings of the ‘Employment and Young People’ seminar, it is proposed that the following action be taken forward:

- The development of an Action Plan to be progressed jointly with the Careers Scotland Client Liaison Group, which should cover proposed activity to support and co-ordinate service provision to assist vulnerable young people in the transition period between school and employment.

5. OPEN EVENT – THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST AYRSHIRE NORTH SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVE

5.1 The ‘Open Event’ was organised with the aim of identifying North Social Inclusion Initiative priority issues and assessing levels of support for a Communities Federation in the north of East Ayrshire. A range of community and voluntary groups was invited to attend the event, including all Local Committee members. The event was widely publicised and a North Local Committee Road Show to promote the event was undertaken during the May cycle.

5.2 The format of the event focused on both presentation and workshop sessions and included an opportunity for delegates to interact with the ‘Option Finder’ software, which allows people to anonymously indicate their views.

5.3 Delegates were requested to consider and identify the main issues for the East Ayrshire north area within each of the following themes:

- Employment Opportunities
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Learning
- Quality of the Environment.

5.4 Proposed actions arising from the discussion under each theme include:

Employment Opportunities

- Provide short term work experience opportunities and employment taster sessions.
- Develop additional opportunities in apprenticeships.
- Develop employability and interview skills training for individuals of all ages.
- Support employers to become more involved.

5.5 Health and Wellbeing

- Provide earlier intervention in respect of young people and alcohol awareness.
- Establish breakfast clubs.
- Promote healthy lifestyles/diet and physical activity.
- Raise awareness of substance misuse and promote 'alternatives to addiction' initiatives.

5.6 Community Learning

- Increase community engagement in the community learning process.
- Provide accessible and affordable transport to learning centres.
- Develop drug misuse awareness courses.
- Collate a directory of available community learning resources.

5.7 Quality of the Environment

- Develop Environmental Action Plans in partnership with the community.
- Develop community support and involvement in environmental improvement projects.
- Support legislation in relation to anti-social behaviour.
- Address graffiti and 'fly posting' issues.

5.8 In addition, delegates were asked to identify the key benefits of establishing a Communities Federation in the north of East Ayrshire and complete a proforma indicating their interest in developing this initiative, or otherwise.

5.9 Identified key benefits in setting up a Communities Federation for the north of East Ayrshire included:

- accessing a range of funding opportunities;
- maximising resources and co-ordinating expertise;
- opportunities for information sharing; and
- increased community participation.

6. OPEN EVENT – THE WAY FORWARD

6.1 In response to the key findings of the 'Open Event on the Future Development of the North Social Inclusion Initiative', it is proposed that the following actions be taken forward:

- A meeting requires to be convened with the individuals who have expressed an interest in being involved in a Communities Federation for the north of East Ayrshire and actions developed to progress this initiative.
- Priority actions identified by event participants require to be considered and agreed by the Board for inclusion in the North Initiative Work Plan 2004/05.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board:

- i) notes the success of both the 'Young People and Employment' seminar and the 'Open Event on the Future Development of the East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative';
- ii) remits the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to convene a meeting with appropriate representatives to progress actions in relation to establishing a Community Federation for the north of East Ayrshire;
- iii) agrees to the proposed actions in relation to the 'Young People and Employment' seminar at Item 4.1;
- iv) agrees to the proposed actions in relation to the 'Open Event' at Item 6.1; and
- v) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
4 August 2004