



**PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Board Meeting - 18 May 2005**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise Board members of progress made by projects in meeting their agreed targets for 2004/2005.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The North Initiative supported a total of 9 projects and initiatives during 2004/2005 grouped under the themes of:

- positive health and social well-being;
- getting people into work; and
- improving the environment.

**3. PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREED TARGETS 2004/2005**

3.1 The projects and initiatives funded during 2004/05 have made significant progress and achievement. A summary of project performance under the themes to which they most relate is provided below:

**Positive health and social well-being**

3.2 A total of £67,200 was made available in 2004/05 to the following projects and initiatives under the positive health and well being theme:

Project	Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
Young Persons Alcohol Initiative	£15,000*
Momentum 'Energiser Plus'	£28,200*
New Sporting Futures	£12,000
Carers Cottage	£12,000

(\*) previous year's budgets

3.3 **Ayrshire Council on Alcohol (ACA)** implemented the Young Persons Alcohol Information Initiative to address issues of problematic alcohol use among young people, particularly those between the ages of 13 and 15 years. An initial payment of £7,500 was made available and the remaining funds were to be released upon satisfactory progress. The project was implemented in partnership with Strathclyde Police.

3.4 Initially the project focused on a group work approach and the implementation of a five-week alcohol education programme. However, the project has been

reviewed and consequently provides a more effective means of intervention in the form of one-to-one counselling sessions, involving both the young person and a parent/carer. The new delivery format is proving to be very successful and there has been an increase in the number of Police referrals made to the service. Each young person referred to the programme is expected to attend three ACA counseling sessions. From February to March 2005 there was a total of 20 referrals, 14 young people attended the first session and of those 14, 4 went on to attend the second session and 7 completed all three sessions.

- 3.5 **Energiser Plus:** At its meeting of 5 February 2004, the Board agreed to fund a community integration outreach programme aimed at addressing the gap in service provision in relation to the aftercare/rehabilitation of substance users in the north of East Ayrshire. A financial award of £28,200 was subsequently allocated to Momentum to implement the 'Energiser Plus' project, with an initial payment made available and the release of the remaining balance of £14,075 dependent on satisfactory performance.
- 3.6 The project has established premises at 65 King Street, Kilmarnock and has a full complement of staff. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of referrals from the voluntary sector and in the number of self-referrals to the programme. The number of project beneficiaries from the north of East Ayrshire, to date, totals 27, a Beneficiary Council has been established, 8 project beneficiaries are receiving group work at any given time and 3 outdoor education courses have been implemented.
- 3.7 **New Sporting Futures:** The North Board approved a project proposal in August 2004 from East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Services to provide additional funding for the New Sporting Futures initiative, which extended the programme of activities/initiatives, which include Sports Night Leagues, Development and Performance Sports Squads, hip hop dancing and Community Sports Leader Awards, to East Ayrshire's most excluded and 'at risk' young people. New service provision includes Snow Sports and increased Sports Night Leagues activities.
- 3.8 A total of 12 disengaged young people with offending backgrounds currently participate in an 8-week Snow Sports programme of activity at Newmilns Dry Ski Slope, including 3 participants who are looked after and accommodated by East Ayrshire Council. The associated benefits of participating in sport and, in particular, snow sports include enhanced confidence and self-esteem, increased social interaction and increased physical activity.
- 3.9 **Sports Night Leagues** have proved extremely successful at James Hamilton Academy and Loudon Academy, and over 2,300 attendances have been recorded at the Night Leagues programme from September 2004 to March 2005. Additional Night Leagues activity commenced at Grange Academy from April to August 2005 as a direct response to concerns raised by Community Police Officers in respect of incidences of anti-social behaviour in the area.
- 3.10 However, difficulties in securing the sports hall at Stewarton Academy and the Annick Centre have meant that activity in the Stewarton area has been

delayed until outdoor facilities become available. Consequently, additional Night Leagues activity commenced at Kilmarnock Academy from November 2004 to March 2005. In addition, mini Night Leagues have been operating at multi-use games areas in Shortlees and North West Kilmarnock since October 2004. The responsibility for the management of the programme has been devolved to East Ayrshire Council's Football Development Officer who is based at Kilmarnock FC.

- 3.11 **East Ayrshire Carers Centre** secured funds from the North Board in November 2004 to purchase furniture and equipment to refurbish a 'Carers Cottage', sited at Howard Park, Kilmarnock. The Carers Cottage opened officially on 4 February 2005.
- 3.12 Facilities in the 'Carers Cottage' include a large meeting room, a therapy room, and a sitting room where counselling and one-to-one meetings take place. Young carers activity groups take place 4 evenings per week and involve the young people in quizzes, issue based workshops and arts and crafts. In addition, a range of local groups and organisations have accessed the facility, including Enable Scotland and East Ayrshire Advocacy Services.

### People into work

- 3.13 Four projects accessed North Initiative funds, totalling £49,450, in 2004/05, under the 'people into work' theme, namely:

Project	Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
North Area Individual Employment Fund	£ 8,600*
North Area Drama Project	£ 2,500*
Future Steps Project	£ 9,900
CONDUIT Training Base	£28,450

(\*) previous years budget

- 3.14 The North Area **Individual Employment Fund** operated from May 2004 to March 2005 and aimed to enable 20 unemployed residents within identified areas of the north of East Ayrshire, who were not eligible for funding from the Action Team for Jobs, to move into employment quickly and easily by providing them with financial assistance to remove barriers to work. The North Initiative agreed to part-fund the project in conjunction with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.
- 3.15 At the end of March 2005, project targets had been exceeded as follows:
- 25 unemployed residents supported, exceeding the agreed target by 5; and
  - 19 unemployed residents secured employment, exceeding the agreed target by 5.
- 3.16 **CONDUIT Ltd** successfully applied for North Initiative funding for the North Area Drama Project to provide 12 project beneficiaries within identified areas

of the north of East Ayrshire with opportunities to develop skills attained at drama workshops to assist them with job applications and interviews.

- 3.17 Six CONDUIT trainees participated in drama workshop sessions over an 8-week period and 2 of them have subsequently secured employment, 2 are actively seeking employment and 1 is participating in vocational training. Additional drama workshop sessions will take place during 2005/06 for a further 6 project beneficiaries who reside within the north of East Ayrshire.
- 3.18 **The Future Steps Project** secured funds from the North Initiative to increase the level of support made available to disadvantaged individuals in the north of East Ayrshire in respect of securing employment or progressing to further education or training.
- 3.19 Progress to date includes the establishment of an Employability Centre located within the Student Union at Kilmarnock College and the recruitment of an Employability Officer. A total of 26 students from the north of East Ayrshire have completed employability questionnaires as a first step towards their participation in interview training sessions and employability skills workshops. Links have been established with Job Centre Plus and Job Centre staff will be working in the College one day per week from June 2005. In addition, links have been established with the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust and the Working for Families Fund (WFFF).
- 3.20 In November 2004, the North Initiative agreed to part fund the refurbishment costs of a new CONDUIT training and administrative base in Kilmarnock town centre, which will increase the capacity of CONDUIT Kilmarnock from 8 to 12 places. The premises will also be utilised by the WFFF project, which is funded by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.21 To date, a three-year lease has been secured and the design of the facility completed and agreed. However, delays have been experienced in respect of the procurement process and it is anticipated that the premises will be ready for use by June 2005.

### Improving the environment

- 3.22 One project secured available funds of £4,000 in 2004/05 to improve the environment, namely:

Project	Approved Financial Allocation 2004/05
East Ayrshire Woodlands Community Facilitation Project	£4,000

- 3.23 At its meeting of August 2004 the North Board agreed to support a proposal from **East Ayrshire Woodlands** (EAW) in respect of a community facilitation project to assist community based and led woodlands group activity in Stewarton, working primarily with Stewarton Woodland Action Trust (SWAT) and a further 4 communities within the north of East Ayrshire.

- 3.24 SWAT has become fully constituted and is a member of the Community Local Action Network. The group has actively engaged with East Ayrshire Council's Outdoor Access officers and consultants to develop a path network around Stewarton, and with Sustrans to develop safe cycling links to Dunlop and Stewarton Academy. In addition, SWAT representatives have attended the Community Woodlands Association Conference in Glasgow.
- 3.25 Initial contact has been made with the Dunlop Millennium Woodland Nature Park and Kilmaurs Community Council with a view to supporting them in practical amenity development projects. Future activity includes the development of a Community Woodland Forum.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i) notes the progress and achievements that have been made in respect of the projects and initiatives funded by the North Initiative in 2004/05;
  - ii) notes the progress of the Young Persons Alcohol Initiative at 3.4 and the 'Energiser Plus' project at 3.6, and agrees to release the balance of funds to both ACA and Momentum;
  - iii) agrees to receive a further progress report in relation to projects continuing activity into 2005/2006; and
  - iv) otherwise notes the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**10 May 2005**