

## EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 5 DECEMBER 2001

### COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR - REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

#### Report by Director of Community Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Forum members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In accordance with East Ayrshire Council Community Safety Strategy a Community Safety Officer was appointed to implement the strategy and to co-ordinate and drive forward safety initiatives.

#### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. **Danger Detectives:** The event was held at Dean Castle from 28 August until 28 September. A total of 1698 children attended the event. The evaluation will take place in February and a copy will be available at the Forum meeting in March 2002.
- 3.2. **Scottish Home Safety Officers Group:** This group continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis. The next meeting is the AGM at Kirkcaldy on Wednesday 12 December 2001.
- 3.3. **SAPC Speechmaking Competition:** Invitations have been sent to all Secondary Schools in East Ayrshire to take part in the Competition. Stewarton Academy have agreed to host the local heats in late January/early February. A full report of the event will be available at the next Forum meeting in March 2002.
- 3.4. **Community Safety Folders:** In order to promote Community Safety Initiatives, ASDA Supermarket has agreed to sponsor 1000 Community Safety Folders. They will be distributed to various outlets. The folders will contain topical information and the Christmas Safety initiative is underway.
- 3.5. **Scottish Local Authorities Community Safety Forum:** The Forum held its Third Annual Conference on 12 November. The aim of the conference was to examine how effective partnership action on community safety can help to deliver safer, stronger communities within the wider community planning and social inclusion agendas. The keynote speaker Iain Gray, Deputy Justice Minister spoke on a number of issues. A synopsis of his

speech is available from the Community Safety Co-ordinator who attended the conference with Sgt. Jim Richmond, the Council's Police Liaison Officer.

- 3.6. **Muirkirk Community Learning Plan:** The Plan is now published (appendix 1). As part of the plan to increase community safety, a six-session community safety course will be held in February 2002.
- 3.7. **Big World Conference:** The Conference will commence on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Magnum Leisure Centre, Irvine. The aim of the Conference is to provide 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils in all Secondary Schools in Ayrshire with advice and assistance on a range of topics related to community safety prior to leaving school. Topics include personal safety; drugs and young people; alcohol and young people and safe driving.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. Projects are financed from existing budgets held by the partnership organisations and from sponsorship where indicated.

#### **5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Nil

#### **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The Community Safety Co-ordinator will continue to liaise with other departments and outside organisations to promote the initiatives described in the report.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1. The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report

W Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/AW

21 November 2001.

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of Protective Services on 01563 576111 or email: [john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

# Muirkirk Community Learning Plan

*"To actively promote learning in all aspects of life in the village of Muirkirk"*

*This Community Learning Plan co-ordinates a programme of learning opportunities which will be made available to everyone living in the community of Muirkirk.*

*The Plan is a result of a partnership of local people working together with those who provide learning opportunities. The consultation process looked at learning opportunities already available, asked local people of all ages and community organisations for suggestions and went on to identify how existing resources might be better used. The results are contained in this Community Learning Plan.*

*The whole process is part of a Government initiative to improve learning opportunities in communities and to involve local people in the planning of them. Every Scottish Local Authority was required to produce a Community Learning Strategy which would lead to the development of Community Learning Plans.*

*Muirkirk was chosen as one of three areas in East Ayrshire to act as a pilot for this project.*

## What is Community Learning?

Community Learning can be described as 'taking part in any learning activity that takes place in the community'. It can be:-

- formal or informal, using a variety of methods.
- for anyone of any age.
- about learning new skills.
- about community development.
- about everyday issues, e.g. childcare, health, budgeting.

**You Decide!**

## AIMS

Since the partners began to meet in May 2000, work has progressed towards meeting the aims outlined in this pilot Community Learning Plan.

**To increase:-**

- ❖ the involvement of local people in planning the delivery of learning
- ❖ the quality and relevance of learning opportunities in Muirkirk
- ❖ partnership working to maximise resources available for learning

**When establishing the learning aims and objectives contained in this Plan, the following have been taken into consideration:-**

Results of questionnaires issued to:-

- ❖ local adults
- ❖ local young people
- ❖ members of local voluntary organisations
- ❖ representatives of agencies providing Community Learning opportunities in Muirkirk
- ❖ members of the public who attended the Community Learning 'Open Day' held in Muirkirk on 25 August 2001.

**In the completed questionnaires, benefits of attending Community Learning activities included:-**

- 'I gained confidence'
- 'I made new friends'
- 'I look forward to going'
- 'I learned new skills'
- 'I developed an interest in my local community'

**From the consultation, the priorities that emerged from adults and young people were:-**

- ❖ Access to computing skills
- ❖ Confidence building
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Sport and leisure courses for young people

**In addition, the Council's Community Learning Strategy highlighted:-**

- ❖ help with core skills of literacy, numeracy and problem solving, information technology and working with others
- ❖ increased access to learning opportunities
- ❖ informing people of options available to them

**The population of Muirkirk is 1,879**



*Muirkirk AMICUS Group taking part in the Community Learning 'Open Day'*

## **Targets until May 2002**

### **The partners will carry out the following by May 2002:-**

#### **Planning and delivery of Learning**

- Improve awareness of community learning opportunities in Muirkirk by producing an information leaflet or booklet. Also to submit at least five articles to 'Muirkirk Community News'.
- Ensure that innovative ways of delivering learning opportunities results in help being given to at least 10 people in relation to their core skills of literacy and numeracy.
- Assist the community to access new technology in Muirkirk by providing computer training courses using the Community Learning Centre and the local Library, for at least 30 people, including young people.
- Explore the use of computers with interest groups.
- Use CD Roms and the Internet to organise a family history workshop in Muirkirk.
- Partners will work together to provide at least one new sports and one new creative course targeted specifically at young people.
- Improve confidence and provide advice and guidance to adult learners and young people — with a target of 50 interviews and 20 C.V.'s.
- Work together to ensure 50 people participate in health related courses and initiatives. Arrange for the Community Health Information Project vehicle (CHIP van) to visit Muirkirk.
- Increase Community Safety by holding a six session course which will include advice for young people and the elderly starting in February 2002.

#### **Quality of learning opportunities**

- Continually address the local issues and ensure resources are relevant by producing a standard evaluation form for all learning opportunities. Also ensure that the new technology resources available at the Community Learning Centre and Library are relevant to the community of Muirkirk.
- Provide up-to-date resources and at least two training opportunities for workers who are involved in the delivery of Community Learning opportunities.

#### **Improve consultation and partnership:-**

- Ensure the sharing of resources (premises, staff, materials) of each of the partners results in maximising access.
- Develop new resources through improved partnership working. This will result in at least one bid for external funding being submitted.
- Increase community membership of the planning group, resulting in at least two more community members.
- Meet with at least four community groups to encourage further consultation/feedback.

**Ayr College**

**Ayrshire & Arran Health Board**

**Ayrshire Electronic Community**

**East Ayrshire Council**

- Community Safety Section
- Library and Information Services
- Support to Communities

**Employment Service**

**East Ayrshire Action Team for Jobs**

**'Forge Ahead Project' Advisory Committee**

**Muirkirk Enterprise Ltd.**

**Strathclyde Fire Brigade**

**Strathclyde Police**

**St. Thomas' Church**

East Ayrshire Council's Karen Summers highlighting Road Safety at the Community Learning 'Open Day'



#### **Evaluation of the Pilot Community Learning Plan**

In order to ensure that targets are reached successfully, the following will take place:-

- This Pilot Plan will be issued to all community organisations and interested individuals in Muirkirk.
- Reports will be given to the appropriate boards or committees of the Partners.
- A progress review will be completed by October 2002 and issued to community organisations and interested individuals in Muirkirk. A summary will be published in the Muirkirk Community News.
- The process involved in producing this Pilot Plan will inform the wider production of Community Learning Plans throughout East Ayrshire.

#### **East Ayrshire Council's Support to Communities lead this pilot**

*Please contact for any additional information.*

**Alan Patterson**

Team Leader

Support to Communities

Barrhill Centre, Bank Avenue, Cumnock KA18 1PQ.

Telephone **01290 421066**

E-mail [alan.patterson@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.patterson@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)