

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6 JUNE 2001

COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER -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 Officer.

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. **Safer East Ayrshire:** Safe Dalmellington held a Community Safety Event on Thursday 12 April. Agencies who were present included the Police; Fire Service; EAC Road Safety; the Bridge Project; EAC Trading Standards and EAC Community Safety. Competitions and questionnaires were available to the public and prizes were presented by MSP Cathy Jamieson and Councillor Robert Taylor.
- 3.2. **Ayrshire & Arran Accident Prevention Group:** A Conference will be held on 28th June of which the aim is to look at the causes of accidents/falls in the home (65 -75 years old) due to misuse of alcohol and prescription drugs. The conference is primarily aimed at community care managers, health visitors and home helps. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ann Williams.
- 3.3. **Danger Detectives:** An evaluation of the September 2000 event is now complete and once more results show that this has proven to be a successful event. Copies of the evaluation are available from Ann Williams. Applications for funding for this year's event have been sent to relevant agencies/companies.
- 3.4. **East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Forum:** Alan Morley, Drugs Awareness Officer with Strathclyde Police has been invited to speak at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 June at 10.30am in the Lister Centre at Crosshouse Hospital.
 - 3.4.1 ADAT: A copy of a discussion "Having Our Say" a Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Children -Ayrshire

consultation event - December 1st, University of Paisley, Craigie Campus, Ayr is attached for information and for consideration from the Forum in ways to take forward any of the issues raised in the discussion.

- 3.5 **Home Safety:** The Community Safety Officer represents the Scottish Local Authorities Community Safety Officers on the DTI Steering Group on Home Safety Network. A £30m modernisation fund is spread over 3 years to assist Trading Standards in their enforcement work. One million pounds has been allocated during 2001/2 for safety related projects. DTI plan to use this money to bolster its work on its five proposed key areas of activity referred to in the Community Safety Officer's report on 7 March 2001. All information and application forms are on the Network Website www.dti.gov.uk/homesafetvnetwork
- 3.6 **Community Safety Day:** It is anticipated that a Community Safety Day will take place on 11 August involving all emergency agencies and vehicles with an input to safety. It has also been suggested that Safety Awards should be made to relevant agencies and services in recognition of their contribution to safety.
- 3.7 **Children's Service Plan:** A draft plan has been written up with regard to children's safety. Five priorities have been identified for 2001 -2004, these being -safe formal play areas; home safety; personal safety on the Internet; road safety and personal safety.
- 3.8 **Hillhead Primary School Accident Day:** This took place on Wednesday 4th April whereby a road accident was simulated with all the Emergency Services converging at the scene. This proved to be a very successful event and it is anticipated that further "accidents" will be planned in the future including at the Community Safety Event on 11th August.
- 3.9. **Community Learning Plan:** Under a Directive from the Scottish Executive Councils in Scotland must draw up Community Learning Plans. In East Ayrshire there are three pilot areas in North Kilmarnock; Muirkirk and Darvel and Newmilns. Community Safety is being explored and discussions are taking place as to the best method of delivering safety through learning in each community.
- 3.10. **Public meeting:** A meeting took place at Kirkstyle Primary School on Tuesday 8 May to discuss the issue of vandalism and disruption by young people hanging around the underpass. The Community Safety Officer will work with other agencies to look at possible youth diversion schemes.
- 3.11. **Scottish Home Safety Officers Group:** A successful Seminar took place on 5th April on "Off the Job Home Safety", which aimed at employers in an

effort to encourage safety off the job and to reduce accidents in the home. Councillor Carmichael gave an excellent presentation at the Seminar.

3.12 **SAPC Speechmaking Competition:** Winners of the Local Heat, Gillian Whyte and Amy Williamson from Stewarton Academy, won the Regional Heat hosted by North Ayrshire Council and came runners-up in the National Heat hosted by East Renfrewshire Council on 27 March 2001. Gillian and Amy should be congratulated on their delivery of an excellent speech.

3.13. **Scottish Local Authorities Community Safety Forum:** A meeting took place on Friday 18th May:

3.13.1 Community Safety Challenge Fund: An announcement is due to be made about this year's fund with a closing date for applications in October/November .

3.13.2 Neighbourhood Wardens: Some councils in Scotland have signed up to this scheme in order to combat neighbourhood nuisance.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Projects are financed from existing budgets held by the partnership organisations.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Nil

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Community Safety Officer 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

17 May 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-avvshire.gov.uk

AGENDA