

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE -10TH APRIL 2002

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PE AND SPORT INITIATIVE

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services and Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the recently launched initiative for PE and sport and to outline the implications for East Ayrshire.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A national initiative has been announced to bring about improvements in the provision of PE in schools and the complementary provision of sport for young people. The programmes proposed for funding cover a number of areas of responsibility including education and social work and community services. The focus is on making children and young people the key beneficiaries of the initiative.
- 2.2 All projects developed will be required to demonstrate that facilities will be developed to be used by children aged 5 to 16 years, both within and beyond the curriculum. Wider community use is also encouraged as an ingredient of planning. Funding has been allocated on the basis of a baseline allocation relating to the size of the school population and a deprivation allocation based on the level of deprivation within the authority.
- 2.3 The programme for PE and Sports facilities aims to achieve:
- improved physical education and sports in schools
 - higher standard across the whole school through PE and sport as set out in school development plans
 - better opportunities to increase the levels of physical activity among the school aged population and more generally local communities
 - improved partnership between schools and between schools and their communities
 - promotion of social inclusion through access to and use of sports and outdoor facilities by all groups in society
 - innovation and best practice in the design and management of facilities
- 2.3 Of the total allocation to East Ayrshire of £2,237 ,000, it is stated in the covering documentation that £1,229,000 should be allocated to improving facilities and between 5% and 10% of this sum be spent on outdoor education/adventure facilities.

2.4 the programme for PE and Sport activities aims to achieve:

- a wide range of sporting and cultural activities for young people aged 5 to 16 including dance, outdoor education adventure and other challenging pursuits outwith the school day
- an active steps programme will promote the role of sport in diverting children and young people aged 5 to 16 from crime or behaviours likely to lead to crime

2.5 Of the total allocation to East Ayrshire, it is expected that £938,000 should be allocated to this heading with at least 40% of this allocation being spent on out of school hours activities, at least 40% to be spent on the active steps initiative and the balance being used for either of these two headings as determined following consultation with local partners. The health groups in the area along with sports co-ordinators in schools and the education/arts Council champions for Culture in education (to be announced in the near future) have a key role to play. In essence the rollout of new community schools recently agreed by the education committee would form a sound basis on which to plan.

2.6 20 September is the deadline for submitting plans for consideration to the New Opportunities fund unless a fast track proposal is developed and this requires to be submitted by 17 June and the funds for these come out of the overall allocation for the authority.

3. COMMENT

3.1 There is no doubt that the injection of £2,237,000 to PE and Sports facilities developments in East Ayrshire is to be welcomed. The opportunity to upgrade and develop sports and cultural facilities in schools, to develop links with the local community through exploring shared use initiatives, to provide enhanced structured PE in and out of school day, to develop plans to reduce youth crime through sport and cultural activity and to build on the partnerships already established for the programme for the roll out of new community schools requires to be explored carefully and developed with appropriate partners.

4. POLICY/LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members of the Education Committee are asked to:

- (i) welcome the initiative to develop PE and Sports in East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) invite the Director of Educational & Social Services to establish a planning group including key partners from community services, sports co-ordinators, arts links officer and representation of Health Boards to prepare plans to take forward the initiative in East Ayrshire;
- (iii) advise the Committee of progress being made; and (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

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Director of Community Services

JM/JP
25 March 2002

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel (01563) 576017 or William Stafford, Director of Community Services, Tel (01563) 576076.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Implementation Officer: John Mulgrew

AGENDA