

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2001**

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

#### **Report by the Director of Community Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To invite the committee to note progress within the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) funded Local Authority Partnership Scheme (LAPS) at the end of year 1.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 28 March 2000, the SAC awarded East Ayrshire Council £120,000 over three years, the largest single grant from the LAPS lottery fund to date, for a new initiative entitled Access to the Arts. The total cost of this initiative over three years is £282,750. This figure includes £51,000 of in-kind assistance in the form of staffing costs for officer support. The five projects supported are as follows.
- 2.2 Palace Theatre Programming – up to fifteen new performances per year bringing the best of Scottish dance, drama and music to East Ayrshire.
- 2.3 Reader Development in Libraries – staff training initiative to encourage readers to try new books by different authors and covering different subject areas.
- 2.4 Raising Funds for Cultural Projects – community training and advice for groups likely to make external funding applications.
- 2.5 Arts for Adults with Disabilities – a workshop programme for people using the five day centres and hostels run by Adult Services in Social Work.
- 2.6 The Artform Roots of Pantomime – schools based project with Education involving every 10 to 12 year old attending school in East Ayrshire.

#### **3. PROGRESS REPORTS**

- 3.1 Each project in this initiative has led to new opportunities for people in East Ayrshire to take part in arts and cultural activity.

- 3.2 The Palace Theatre programming initiative has led to a substantial increase in the number of people attending drama, music and dance performances. 1,676 attendances were recorded at nine new shows between October 2000 and March 2001.
- 3.3 The Reader Development project in libraries was made up of 6 workshop training days over year one, and has led to individual projects in libraries designed to encourage readers to take more risks.
- 3.4 The Raising Funds for Cultural Projects saw experienced fundraiser Bruce Bennet lead four training days and 10 guidance days with 30 people from 16 local groups. A greater understanding of funding structures and application procedures, along with new applications having been made, has emerged from this.
- 3.5 An exhibition of the work of adults with learning disabilities will take place in the Dick Institute from 30 June 2001, as a result of the Arts for Adults with Disabilities project. A drama performance also took place in the Hurlford Community Centre on Thursday 29 March 2001.
- 3.6 In total, 912 children from 24 schools in East Ayrshire took part in the Artform Roots of Pantomime project over the course of year one.
- 3.7 A final year one report was submitted from East Ayrshire Council to the SAC on 14 May 2001.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 East Ayrshire's cash contribution to this initiative is £60,000 over three years and monies have been identified from within existing Community Services budgets for this purpose.
- 4.2 Income continues to be generated for the initiative through the Palace Theatre Box Office.

#### **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The first year of this initiative has led to clear improvements in Council services and to increased community participation in the arts across East Ayrshire.

7.2 Plans are now being made for year two of this initiative.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The committee is asked to note this report

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/DC/JY  
27 April 2001

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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**AGENDA**