

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 5 MARCH 2003

KILMARNOCK CAR PROJECT

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of the progress of the Kilmarnock Car Project as discussed at the meeting on 4 December 2002

2. Background

- 2.1. The Kilmarnock Car Project commenced in December 1994 and was created in response to the escalation of car crime in the Kilmarnock area. The project targeted young people who were at risk of, or had been involved in, car related crime and was staffed by a Project Co-ordinator, Project Worker and a number of sessional/volunteer workers.
- 2.2. The project used a number of interventions including group work, (initiatives such as anger management, health and safety, developing self esteem and social skills, etc), workshops on basic motor mechanics and one-to-one work.
- 2.3. Funding came from the Urban Programme which ended in September 1998. East Ayrshire Council Policy and Resources Committee agreed an additional 6 months funding at the end of the Urban Programme subject to the organisation making effective progress with regard to the throughput, tracking and targeting of young people. It was also agreed that the project be included in the evaluation process for projects due to terminate in 1999/2000.
- 2.4. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed, on the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel, that the funding be discontinued and the project terminated on the following grounds:
 - there was a low level of referrals from the relevant agencies;
 - a relatively low level of young people were receiving the service;
 - the user group for the project was drawn solely from young people who had been convicted of car related crime and detection rates were in fact low;

- there was an identified need for earlier intervention work with young people;
- the project focused on a specific crime and was limited in its ability to work with a wider range of young people and crime prevention and anti-social behaviour in general.

3. Discussion

- 3.1. Reinstating the Car Project raises a number of issues, not least funding. It is estimated that any such project would require an annual capital budget of £40,000 to £60,000.
- 3.2. Suitable premises would need to be identified and refurbished to meet the required health and safety standards. This would incur a substantial cost that may in fact make the project untenable.
- 3.3. And then there was the findings of the Evaluation Panel whose recommendation was in fact that the project should terminate as its outcomes achieved were questionable in terms of best value.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Funding would have to be identified from other sources.

5. Legal/Policy Implications

- 5.1 Nil

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Resurrecting the Car Project is not considered to be a viable option at this time due to the significant amount of funding that would need to be identified on an annual basis.

7. Recommendations

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

W. Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JR

20 February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
Nil

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