

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2000**

### **SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL NATIONAL LOTTERY AWARD**

#### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

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

- 1.1** To inform members of the Education Sub Committee of the Department's recent award from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery within the Children and Young People Scheme.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Over the past eighteen months the Educational and Social Services Department has been developing a project application in partnership with Borderline Theatre Company, which will bring a series of drama workshops to all secondary, primary, nursery and special schools in East Ayrshire. In June of this year we were notified of the success of this application.

#### **3. THE PROJECT**

- 3.1** The project seeks to provide the participants access to the joy, pleasure and benefits of drama and theatre and by association the Arts in general to gain new experiences and skills.
- 3.2** The project's general aims are:
- (i) To transform staff and pupils' view of the Arts from that of something "not for us" to that of "we want to be involved with this".
  - 7** To develop the audience for drama by demonstrating to pupils in a practical way, the recreational opportunities inherent in theatre as participant and as a member of the audience.
    - To demonstrate to staff the educational, social and disciplinary benefits of drama as an educational tool and by example of the project specifically the value of the Arts generally in an educational context.
    - To establish a climate and understanding that the Arts are an every day part of a fulfilling life in which the pupils can participate without a feeling of unease or exclusion.
    - To facilitate the social and intellectual enrichment that participation in the Arts can demonstrably achieve.
    - To allow pupils to develop new skills and to increase their confidence, self-esteem and communication skills.

- To enhance pupils' educational development through participation in the project.
- To raise pupil and staff expectations of what is possible and desirable.
- To have a positive educational and cultural impact on all East Ayrshire schools.

**3.3** Within the primary schools the programmes of work will give pupils the opportunity to explore drama and themes/topics through an accessible, entertaining and educational approach. The second part of the work planned for primary schools is a project called Storyboxes. This is aimed at P1-P2 classes, who will be involved with East Ayrshire's Early Intervention Project to encourage their listening, speaking, writing and reading skills through drama.

In secondary schools the programmes will aim to look more at the theatrical process eg. language, text, etc. The second part to this work in secondary schools will be to supply reduced tickets and post-performance workshops for selected Borderline productions to pupils who have workshopped part of the text beforehand.

For SEN schools the project will focus on workshop programmes of drama at a challenging but accessible level appropriate to the abilities of the participants.

In nursery schools the programme will involve parents/guardians working together with their children throughout the workshops to create a fuller learning experience for the participants and to develop the parent's/guardian's own awareness of drama.

**3.4** Teaching staff will also be able to access drama through a series of practical in-service sessions called Skillshops. The aim of the sessions will be to demonstrate to staff how drama can be used to enhance teaching across the curriculum.

## **4. PLANNING**

**4.1** Two full-time Drama Workers, will be employed and will undertake the actual delivery of the project. The day-to-day administration and organisational activities of the project will be undertaken by a part-time Workshop Co-ordinator.

All management and artistic processes and decisions will be agreed in consultation with the Links Officer in the Arts & Education at East Ayrshire.

All the programmes will be regularly monitored by East Ayrshire Quality Development and Borderline management to ensure programme effectiveness, quality and value for money.

The project will be delivered from October 2000-April 2002 and will be concurrent with school terms.

**5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Award is for the sum of £68,704.

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Sub Committee:-

- (i) note this innovative project targeting all educational establishments; and
- (ii) be kept informed of future developments.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

JW/NG  
22 August 2000

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Members wishing further information should telephone Graham Short, Head of Schools, (01563) 576089 or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, (01563) 555650.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT, HEAD OF SCHOOLS**

**AGENDA**