

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE 27 APRIL 2000

NATIONAL LOTTERY LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD (EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STRAND)

Report by Director of Education

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Education Committee of the Department's recent award within the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Local Authority Partnership Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In August of last year East Ayrshire Council was invited as one of ten Councils in Scotland to put forward an Outline Proposal to the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Local Authority Partnership Scheme. This was successful and consequently the Council was able to apply for a full award. This was also successful and the Education Department strand within the application amounts to £30,000 over three years. One of the conditions was that Councils should be willing to add 50% funding to the total application. East Ayrshire Council's award was the highest in Scotland.

3. THE PROJECT

- 3.1 The programme will explore the art form roots of pantomime using drama, mime and music, through a series of workshops plus associated classroom activities for P7 and S1 in every school in East Ayrshire. A drama artist and a dancer will collaborate in producing an eight week workshop programme. Combined with this would be single masterclass events where a speaker will spend an hour with each of the classes involved in the programme discussing a topic relating to the history of pantomime.
- 3.2 The artists involved will work together in a series of school clusters, each beginning from a single secondary school and working with it's associated primaries. This structure would be repeated three times each year for three years with a different cluster. Artists will work with single groups and will be supported by class teachers. The creativity brought by each of the artists to each year of the programme is one of the most exciting developmental parts of this plan, and outcomes will be assessed at all stages.
- 3.3 This initiative will greatly support drama within the 5-14 curriculum. As well as providing cultural and artistic enrichment for our young people, the project will also promote valuable in-service training for teaching staff. The latter will also give the project an element of sustainability.

- 3.4 The young people of East Ayrshire will also benefit from the Palace Theatre Arts Programming Strand through supporting innovative education projects. Discussions have already begun with national companies such as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

4. PLANNING

- 4.1 This initiative is being developed and led by the Links Officer in the Arts and Education in conjunction with the Council's Arts Development Officer and Palace Theatre Management.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As mentioned in 2.1 each Council must add 50% to the total award. The Authority identified this sum within the existing budget of the Community Services Department. This brings the total Education Project budget to £45,000. No further financial implications impinge on this initiative.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note this innovative project involving pupils from across East Ayrshire;
 - (ii) be kept informed of future developments.

John Mulgrew
Director of Education

JW/NG
12 April 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Education, Tel: (01563 576017) or John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education, Tel: (01563 555650).

AGENDA