

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL 2000

SUPPORT TO PLAYSCHEMES

Report by Director of Education

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of progress made to support local playschemes with regard to travel passes and insurance.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In previous years, the co-ordination of block insurance and administration of travel passes has been managed on behalf of East Ayrshire by the West of Scotland Playscheme Forum with grant aid awarded by Social Work Committee. This application was transferred to Education two years ago. The award from the Education Committee to the Forum in 1999/2000 totalled £4,500.
- 2.2 Travel passes, available from Scottish Passenger Transport Executive, offer playschemes and out of school projects access to free or subsidised transport. This is operated using travel passes, which allow up to eight children and two adults to travel per pass. Each playscheme is allocated two passes which can be used on buses, trains and ferries usually between the hours of 9.00 – 16.00 and 17.30 – 24.00 i.e. during outwith peak travelling hours.
- 2.3 As a result of the above it has been necessary to investigate insurance for playschemes and the provision of travel passes in order to ensure best value provision in East Ayrshire.

3. REPORT

3.1 Insurance

Following discussion with Finance the playschemes operating within East Ayrshire can be covered by the insurance of the Council at no additional cost to playschemes or the Council. The conditions of the insurance are similar to those required by the previously held block insurance and some benefits are slightly improved. East Ayrshire standard controls and procedures are in place.

3.2 Travel Passes

Discussions with the SPTE have confirmed that an allocation of £2,000 would secure the provision of an adequate number of travel passes for the playschemes likely to operate in this financial year.

- 3.3 The Playscheme Committee in Drongan, which is well established, has agreed to co-ordinate the administration of the travel passes for playschemes across East Ayrshire, with support from Community Education administration staff.

4. **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The total budget allocated to voluntary sector grants is £65,323. Awards totalling £60,403 were made at the Education Committee in March. The remaining balance being £4,920. An award of £2,000 for travel passes would result in a balance of **£2,920** remaining.

5. **FINANCIAL/ LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

6. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Support to the voluntary and community sector is compatible with the Council's core values, partnership agreement and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:
- (i) agree the award to Drongan Playscheme Committee to purchase travel passes for playschemes across East Ayrshire; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Education

AJ/SB
11 April 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUN PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, Tel: (01563) 576126.

AGENDA