

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL 2000**

#### **VENTURE SCOTLAND MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS**

##### **Report by Director of Education**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** To seek approval for a special summer school project that will be delivered through outdoor learning.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** East Ayrshire's Education Department employs a small team of staff who are responsible for the delivery of outdoor education. This team is derived from the former Glaisnock Outdoor Education Centre and is based on the St Joseph's Academy Campus in Kilmarnock. Over the last few years Outdoor Learning in East Ayrshire (OLEA) has developed considerable expertise and experience in the education of disadvantaged pupils, particularly through the Youth Care Strategy.
- 2.2** The Millennium Volunteers Programme is a branch of Venture Scotland. Venture Scotland is a nationally accredited body based in Edinburgh. It provides personal and social development opportunities for young people. Millennium Volunteers is a national initiative and extends this basic programme through youth work, special needs and conservation while at the same time expecting young people to take on increasing levels of leadership and responsibility.

### **3. THE PROPOSAL FOR EAST AYRSHIRE**

- 3.1** This project will be a partnership between East Ayrshire and the Venture Scotland Millennium Volunteers Programme. It will be aimed at young people in the 16 to 25 years age bracket. In order to attain the level of the "Millennium Volunteer Award" participants will be expected to serve 100 hours including induction and training. For the "Award of Excellence", Millennium Volunteers will serve 200 hours.
- 3.2** One of the main aims of the initiative is for the programme to be of benefit to the wider community. As such young people will be offered the opportunity to learn new skills which they will be encouraged to develop within their own local communities.

- 3.3** In East Ayrshire, Millennium Volunteers would be placed with the Authority's own Outdoor Education team and employed as assistance to the qualified members of staff who would provide the necessary supervision. It would be expected that young people recruited to the scheme will take part in the training provided by Venture Scotland for all Millennium Volunteers. During this process the volunteers will meet and mix with young people from other parts of Scotland who have the same interests and backgrounds. Similar projects are planned for organisations in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The main base will be a bothy in Glen Etive. Activities will include team building, problem solving, practical work, conservation and adventure activities, the idea being to provide enjoyment and challenge for the young people.
- 3.4** East Ayrshire's contribution would be in the form of support from the Outdoor Education staff together with some use of transport, kit and equipment. It would also be agreed that the project can be promoted through East Ayrshire schools and youth organisations.
- 3.5** An information sheet is provided at Appendix 1.

#### **4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL**

- 4.1** This is an exciting proposal that complements existing summer school and study support plans. Moreover, the aims of the project are exactly in line with the Council's policies on social inclusion. Participants will have excellent opportunities to develop their own skills and to raise their own self-esteem. It is hoped to target and select young people who would not normally have this opportunity and who would stand to gain the most from it. The very ideas lying behind the project are aimed at increasing young people's tolerance for others, their sense of team work and consideration of people with special needs.

#### **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** This proposal will make a significant contribution to a range of policies that are summarised in the Education Department's Strategic plan and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 6.2** All aspects relating to the legal, insurance and safety aspects will be subject to checks by Outdoor Learning staff who are the authority's experts in this area.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1** Beyond the contributions in kind described in paragraph 3.4, East Ayrshire will not have to make any financial contribution to this project.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members :

- (i) approve participation in the Venture Scotland Millennium Volunteers initiative; and
- (ii) otherwise not the contents of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Education**

**GRS/GRS**

**20 April 2000**

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Depute Director of Education (01563-576089).

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

**AGENDA**