

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 1 April 2003

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PE AND SPORT INITIATIVE

Joint Report by Director of Educational & Social Services and Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of the recent award of £974,553 from the New Opportunities for PE and sport activities programme in Scotland and to seek the agreement of Members to begin the implementation process of this programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following Committee consideration in April, an Officer/Member Group was duly convened in May 2002 and met on seven occasions. Taking into consideration views expressed from a range of interested parties and hearing from officers of the Council, NOF and Health Board, the Officer/Member Group formulated a number of recommendations on how the finance should be spent. These recommendations were presented to, and were approved by, the appropriate Committees in September 2002.
- 2.2 The programme for PE and Sport activities aims to achieve:
- a wide range of sporting and cultural activities for young people aged 5 to 16 including dance, outdoor education adventure and other challenging pursuits outwith the school day
 - an active steps programme will promote the role of sport in diverting children and young people aged 5 to 16 from crime or behaviours likely to lead to crime.

3. P.E. AND SPORT ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

3.1 Motivator Activity Programme

- 3.1.1 To involve 12,000 pupils aged 5 – 16 in East Ayrshire's 9 Learning Partnerships delivered by 5 Motivators and seasonal workers in regular coaching sessions and workshops in sports, play, dance/theatre skills and outdoor adventure within a flexible curricular framework and after school hours and summer school setting. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in annual festival/showcase events, and there will be a strong emphasis throughout on promoting a "healthy mind and body" philosophy linked with the aim of encouraging lifelong involvement in sport and cultural activity. The project aims to respond directly to the physical activity task force in terms of encouraging children to be more active more often.
- 3.1.2 The Out of School Hours Activity projects will include coaching and taster workshop sessions in a wide range of sporting, play, cultural and outdoor

adventure activities to enable young people to develop a lifelong interest in particular activities. Learning Partnership special events focussing on enhancement activities and sharing opportunities will serve to strengthen links between Primary and Secondary schools, while a strong emphasis on staff training will provide a tangible level of sustainability. The project will also add value to the School Sports Co-ordinator, Active Primary School Co-ordinator and Cultural Co-ordinator programmes.

There is a strategic fit with this project and the Health Promoting Schools' agenda that is being coordinated by NHS Ayrshire & Arran through the Learning Partnerships.

- 3.1.3** Imbedded in the philosophy of the Motivator Activity Programme, the aim is to provide accessible and quality out of school hours and summer sporting and cultural activities, which will engage and enthuse young people to make healthier choices and divert them from anti social behaviour likely to lead to criminal activity. The activities programme also seeks to promote positive behaviour through developing teamwork, enhancing levels of self-confidence and self esteem and increase self-discipline.
- 3.1.4** Key partners in the public and voluntary sector will develop opportunities for out of school hours outdoor adventure activities across East Ayrshire through: the establishment and training of volunteer outdoor instructors; the promotion of junior membership in existing outdoor clubs; and the establishment of outdoor adventure activity clubs in all Learning Partnerships.

The cost for this initiative is £478,999 over 3 years.

3.2 Active Steps Programme

- 3.2.1** The Project will focus on young people aged 10 – 16 years involved in, or who are at risk of becoming involved in youth crime and young people who are affected by truanting and school exclusion.
- 3.2.2** The Active Steps Project's aims and objectives will reflect those in the Council's Childrens' Service Plan, the Youth Crime Strategy, Scotland's Action Programme to Reduce Youth Crime and the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Strategic Plan.
- 3.2.3** By offering a range of sport and activity which will be interesting and exciting to young people the Project aims to divert young people from behaviours leading to crime, truancy and exclusion from school. Much of the activities offered will be alongside specific programmes aimed at enabling serious and persistent young offenders to reduce their offending.
- 3.2.4** The Project will operate very much as part of a range of supports to East Ayrshire's vulnerable young people, and will consist of a Project Leader and two active steps workers. A Sports Development Officer will be appointed. Key components of the project will include the ability to employ sessional staff, i.e. for coaching sessions and the purchase of equipment so that excluded young people can continue to participate in sport or activity programmes.

- 3.2.5** In addition there will be established a “Personal Horizons” programme which will consist of personal and social skills training through outdoor learning activities. Learning from the outdoor education experience is reinforced and connections made with the pupil’s school and community life by adults/peers in school with the aid of a dedicated resource pack “Personal Horizons”.
- 3.2.6** Learning Partnerships will target “Personal Horizons” at pupils who are identified through the school’s Guidance, School Assessment Team or Community Assessment Team systems. The pupils are considered to have risk factors that predispose them to school and/or social exclusion. These factors are the ones identified in “ Youth Crime Scotland”. Programmes are locally managed to complement existing school behaviour support mechanisms and meet local school community needs. All young people of both secondary and primary school age, identified by the assessment processes, will have access this programme.

The costs for this initiative is £495,554 over three years.

4. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- 4.1** The programme will be corporately managed by a P.E. and Sport Activities Programme Steering Group chaired by an officer from the Educational and Social Services Department. Membership of this group will consist of representatives from Education, Social Services, Community Services and Educational Establishments. The group will be responsible for the strategic management of the programme, with operational management of specific posts being devolved to education, social services and community services respectively.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The NOF P.E. and sport Activities Programme will be funded entirely from The New Opportunities Fund Award. East Ayrshire Council will also provide considerable in-kind support in terms of management and administration.
- 5.2** The Programme will provide full time employment over 3 years, as approved by NOF in the original project proposal for the following posts:

- 1 Outdoor Officer – AP 3
- 2 Play Motivators – AP 2
- 2 Sport Motivators – AP 2
- 1 Dance Motivator – AP 2
- 1 Active Steps Project Leader – AP 3 / 4
- 2 Active Steps Workers – AP 3
- 1 Youth Sports Development Officer – AP 3

The Programme will also employ a network of sessional staff.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The programme is informed by key national and local policies/strategies relating to education, health promotion, health inequalities, social inclusion, curriculum development, youth crime, physical activity, cultural, leisure, sport and play development. The philosophy of the programme also intersects with East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1** These innovative projects are committed, via their strategic aims, to making a real difference to the health, inclusion and active participation of local young people living in East Ayrshire.
- 8.2** The project is an excellent example of partnership working between council Departments and National Lottery Distributors to achieve integrated aims and objectives.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** It is recommended that Members:

- (i) approve the implementation of this project;
- (ii) refer this report to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the P&R Committee in relation to the staffing implications; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
Services

William Stafford
Director of Community
Services

JW
21 March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application to New Opportunities Fund PE and Sport in Schools Programme.
2. Reports to Education Committee and Community Services Committee entitled New Opportunities for PE and Sport in Schools Initiative in September 2002.

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel (01563) 576017 or William Stafford, Director of Community Services, Tel (01563) 576076.

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