

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 5 February 2002

OUTDOOR EDUCATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Elected members for the appointment of an additional full time permanent Outdoor Instructor to the Outdoor Education Service in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire Council's Education Committee paper of 6 February 2001 "Supporting Behaviour Initiatives in Schools" approved the temporary appointment of an additional instructor to the Outdoor Education Service.

3 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1** The contribution of the temporary additional instructor to the Service, has been evaluated. Outdoor education has been provided to pupils in schools throughout the Authority area. The demands on the Outdoor Education Service have continued to increase, with its involvement in New Community Schools, Action Plan, Alternatives to Exclusion, and European Social Fund/School Link programme.
- 3.2** The remit of the Outdoor Education Service includes the following tasks:
- Provision of general advice to schools and other services on outdoor activities
 - All activities related to the Authority's licence in outdoor activities
 - First-aid training for the Council
 - Direct provision for Youth Care Strategy groups
 - Provision to schools-based alternatives to exclusion programmes
- 3.3** Pupils in need of support have benefited greatly from the extra post created, and early indications are that improvements in relationships, attitudes and attendance have been significant. The pupils range from Primary 6 to S4, and individual programmes for schools target those areas of the pupil population and skills most in need.
- 3.4** Improvements have taken place in the quality of pupil and learning resources, the excellent nature of partnership working and the

enhancement of technical expertise. An impressive pack on personal and social education has been produced.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this post will be met from schools delegated budgets in exchange for the services provided.

5 LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) agree to the appointment of a full-time permanent additional outdoor education instructor to the Outdoor Learning Service;
 - (ii) refer the proposal for appointment to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee;
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

DF/MR

14 January 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Social Strategy: Exclusion from School – Provision of National Advice, Education Committee, 28 April 1998
2. Alternatives to Exclusion, Result of a Recent Bid for Scottish Office Funding, Education Committee, 28 August 1997
3. Supporting Behaviour Initiatives in Schools – Report by Director of Educational and Social Services, Education Committee 6 February 2001

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, Tel: (01563) 576118 or Mike Howes, Outdoor Education Service Tel: (01563) 551457.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : GRAHAM SHORT

AGENDA