

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 29 MAY 2001

FIFTH ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE REPORT

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Education Committee of the success of the fifth Annual Youth Conference held in Grange Academy on 11 April 2001 and to advise the committee of ongoing developments resulting from the Conference.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council has hosted a Youth Conference every year attracting young people from across the Council area. The conference is coordinated by Community Education Service in conjunction with a planning group of young people.
- 2.2 The format of the Conference offers participants the chance to take part in workshops, which address issues or themes, identified in advance by the planning group.
- 2.3 The theme of this year's Conference was Social Justice/Social Inclusion and the conference was entitled '**Switch On**'.
- 2.4 The Conference targets young people aged 14 – 25 years. Transport is provided to enable young people from all communities to participate. Crèche facilities are also made available allowing for full participation. At this year's Conference, 5 children made use of the crèche facilities.

3. REPORT

3.1 Recruitment

Existing youth groups and voluntary organisations consulted with young people throughout the Council area to identify the issues and discuss the content of this year's conference. From this contact, all young people who indicated an interest in participating in the conference were invited.

3.2 Registration

One hundred and one young people attended on the day. This is an increase on previous year's attendance where seventy young people participated. It is an extremely positive response as the conference takes place during the Easter school holidays and young people participate on a voluntary basis.

3.3 Programme

The theme of the conference was Social Justice and Social Inclusion. The issues considered and discussed by the conference included raising awareness of Health issues, Poverty, Homelessness and Parenting.

The programme was divided into four zones with 4 workshops in each zone:

Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Check • Drama (Social Justice) • Body Awareness • Duke of Edinburgh Award
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Still Skint' • Amnesty International • Youth Forum • A Place to Stay
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Eating • Addiction Awareness • Equality Issues • Realities of Parenthood
Community Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayrshire Electronic Community • The Scottish Parliament and Young People • Drama (Social Justice) • Young People's Charter

Each young person participated in four workshops, one from each zone.

Young people had the chance to evaluate each session and have their comments recorded. They also had the opportunity to register their interest with workshop facilitators to progress future developments. A group of young people recorded events of the day on video and photographs as well as interviews with participants.

3.4 Partners

While the co-ordination of the Conference is the responsibility of Community Education staff, partners in the voluntary and statutory sector gave support and assistance during planning and implementation on the day.

These partners included:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Ayrshire Electronic Community
- Blue Triangle
- East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance
- Ayrshire & Arran Health Board
- Young Person Charter Group
- Scottish Youth Parliament
- Amnesty International
- Ayrshire and Arran Health Promotion
- Kilmarnock College
- Ayr College
- Kilmarnock Football Club
- Yipworld.com
- Education On Site Services

Displays/Stalls were also available to young people on the day, including:

- Community Education Service
- Peer Education Project
- Zero Tolerance
- Princes Trust
- Young Carers
- Blue Triangle
- Bank of Scotland
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Kilmarnock College
- Ayr College

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Young people were given the opportunity to network with other young people throughout East Ayrshire and to explore the issues which affect Social Justice/Social Inclusion.

4.2 Evaluation returns have indicated that young people felt that the Conference had been a great success and many were pleased to commit themselves to further developments in their own communities and within the Council wide context.

4.3 A group of young people are in the process of compiling a video and publication on the Conference

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All costs are met from within the existing departmental budget.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note the success of the Youth Conference;
- (ii) invite the Director to inform Local Committees, where appropriate, of further developments which result from the Conference; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the Report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

AJ/SB
8 May 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA