

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 NOVEMBER 2002

COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS (CSV) GIVE AND TAKE – EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform Committee of the development of a CSV Give and Take project in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** CSV began in 1962 and uses volunteering as a vehicle to promote inclusion in communities. Volunteering can give people opportunities to gain new skills and life experiences which enhance personal development and promote access to education or employment.
- 2.2** CSV Give and Take - East Ayrshire is designed to help the Scottish Executive develop its Active Rural Communities Strategy. Working in partnership, in the Irvine Valley Area, the project will use CSV's expertise in recruiting and retaining volunteers and will help to strengthen our ability to offer structure and supported volunteering opportunities to excluded young people and adults in rural communities.

3. CSV GIVE AND TAKE – EAST AYRSHIRE

3.1 The project will:

- Operate over a three year period and will offer new opportunities to excluded young people/adults in rural areas using volunteering as a route to inclusion.
- Set up a Partnership Group involving local representatives from a range of organisations. They will act as advisors and ambassadors for the project in the local area and ensure local needs are responded to appropriately.
- Develop and provide individually tailored volunteering placements within local organisations in the community.
- Identify and recruit volunteers through links with housing, education, social work and voluntary organisations.
- Provide ongoing, individual support through staff input and the additional support of fulltime volunteers acting as peer mentors.

- Evaluate the success of the project and publish outcomes.
- Provide models of good practice.

3.2 Over three years, one hundred volunteers will benefit. They will contribute 12,500 hours of voluntary work to their local community. There will also be two full time volunteers who support volunteers and undertake voluntary work within the local area.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Core funding is provided by the Scottish Executive for this initiative. This meets the costs of volunteer expenses, all staff/operational expenses and two full time volunteers.

4.2 Housing Committee approval has been sought for the in kind contribution of a tenancy for the full time volunteer's accommodation.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Scottish Executive are meeting most of the costs associated with this project through Active Rural Communities funding. The Council are being asked to make in kind contributions which are not covered by core funding, including the costs of a tenancy for two full time volunteers. CSV Give and Take - East Ayrshire will benefit those who volunteer and the local community.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i) note the contents of the report

24 October 2002
KG/JW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Rural Scotland: A New Approach

For further information please contact Kay Gilmour Head of Community Support Tel: 01563 576109.

Implementation Officers Kay Gilmour

AGENDA