

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2000

YOUNG FIREFIGHTER SCHEME

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To seek approval for schools to participate in and promote the Young Firefighter Scheme

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting of 10 August 2000, the Strathclyde Fire Board approved the establishment of the Young Firefighter Scheme. This is a concept currently supported by 30 fire brigades in the UK. The scheme has been very popular wherever it has been run. For the Strathclyde Brigade area the project will start on a pilot basis. Initial publicity has been received from the Firemaster of Strathclyde Brigade.

3. THE YOUNG FIREFIGHTER SCHEME

- 3.1** This scheme would give young people the opportunity to join a youth organisation associated with the Fire Service. It would be open to the 11-17 year age group regardless of gender or ethnic background. Young people with special needs will be particularly encouraged to join.
- 3.2** It is anticipated that membership will be derived from schools in the areas where Young Firefighter Units will be situated. The potential also exists for promotion through Community Education and Social Work.
- 3.3** A uniformed youth organisation would be established associated with the Fire Service and sharing its values. The scheme will be staffed by Fire Brigade employees. Activities will include core work such as hose drills, ladder work and technical lectures. This programme will be enriched through sport and “off-station” activities. It is an explicit part of the scheme that a positive lifestyle and avoidance of drugs and alcohol will be promoted.
- 3.4** This scheme potentially could make a significant contribution to the strategic aims of the Council particularly in the areas of Community Safety and Healthy lifestyles.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All costs will be met by the Fire Brigade.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members :

- (i) agree that this scheme can be promoted through schools;
- (ii) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to write to the Strathclyde Firemaster to indicate the Education Committee's support for the Young Firefighter scheme; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS
23 August 2000

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools (01563-576089).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Young Firefighter Scheme, Strathclyde Fire Board 10 August 2000

Implementation Officer: Graham Short

AGENDA