

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

EXTERNAL ARTS FUNDING AWARDS (AUGUST 2001)

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform Members of the Education Committee of two recent external funding awards supporting Arts Developments in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Following the award (£79,637) received from the New Opportunities Fund to support and enhance the East Ayrshire Arts Summer School Programme in November 2000, an application was made to the NOF Out of School Hours Learning Programme to support a range of after school arts opportunities.
- 2.2** A focus had become clear from the National Cultural Strategy "Creating our Future...Minding Our Past" that young people should have enhanced opportunities to be exposed to, and understand our Cultural Heritage. The life, poetry, songs and music of Robert Burns has direct relevance to East Ayrshire and a project focussing on Burns' work seemed an excellent route to address some of the key issues identified within the Cultural Strategy.

3. THE PROJECTS

- 3.1** The NOF award focuses on the development of dance and drama clubs, the expansion of lower string instruction, the development of primary choral work across the authority, the enhancement of jazz improvisation workshops, and the opportunity for the East Ayrshire Bands and Choir to work with a composer through the commissioning of a new work with supporting workshops. The funds received will support these programmes over the next three years.
- 3.2** The SAC project seeks to bring the poetry, songs and music of Burns to life in an accessible and imaginative way for young people. Dr Freeman, who is an Hon. Fellow in English Literature at Edinburgh University, is a world expert on the subject of Burns as a Song Writer. The workshops will be supported by two musicians who will give young people the opportunity to hear and experience Scottish Traditional music and instruments such as the cittern, mandolin, bohran, whistles, lowland pipes and fiddle at close quarters. The main elements of the project are:

- the interactive workshops
- a set of teachers' notes and pupil work sheets
- wall posters displaying Scottish Traditional Instruments with brief histories of each
- a CD of excerpts
- 2 evening concerts open to the community

It is proposed to hold one concert in Dean Castle, linking with the Burns Collection and the Dick Institute, and the other to be held in the south of the authority, linking with the Baird Institute.

Following a series of pilot workshops, an application was lodged with the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery, Children and Young People Scheme.

4. PLANNING

- 4.1** Various implementation groups are presently being formed. These will address the specific requirements of each programme within the NOF Award.
- 4.2** Meetings with Dr Freeman are planned, and schools will be made aware of the project through the forthcoming issue of "Arts Focus", the Department of Educational and Social Services Arts Education Pack.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Award received from the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Hours Learning Programme - £92,235 (over three years)

Award received from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, Children and Young People Scheme - £19,312.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:
- (i) note these two innovative projects involving pupils from across East Ayrshire; and
 - (ii) be kept informed of future developments

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

JM/JW/MM
30 August 2001

AGENDA

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Implementation Officer: Graham Short, Head of Schools