

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2003

CREATIVE MINDS - UPDATE REPORT

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Education Committee on initiatives and forthcoming external funding applications supporting Creative Minds - arts and education strategy.

2. INITIATIVES

2.1 Arts Summer School Programme supported by the New Opportunities Fund

This year's summer arts programme expanded to offer young people experiences in drama, dance, painting and sculpture, computer graphics, brass, voice, strings, bagpipes, woodwind, primary choral, jazz, web-site design and creative enterprise activities.

Over 600 young people from across the authority participated in the programme developing their skills, enhancing their self-esteem and self-confidence, making new friends and having fun. The Programme was featured in the Times Educational Supplement of Friday 11 July.

2.2 Cultural Co-ordinator Pilot Programme

The Cultural Co-ordinator Team (Joe Gallagher, Drama & Literature; Pamela Robertson, Creative Arts; and Elaine Scott, Museums) has been developing many exciting and innovative schools' arts and cultural projects, further enhancing links with other council departments and local and national agencies.

The impact on learning and teaching has been tangible. The Team will continue to promote cultural activity as part of the whole school ethos to complement and enrich children's experiences, enhance personal and professional development opportunities for teachers and expand extra-curricular and out of school hours activities.

This Programme is funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

2.3 Dance Motivator Initiative (New Opportunities Fund PE & Sport)

Emma-Jane McHenry took up the post of Dance Motivator this month. Over the next three years she will be leading dance workshops in schools, seeking to provide pathways to sustainable community based cultural activities and delivering a phased programme of training for teachers and sessional staff in order to ensure project sustainability.

2.4 Commissioned work for Schools' Brass Band and Choir (Supported by the New Opportunities Fund)

We are delighted to be working once again with the internationally renowned composer Goff Richards. His new composition, entitled *Minstrel in the Gallery*, is based on the history of Dean Castle. Goff will be working closely with our young musicians and will conduct the première performances in Cumnock and Kilmarnock at the end of February 2004.

2.5 Creative Minds Calendar of Music Events 2003/04

Included as appendix 1 is a calendar of music events for session 2003/04.

3. EXTERNAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

3.1 Championing Culture in Scottish Schools – Special Projects Fund

A fund has been made available by the Scottish Arts Council to support special projects connected to the Cultural Co-ordinator Programme and a bid from the Department is presently being developed.

3.2 Youth Music Initiative

Following the recent publication of the national audit of youth music in Scotland, "What's Going On?" (Scottish Arts Council, 2003), the Scottish Executive announced funds totalling £17.5 m to be made available to local authorities for the development of youth music.

East Ayrshire's pro-rata allocation is:

2003 – 2004: £47,472

2004 – 2005: £94,944

2005 – 2006: £189,888

A bid that will focus on the need to offer a diverse spread of provision, address local needs and reflect the identified national priorities in "What's Going On?" is presently being developed.

3.3 Creative Links Programme: Commissioning Fund 2003/04

In 2002 the Education Department at the Scottish Arts Council presented a case for additional funding to acknowledge East Ayrshire as one of four trailblazing local authorities. It was agreed that the four local authorities could apply for additional funds (£25,000 each) to support a special project from the Scottish Arts Council's National Lottery fund. An innovative proposal is presently being developed.

4. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note these initiatives involving pupils from across East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) be kept informed of the outcome of the funding applications.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JLW/ES
29 August 2003

List of Background Papers

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education (01563 555653)

Implementation Officer – John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support

Appendix 1

CREATIVE MINDS MUSIC EVENTS SESSION 2003/03

Thursday 25 September 2003	SCO Masterworks Concert 7.30pm Cumnock Academy
Thursday 2 October 2003	Instrumental Service Gala Concert 7.30pm Grand Hall, Kilmarnock
Friday 7 November 2003	Muirkirk Music Festival 9.30am - 3.30 pm based in Muirkirk Primary
Friday 14 November 2003	Muirkirk Music Festival Concert 7.00pm Cumnock Academy
Thursday 4 December 2003	East Ayrshire Schools' at Christmas 7.30pm Grand Hall, Kilmarnock
Thursday 26 February 2004 Grand Hall, Kilmarnock	East Ayrshire Schools' Bands & Choirs Annual Concerts featuring première of commissioned Work "Minstrel in the Gallery" and first performances of East Ayrshire Schools' Woodwind Ensemble and East Ayrshire Schools' Pipe Band both concerts at 7pm
Friday 27 February 2004 Cumnock Academy	
Thursday 1 April 2004	XtrArts XtrAvaganza Grand Hall, Kilmarnock
Monday 24, Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 May 2004	East Ayrshire Schools' Showcase 7pm Palace Theatre