

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 5 FEBRUARY 2003

FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE IRVINE VALLEY AREA

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Local Committee of current and proposed initiatives for young people in the Irvine Valley Area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local Committee members requested a report regarding work with young people in the Irvine Valley Area from the Director of Educational and Social Services.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The Department of Educational and Social Services supports a number of developments which work with young people throughout the Council area.

3.2 Existing Provision

There are youth groups operating weekly in Darvel open to secondary school age young people and in Newmilns open to a similar age range.

3.3 Current Developments

- A new youth group has started in the Barr Centre, Galston offering a range of activities on a weekly basis.
- A Duke of Edinburgh's Award group operates in the same centre catering for all who wish to participate in the Award Programme. The group is presently working towards bronze and silver awards, having taken part in two outdoor expeditions in the Galloway and Lowther hills.
- A new youth group has started in Hurlford regularly attracting 20 young people.
- New opportunities for young people to become involved as volunteers are being made available through Community Service Volunteers (CSV). Individual support through staff input and additional support of full time volunteers will be available as Peer Mentors.

3.4 Dairy Project

An exciting development is the growth of the DAIRY project in Newmilns. This initiative has developed from a youth group to a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The progress and growth through the participation of the young people and supporting adults in this venture has been a learning experience for all concerned. The experiential learning will continue to develop and progress over the coming year.

One of the outcomes of this project is the confidence building of the young people which can be exemplified by two young people representing the area as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. These young people have taken part in parliamentary activities including training and seminars since last summer and they will continue to receive support through future events.

In total, there are 182 members taking part in a range of activities planned and organised with them by trained adult youth workers who have been processed through Disclosure Scotland. Many adults have come forward to offer their services voluntarily

3.5 Employee Development

Youth worker training took place recently in Hurlford Community Centre with 12 successful participants. Further training for interested adults is planned this year.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 On a more general level, there are a number of voluntary organisations supporting and available to local young people, in particular the Scout, Guide, and Boys' Brigade movements.

Sporting activities take place through local soccer & rugby clubs.

There exists therefore, range of activities provided for Irvine Valley area young people.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS -NIL

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Funding to meet the identified commitments will be met from existing resources.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that the members of the Irvine Valley Local Committee note the contents of this report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Anne Jackson

24 January 2003