

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2000**

### **NORTH WEST KILMARNOCK YOUTH FUND UPDATE REPORT**

#### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise members of the Local Committee of progress of the projects which received awards from the above fund made available to support initiatives with young people in the North West Kilmarnock area.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Members will recall that the Policy and Resources Committee of 28 March 2000 agreed to make £50,000 available for young people aged between 12 and 25 years in the North West area of Kilmarnock.
- 2.2** Following receipt of a number of bids, this committee agreed to support projects totalling £50,000.

#### **3 REPORT**

##### **3.1 Drama Project**

###### Background

A Drama Project offering taster drama sessions to young people in various venues across North West Kilmarnock followed by a ten week course based in the North West Youth Project Centre in Onthank. Co-ordinated by the Youth Project Management Committee in conjunction with Scottish Youth Theatre.

###### Award - £12,000

###### Current Position

The project is now complete, having lasted 16 weeks, offering taster sessions in drama in Onthank, Knockinlaw, Longpark and Altonhill. A core group of 20 young people progressed from the taster sessions to drama workshops held in Onthank.

The drama workshops explored issues of lifestyles with regard to alcohol/drug use and misuse, unemployment and poverty. The young people, assisted by

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Scottish Youth Theatre, wrote a script for a video production, which was performed in Onthank in May. The video is available as a peer education tool.

The young people who participated gained in confidence, made new friends, enjoyed their participation and are presently seeking ways to continue the group.

### **3.2 Drugs Outreach Project**

#### Background

Drugs Outreach Project – to deliver community based support services for young people rebuilding their lives following drugs misuse. Co-ordinated by the Bridge project in conjunction with the North West Drugs Forum.

Award - **£16,100**

#### Current Position

Following a needs assessment in the area the Bridge Project plans to commence the project in September 2000. This date was considered appropriate as schools and youth initiatives are operating more fully.

A support worker has been recruited and is in process of setting up services in the area. It is anticipated that a peer education group will be established. The staff will work with the North West Drugs Forum.

### **3.3 Youth Project Upgrade**

#### Background

Youth Project Building Upgrade – to brick the exterior of an existing wooden panelled youth project building in Onthank. Co-ordinated by the North West Youth Project management committee.

Award - **£15,000.**

#### Current Position

Progress has been slower than anticipated due to a number of practical problems with contractors experienced by the Youth Project management committee. The application for planning permission is submitted and if successful it is anticipated that work will commence late September with completion expected at the end of October.

### **3.4 Youth Work Resources**

#### Background

Youth Work resources – to employ an arts worker and upgrade the entrance of the existing centre in Knockinlaw. Co-ordinated by the Knockinlaw Youth group management committee.

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Award - £900.

Current Position

This project had 3 aspects all of which are now completed.

- a) An arts worker was recruited to work with the youth group volunteers and young people to create a mural in the area used by the youth group in the centre. The young people supported by the arts worker designed and completed the art work in the hall.
- b) The pool table used by the youth group urgently needed recovered, this has been completed
- c) The area in which the art work was carried out has been recarpeted.

### **3.5 Young Person's Support Worker**

Background

Young persons support worker – to employ a part time support worker offering information and advice to young homeless and new tenants. Co-ordinated by Blue Triangle for part year funding in co-operation with Housing and Technical Services Department.

Award - £6,000

Current Position

Blue Triangle have employed an experienced worker for 15 hours per week for 9 months, until February 2001, for the purpose of improving sustainability of tenancies of young people moving into the area. The project will accept referrals from local housing offices, St Andrew's hostel, Blue Triangle, Allies and self referrals.

The worker has met with staff and volunteers from the above referrals points and identified other agencies who can offer support or services to young tenants. An information booklet has been produced to be given to new tenant's before they move into their house.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The budget for the previous financial year was fully committed.
- 4.2** Within the Council budget for 2000/2001 the sum of £50,000 has been continued and is available for consideration for further commitment in relation to fresh projects designed to combat potential disadvantage, targeting issues identified by young people.

## **5 LEGAL/ POLICY IMPLICATIONS – Nil**

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## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Local Committee:

- i) Note the progress of each project's development;
- ii) Invite the Director to present a final report on completion of the projects at a future meeting ;
- iii) Ask the Director to submit a report to a future meeting which identifies fresh projects targeting issues identified by young people; and
- iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Director  
12 September 2000

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

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Committee Report to Policy and Resources Committee – 2 December 1999

**Implementation Officer: Anne Jackson**

**AGENDA**