

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE -28 MARCH 2001

**YOUTH WORK PROVISION
IN KILMARNOCK SOUTH AREA**

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the Report is to inform Members of Kilmarnock South Local Committee of the progress that has been made in relation to youth work provision within the Kilmarnock South area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Kilmarnock South Community Forum held on the 24 October 2000 youth work in the area was identified as the local topic for consideration. A presentation was made by officers from Community Education regarding Youth Work within the Kilmarnock South area.
- 2.2 The presentation referred to the new national agenda set by the Scottish Executive for Community Education. This, as detailed in the Scottish Executive Report, Community Change Through Learning relates to Lifelong Learning, Active Citizenship and Social Inclusion. The focus of future delivery of community education seeks to promote personal development, build community capacity and promote investment in community learning.
- 2.3 In addition the voluntary youth activity which is available in Shortlees at the present time was also listed.

Shortlees Community Education Centre :SHAM Youth Club,
Boys Brigade Training,
Shortlees Netball Group,
The Elim Church (Youth),
The Bellfield Royals (football) and
B.A.S.I.C.S.

Riccarton Scout Hall: The Scouts, Cubs & Beavers

Bellfield Primary School: After School Care Group

Shortlees Church: Boys Brigade,
Guides,

Whizz Kids,
the Brownies & the Rainbows.

2.4 Details of a partnership bid to the Scottish Executive' Make our Community Safer was outlined. Partners in the project development have included Community Education, with local people and outside agencies, Council Departments, the Police, the Reporter to the Children's Panel and Kilmarnock Football Club. The proposal developed an initiative for an Outreach and Detached Youth Work Project in Kilmarnock South with the purpose of tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour, by co-ordinating existing work with young people, and developing a sustainable youth project for Kilmarnock South. Unfortunately, this bid to the Scottish Executive has been unsuccessful.

2.5 It is anticipated however that using existing resources, a Youth Project can be developed in the area which will involve young people, community representatives and activists as well as existing voluntary youth organisations. A meeting was held on the 2th February. Representatives from SHAM Youth Club, the Community Association (and Local Committee), the Community Liaison Representative from Strathclyde Police and two Community Education Workers were in attendance and a very positive discussion was progressed. Issues considered included:

- How to progress youth facilities in this area
- How to recruit voluntary and part-time workers
- What assistance could we give to existing local youth groups
- How to encourage the positive participation of young people

Discussion also took place on the role of outreach youth workers, the establishment of a Girls Group by Community Education, the possibility of finding volunteers to operate a youth cafe, opportunities for increased grant aid funding from a number of sources for SHAM, support for the police for future initiatives and training and support for voluntary youth organisations within Kilmarnock South .

3. FUTURE ACTION

3.1 Meetings have been arranged with representatives from SHAM Youth Club to look at funding opportunities and to support the development of a residential weekend later this year. A further meeting has been arranged with the representative from the Community Association to discuss the possibilities for support for the new girls group and the recruitment and staffing of a youth cafe.

3.2 In addition to the above, a further meeting is planned on the 3rd April 2001 to look at ways of supporting youth work in the area. It is hoped that a wider attendance at this meeting will result in further tangible outcomes in relation to youth work in Shortlees.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial commitments from the Council arising from this action at the present time.
- 4.2 A number of local groups may seek grant aid from East Ayrshire Council and from other grant making bodies as a result of this activity.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The support for community activists and local people in this way is compatible with the Council's principles of support for active citizenship, social inclusion and lifelong learning.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that members of the Kilmarnock South Local Committee :
 - i) Acknowledge the progress that has been made towards developing and supporting youth work within Kilmarnock South; and
 - ii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
7 March 2001

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

AGENDA