

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2000

PROGRESS REPORT ON SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT PROJECTS

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of progress of the voluntary organisations who have Service Level Agreements with the Council and to seek confirmation of future funding arrangements for the Youth Information Project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Members will recall that in March 1999, service level agreements were confirmed with three voluntary organisations:

- Bellsbank Women's Project;
- North West Youth Project; and
- Youth Information Project.

- 2.2 The service level agreement format is in two parts:

- i. The **Core Document** is the framework within which all Service Level Agreements operate and does not alter from one agreement to another. The document sets out the Council's expectations of the organisation.
- ii. The **Schedule** is specific to each individual organisation, based on a common format. It provides fuller details of the Project Specification, premises, management arrangements, council contribution, duration of agreement and review arrangements.

The schedule requires to be read in conjunction with the core document and together they make up the service level agreement.

- 2.3 These standard documents reflect the principles and guidance as set out within 'Following the Public Pound' and the Council's commitment to the voluntary sector to develop three year funding arrangements.

- 2.4 The Service Level Agreement requires that in agreeing the detail of the agreement, the voluntary organisations are committed to regular evaluation which reflects the principles set out in the Council's commitment to the voluntary sector.

3. REPORT

3.1 The Projects are in receipt of funding which provides for their general running and staffing costs in order that they can deliver the service identified within the service level agreement.

3.2 In considering an award for these organisations in 1999, members linked the awards with inflation, as the majority of costs for each project relate to staffing costs. Accordingly, in the year 1999/2000 the Council budget identified an allowance of 3% for inflation. The allowance for 2000/2001 is also 3%. In addition the grant reflects an allocation of £1,000 to each organisation for insurance for directors and officers liability.

3.3 Members have also encouraged each project to investigate external funding opportunities.

3.4 Bellsbank Women's Project

The Project has enjoyed a very positive year with a number of highlights in lifelong learning opportunities targeting women in the Bellsbank and Doon Valley area. Childcare support is an integral aspect of the project and is offered, where possible, to ensure that any barriers to learning that exist are removed.

The project plays an important role in organising adult education courses, health promotion and collaborating with national organisations in order to improve the quality of life for women and their families. The project is well attended, offering courses and development opportunities beyond Bellsbank, from the surrounding areas.

The project is moving accommodation within Bellsbank Community Education Wing in order to support the development of the Family Centre within the Wing. Partnership work with other agencies continues to develop, including work with the Health Board, particularly relating to healthy eating using produce available locally.

The management of funds is properly in place and the value of award in 1999/2000 was £19,540 for staffing and general running costs. With inflation, the value of award in 2000/2001 is **£20,125**.

3.5 North West Youth Project

The Youth Project based in Onthank has continued to develop, offering informal educational support to many young people in the North West area of Kilmarnock. The project addresses issues of social exclusion and health, using peer education methods and social contact. The project offers access to the council's information systems to young people in the

area and has recently been involved in developing a drama project to consider drugs related issues.

The Project has been affected by the Council decision to align sessional staff pay scales with spinal points in preparation for changes in employment legislation.

Management of funds is properly in place and the award in 1999/2000 was £57,856. With inflation the value of the award in 2000/2001 is **£59,590**.

3.6 Youth Information Project

In 1999/2000 the Youth Information Project received an award of £22,218 to offer advice and information to young people through a project base in Cumnock and outreach staff.

Many of the functions of this project have been overtaken by the provision offered through the new Connected Project, a SIPs initiative, and the Youth Information Project management committee considered and agreed their dissolution at a special meeting held on 20 March 2000, effective on 31 March 2000.

Advice from Community Education was to defer any such action until the Connected Project is operational in order that there is continuity of local service, however there is a local eagerness to focus on the work of Connected. Discussions with Youth Information Management Committee have indicated that they would support an offer of funding to the Connected Project.

- 3.7** In view of the decision of the Youth Information Project to dissolve and their support of Connected, members may wish to invite the Connected Project to make a proposal in the light of operational experience to deliver additional services. Youth Information Project management committee have commended this course of action to members in the understanding that additional and complementary services may be delivered by the Connected Project.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Support to the Voluntary and Community sector is compatible with the Council's Social Strategy, Partnership Agreement and the principles of participation and involvement through Social Inclusion.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Service Level Agreement regulates the relationship between the Council and the Voluntary/Community organisation during the period for which funding is approved.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has committed itself in principle to three years funding arrangements for these identified voluntary bodies.
- 6.2 The budget held by the Policy and Resources Committee to fund central grants in 2000/2001 is £203,062 and the recommendations contained within this report can be met from that sum.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that members of the Policy and Resources Committee:
- i) Note the positive evaluations of the two voluntary projects;
 - ii) Note the annual award, with inflation, to Bellsbank Women's Project and North West Youth Project
 - iii) Agree to terminate the Service Level Agreement with the Youth Information Project, including funding arrangements; and
 - iv) Invite the management committee of Connected to make a proposal, in light of operational experience in the course of the year, to deliver additional services which are complementary to those delivered by Connected.
 - v) Otherwise to note the terms of this request.

David Montgomery
 Chief Executive
 14 March 1999

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Policy and Resources Report 27 March 1998: Grants to Outside Bodies 1998/9, Report by the Chief Executive;
2. Policy and Resources Report 23 April 1998: Grants to Outside Bodies 1998/9, Report by the Chief Executive;
3. Policy and Resources Report 18 March 1999: Service Level Agreement-Core Document, Report by the Chief Executive; and
4. Policy statements as further appendices to individual schedules.

Members wishing further information should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive, tel: (01563) 576103 or Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer, tel: (01563) 576126.

AGENDA