



ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03

Board Meeting – 19 June 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Board's endorsement of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership's 2002/03 Annual Report, due to be submitted to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2003.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Submission of an Annual Report is a requirement of the Scottish Executive's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Social Inclusion Partnerships and guidance on the format of the report has been provided by the Executive and Communities Scotland.

3. ANNUAL REPORT – 2002/03

- 3.1 The fourth Annual Report of the Coalfield Area SIP summarises progress made over the year, 2002/03, and sets out forward information in the form of a resource plan.
- 3.2 Included is a report on the activity of the projects funded by the additional allocation of funds from Communities Scotland's Tackling Drug Misuse monies.
- 3.3 In addition, a progress report in relation to the extra resources provided by Communities Scotland as part of the empowering communities agenda has been included.
- 3.4 A range of background information is requested by the Executive and Communities Scotland including:
- Appendix 1(a) – East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Board 2002/03 Membership
 - Appendix 1(b) – East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Board 2003/04 Membership
 - Appendix 2(a) – East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Staff Structure 2002/03
 - Appendix 2(b) – East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Staff Structure 2003/04
 - Appendix 3 – Summary of Financial Out-turn Expenditure for 2002/03

- Appendix 4 - Monitoring Report 2002/03
- Appendix 5 – Work Plan 2002/03
- Appendix 6 – Resource Plan 2003/04

These appendices will be forwarded to Communities Scotland with the main document and are available for inspection at the Board Meeting on 19 June 2003.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) endorse the 2002/03 Annual Report, subject to minor textual changes, for submission to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2003; and
- ii) remit the Manager Social Inclusion to commission the production of the Annual Report in an interesting and attractive format, which can be widely circulated within the Coalfield Area.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
11 June 2003

DRAFT



EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA
socialinclusionpartnership

**EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD
AREA
SOCIAL INCLUSION
PARTNERSHIP**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2002-2003**



FOREWORD

I am pleased to welcome you, on behalf of the SIP Board, to the fourth East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP Annual Report, which provides us with an opportunity to share with you our progress and achievements of 2002-03.

In my first year, as Chair of the Coalfield Area SIP, I have enjoyed meeting with all the individuals involved in SIP activity and have been particularly encouraged by their enthusiasm and determination to succeed as we address the priorities of the Social Inclusion Strategy for the Coalfield Area.

This has been yet another year of significant progress and achievement through effective partnership working. I am confident that the SIP has established a solid base upon which to build and will ensure that the success of the SIP is carried forward through the community planning process.

I believe that the partnership approach is working in East Ayrshire and making a significant impact in the communities we serve.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making 2002/03 a success and look forward to working with them again in the year ahead.

Councillor William Menzies
Chair, East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This fourth Annual Report for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) gives us the opportunity to share with you the significant success of the initiatives funded and supported by the SIP. The Board is proud of its achievements in developing initiatives to ensure that those who live in the Coalfield Communities of East Ayrshire have increased opportunities and choices for an improved quality of life.

There is no doubt that the success of the SIP to date lies in the excellent partnership working which has enabled us to work collaboratively and pool resources, skills, information and imagination to develop initiatives which address the issues faced by the Coalfield Communities. We are confident that with the public agencies, the voluntary sector and, most importantly, the community working together, we are making a real difference to people's lives.

The SIP funds and supports a wide range of high quality initiatives which together address the identified priorities in the SIP strategy. The Annual Report details the achievements of these initiatives for the year 2002-03. Within the Executive Summary we have highlighted a few excellent examples of the best practice which we see in all the initiatives in the SIP programme. It is this best practice which has brought recognition both locally and nationally to the work which is being done in the Coalfield Area.

Coalfield Community Transport

Early in the life of the SIP, the lack of available and affordable transport was highlighted by local people as a barrier to accessing leisure, healthcare and social activities, as well as employment and training. With its in-depth understanding of the issues as they affect those who live in the area, the Coalfield Communities Federation was in the ideal position to oversee the establishment of the Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) initiative. Launched in May 2002, CCT:

- operates two state of the art minibuses and a people carrier and is well on the way to increasing the fleet;
- is used by over 100 community groups whose membership and activity levels have grown due to this flexible and affordable service; and
- has 140 registered volunteer drivers who have had their skills increased through undertaking MiDAS training.

CCT is an excellent example of the innovative, high quality initiative which results when a locally based partnership with real community involvement has the funding available to address the priorities which come from the people who live in the area.

Investment in Drama

The Investment in Drama initiative brings a completely new and creative approach to improving social skills, increasing motivation and developing employment related skills. It also provides local employment opportunities as well as building a drama resource for the future benefit of our communities. Launched in November 2002 with a showcase of arts activity, the Investment in Drama initiative has:

- recruited 2 drama trainees who are already working with young people in yipworld.com;
- established 6 community drama groups;
- implemented 65 drama workshops;
- worked with 25 individuals to develop employment skills through, for example, role play, relaxation and interview techniques; and
- given local people a taste of quality drama in a range of locations.

We are proud of this initiative which gives people the chance to have fun and do something different in their own villages. It also proves that improving skills and improving job readiness does not have to be serious and classroom based to be effective. Best of all, through the Community Drama Trainee Apprenticeship, it creates jobs and leaves a legacy of quality drama developments in our communities.

yipworld.com

Three years down the line, yipworld.com continues to develop and grow, refusing to rest on its laurels. The project has also succeeded in the difficult task of continuing to attract and interest young people, with over 2,000 registered members attending on a regular basis. From its beginnings as a cybersuite and social facility for young people, yipworld has expanded its services and now provides:

- a cybersuite
- a crèche
- after school care
- a community café
- volunteering opportunities, and
- social events and trips.

As well as providing a safe environment where young people can meet with their friends, staff are able to address issues such as drug misuse, community safety and healthy lifestyles.

It should be no surprise, therefore, that yipworld.com is the first youth initiative and SIP funded initiative in Scotland to gain the Investors in People award, recognising the commitment to investing in the development of the staff as well as the young people. This is an initiative which listens to and engages with young people and has been recognised locally and nationally as an example of best practice.

Virtual Baby Experience

What better way to give young people a taste of the realities of parenthood than to give them a “baby” to take home for the weekend. The Virtual Baby Experience uses lifelike dolls that are every bit as demanding as real babies to give young men and women a very realistic experience of the effect which a real baby has on the life of the parent. This has done far more than any amount of lectures from parents and professionals to reverse the increase in teenage pregnancies.

The programme was developed and operates in partnership with health visitors and school staff and is delivered in youth groups and secondary schools throughout the Coalfield Area. In 2002-03:

- 44 young people participated in the Virtual Baby Experience, 17 of whom were males.

Once again we see a serious message being delivered in a way which has captured the imagination of young people and we are confident that this initiative has made a significant contribution to the reduction in teenage pregnancies in East Ayrshire at a time when there is an increase in Ayrshire as a whole.

Recreation Partnership Project

The Recreation Partnership Project is yet another SIP funded project which has attracted attention both locally and nationally. From its early days when it provided solely Kids Clubs on a Saturday morning, it has grown and developed to address the important issues of healthy eating, physical activity and positive lifestyle choices, by engaging children in education through play and fun both during and after school and in the holidays. In addition, almost 2,000 Recreation Inclusion Cards for Kids (RICK) cards enable children to enjoy a range of activities in their communities at reduced cost.

This formula has met with considerable success, for example, in 2002-03:

- 5,100 attendances were recorded at 12 Saturday Kids Clubs;
- Active Recreation and Health Awareness sessions were delivered in all primary schools in the area; and
- over 3,000 attendances were recorded at 14 Summer Kids Clubs.

In addition, this initiative provides opportunities for people in the Coalfield Area to receive high quality training and be involved in the delivery of the programme.

Through this highly successful initiative we are making a difference to the health of today's children and laying a strong foundation for a healthier future for the Coalfield Communities.

Dalmellington Area Centre

The SIP has been a key partner in developing the highly successful Dalmellington Area Centre which has attracted three prestigious UK national awards for excellence and innovation. Like all initiatives supported by the SIP, the key to its success has been partnership working and a commitment to the highest quality services for the people who live in the Coalfield Area. There is no doubt that the success and experience of partnership working in the SIP has been the springboard to the success of this multi-agency initiative.

The Centre, which houses council, health and police services under one roof, serves over 11,000 people within the Doon Valley. It also provides a base for a range of initiatives such as the SIP funded Business Technology Training Centre and the Doon Valley Initiative addiction project.

The Area Centre is the first project of its kind in Scotland and will become a benchmark against which all future integrated public services will be judged.

Conclusion

The experience and success of the partnership approach has laid a firm foundation for the smooth transition of the SIP to community planning in line with Scottish Executive policy. Social justice and social inclusion are guiding principles within the East Ayrshire Community Plan and Partners are already active in reviewing the SIP programme and ensuring that best practice and successful initiatives continue beyond the life of the SIP.

Highlighted above are some examples of the quality initiatives that the SIP has been instrumental in driving forward. The Annual Report for 2002/03 provides detail of more of the exciting developments which contribute to the five priority themes of the SIP, namely:

- People into work
- Community participation
- Positive health opportunities
- Community learning
- Living in a quality environment.

We know that we are making a difference and we are working to ensure that the experience gained by community representatives and public and voluntary organisations through participation in the SIP influences the community planning process and ensures that the circumstances of those living in the Coalfield Area continue to improve.

CONTENTS

Our Shared Vision

The vision for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership shared by the partners is:

“To enable each person within the Coalfield Area to realise his/her potential. To prevent social exclusion and promote social inclusion. To create sustainable communities in an attractive environment through co-ordinated and innovative action and community participation.”

This is an ambitious aim and will only be achieved over time with the combined efforts of all of our partners.



FOREWORD



PART A – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2002-2003

INTRODUCTION

East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) welcomes you to its fourth Annual Report and takes pride in presenting the achievements of 2002-03.

The SIP was established to improve the circumstances and quality of life for its residents and has endeavoured to address the priority issues identified by communities and a range of partners through the implementation of the Strategy for the Coalfield Area 2002-04. Significant progress has again been made this year through the SIP providing funding to a range of high quality, innovative projects and initiatives. Their achievements are our success and project networking events, hosted by the SIP, have increased opportunities for joint working to enhance and maximise provision to service users.

The Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Statement "Better Communities in Scotland: Closing the Gap", launched in June 2002, has re-enforced the SIP Board's determination to adopt a more strategic approach to bring about lasting change in the Coalfield Communities and intensive work has been undertaken this year to address issues in relation to sustainability. Partners are already active in reviewing the SIP programme to ensure that the best practice of successful initiatives is taken forward through the East Ayrshire Community Plan Action Plans and the SIP is preparing itself for integration into the community planning process.

We are beginning to see a real difference in the Coalfield Area as a result of integrated action at a local level, effective partnership working, enthusiasm and a determination to succeed, and the partners remain firm in their commitment to creating enduring change for communities.

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES 2002-2003

The objectives and priorities agreed by the SIP Board for 2002-2003 include:

- the setting of performance targets by the SIP Board to enable the SIP to monitor and assess its own performance;
- linking the set targets/indicators to the Social Justice Milestones to allow the SIP to compare its own performance both locally and nationally;
- developing the links already established with the community planning process;

- building upon private sector input to the partnership and investing in the social economy;
- investing in childcare services;
- co-ordinating a series of project networking events to provide opportunities to develop common areas of work;
- building on the foundations established by the SIP employment working group to further support people into work and create new employment opportunities;
- establishing a working group to develop plans to tackle the root causes of poor health;
- co-ordinating investment in information technology to increase the number of individuals with ICT access;
- listening and responding to community needs;
- continuing the community involvement/development process in all areas of SIP activity; and
- preparing for the mid-point assessment as required and prescribed by Communities Scotland.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The SIP Board has a firm commitment to making a real difference in the Coalfield Area and the partners have continued to work together to ensure the effective implementation of the SIP Strategy. The summary below demonstrates the progress in relation to the agreed priorities for 2002-03.

- **Effective Partnership Performance**

It had been the SIP Board's intention to set itself targets, linked to the Social Justice Milestones, which would enable the SIP to assess its own performance locally and to make comparisons nationally.

However, in view of developments in relation to the Community Regeneration Statement, published in June 2002, and the indication that the SIP programme would conclude at March 2004, the SIP Board agreed that 2002-03 was an appropriate time to re-prioritise and intensify its work in relation to sustainability. A number of initiatives have been progressed throughout the year to address issues regarding this matter.

The SIP can, however, clearly demonstrate that it is working towards providing opportunities which will allow the residents of the Coalfield Area to make the most of their lives and reach their full potential. We are confident that we are making a difference to people's lives and it is by this standard we measure success.

- **Links to the community planning process**

Links have already been established with the community planning process through the Manager Social Inclusion who has taken a lead role in driving forward community planning in East Ayrshire.

Senior level officers from core partner organisations who sit on the SIP Board are also members of the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group which directs operational activity in respect of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

These links will ensure a smooth transition and that the Social Inclusion Partnership approach will be taken forward through the community planning process.

- **Private sector involvement and investing in the social economy**

Private sector participation in SIP activity has been mainly through involvement with the projects and initiatives which it funds. An increasing number of local employers have provided a range of work placement opportunities for project participants throughout the year.

In addition, the Business Technology Training Centre, Ayrshire Electronic Community and the East Ayrshire JobRotation project provide advice and assistance to small/micro/medium enterprises within the SIP area.

The social economy and voluntary sector have been identified by the Scottish Executive as emerging growth sectors which will create jobs and improve local services. The Ayrshire Key Fund has been established by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and the four Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnerships, including the Coalfield Area SIP, to encourage the growth of community based organisations and the contribution they make to regeneration initiatives.

- **Investing in childcare services**

It has been identified that there is a limited supply of childcare for both pre-school and school aged children in the Coalfield Area and the SIP has invested in a range of childcare services to enable its residents to take up employment, education and training opportunities.

The SIP has part-funded the new Family Centre at Netherthird Primary School in Cumnock which will provide 9 places for 0-2 year olds, 10 places for 2-3 year olds and additional places for 3-5 year olds. It is the first time in East Ayrshire that a Primary School campus will be able to provide services for children of the youngest age up to eleven years and is a much needed resource for families who require additional assistance as well as providing parents with an opportunity to return to work.

In addition, yipworld.com operates a crèche on a daily basis for babies and toddlers up to three years of age and funding from the New Opportunities Fund allows for the provision of an After School Activity Club within this facility for children and young people from the local area.

A consultant was commissioned through the Employment Working Group to investigate barriers to employment, including childcare issues. Face to face interviews have been carried out with individuals who have children of an age requiring childcare services and the results of the consultation report will be discussed by the SIP Board and other interested parties at a seminar which has been arranged for May 2003.

Joint working practices between the SIP and the Childcare Partnership ensure the continued co-ordination of developments in relation to childcare.

- **Project networking events**

The SIP Board hosted two highly successful networking events during 2002-03 which provided opportunities for projects to develop common areas of work.

As part of the ongoing review process of the SIP programme of projects, a multi disciplinary working group was tasked with organising an event which would be attended by a range of ICT providers, including appropriate SIP funded projects, and the SIP Board to explore issues in relation to ICT provision across the Coalfield Area.

A number of actions were identified on the day, as were the agencies/individuals responsible for taking them forward. In order to progress this work, the SIP has agreed to convene routine networking meetings with service providers.

The SIP Board hosted a project networking event in December 2002 which provided an opportunity for project staff and supervising officers to consider sustainability beyond the life of the SIP, where appropriate. One particular issue arising from this event was the need for projects to become more proficient in business planning and a future seminar will be convened on this subject during 2003-04.

- **Employment Working Group**

The SIP Board established the Employment Working Group to take forward a number of issues regarding employment issues as follows:

- JobRotation;
- childcare;
- transport to work;
- employer forum; and
- skills audit/profiling of the Coalfield settlements.

Significant progress has been made throughout the year to support residents from the Coalfield Area and create further employment opportunities including:

- establishment of the East Ayrshire JobRotation programme;
- identification of childcare and transport to work needs through local surveys;
- establishment of an Employers' Forum; and
- development of a community audit framework which provides information to inform and support local development strategies by identifying existing skills levels, skill development needs and other critical resources required.

The SIP Board is currently considering the recommendations provided by the consultant to allow for the development of implementation plans and the investigation of additional funding sources for appropriate initiatives.

- **Improving Health**

The SIP is committed to improving the health opportunities of individuals in the Coalfield Area and planned to establish a working group which would tackle the root causes of poor health during 2002-03.

However, many of the individuals who would have made up the core membership of this group currently participate in the East Ayrshire Community Plan Improving Health Action Plan Group, including the Community Health Development Manager from the Healthy Living Initiative (C.H.I.P. Van) and the Public Health Co-ordinator who works in the Social Inclusion Unit of East Ayrshire Council.

In the interests of joined-up working, the SIP has, therefore, recognised the benefits of developing links with the Improving Health Action Plan Group and project staff from the SIP initiatives funded under the Positive Health Opportunities theme have contributed to the preparation of, and will assist in the implementation of, the Improving Health Action Plan within the community planning process.

- **Co-ordinating ICT access**

In response to the information presented at the annual review meetings undertaken by the Implementation Group in November 2002, the SIP Board agreed to commission an immediate review of the projects providing ICT services in the Coalfield Area namely:

- CONDUIT ILM;
- Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC); and
- Ayrshire Electronic Community (AEC).

A specific range of issues was investigated as part of the review process including:

- a comprehensive audit of current service provision;
- identification of areas of overlap and gaps in service provision;
- examination of the quality of service provision;
- investigation of management structures and staffing requirements; and
- consideration of integrated service delivery and sustainability.

The review confirmed that there was a high level of service provision in respect of ICT across the Coalfield Area. Discussions will take place early in 2003-04 with ICT service providers to identify a baseline for existing and future service provision and agree a common marketing tool to ensure that the general public is aware of the full range of ICT services available across the SIP area and how they can be accessed.

The interim review findings, however, concluded that delivery mechanisms in relation to the ICT projects were inconsistent and in some cases there was duplication of activity. The SIP Board subsequently agreed to the three projects being merged into

two and recommended that AEC and CONDUIT ILM remain and use the BTTC as a delivery mechanism for project activity. The implementation of the review findings is currently being taken forward by both project Steering Groups, supported by the SIP and East Ayrshire Councils' Development Services Department.

- **Community needs/participation/development**

The SIP continues to ensure that the priorities of the local communities are addressed and that community representatives are supported to fully participate in SIP activity. To enhance this process a re-selection procedure has been introduced for community representatives to the SIP Board as follows:

- an advertisement, with a set closing date, will be placed in local newspapers seeking nominations to fill the four vacancies. Existing representatives are eligible to apply; and
- upon receipt of nominations, a selection panel comprising the Manager Social Inclusion and two Core Board Members, including at least one representative from the Coalfield Communities Federation, will meet with applicants and make recommendations for appointment to the SIP Board. The period of appointment will conclude at 31 March 2005.

Links to the wider community have also been further enhanced through the establishment of the SIP website, www.eacoalfieldsip.org, in September 2002 and the Coalfield Communities Federation's website, www.coalfieldcommunities.org, in March 2003. In addition, the Glennie Newsletter continues to be delivered to every household in the SIP area on a bi-annual basis.

- **SIP Evaluation/Transition Framework**

As a condition of funding, all Social Inclusion Partnerships are subject to an independent evaluation towards the end of their designation. The Coalfield Area SIP's designation will end in 2004 and the evaluation will support the integration of the SIP into the community planning process.

The Community Regeneration Statement outlines proposals for the SIPs integrating with community planning partnerships where they will continue to play an important role in taking forward the social justice agenda at local level.

As part of this process, Communities Scotland has been developing a transition framework to inform this integration and local evaluations will inform transitional arrangements.

Whilst awaiting the finalised guidance, the SIP has established a task orientated working group, comprising community representatives from the Coalfield Communities Federation and members of the SIP Support Team, to commence preparations for the forthcoming evaluation.

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Pilot GP Initiative**

The SIP Board, in partnership with East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative, East Ayrshire Council's Department of Educational and Social Services, the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and health care partners, continued to develop the work to address anti-poverty issues. A link has been established with GPs through the auspices of the Local Health Care Co-operatives (LHCCs), to ensure that individuals with chronic conditions are receiving the full range of welfare benefits available to them and are aware of the assistance available to deal with problematic debt.

Material was developed which highlights the specialist advice and information available to patients with regard to maximising income from benefit and tackling unmanageable debt. The pack also provides GPs and other practice staff with an overview of the benefits which are available to individuals and families whose income is reduced as a result of chronic ill-health and/or disability.

In addition, Welfare Rights and Money Advice specialists from both East Ayrshire Council and the Citizens' Advice Bureau will work over a six month period from April 2003 with two GP practices, including Auchinleck in the Coalfield Area, taking referrals from the range of health professionals working within the practices, and self-referrals from individuals. The material has also been circulated to all GP practices in East Ayrshire to encourage health professionals to refer patients for specialist benefit and debt advice, where appropriate.

We are confident that by encouraging people with health problems to seek assistance and advice to maximise their income from benefits and tackling the impact of unmanageable debt on individuals with health problems, there will be an improvement in their quality of life and a reduction in consultations and stress levels.

- **Restoring Communities Programme**

The Restoring Communities Programme (RCP) is part of the Community Environmental Action Plan process and aims to tackle the problems of dereliction and decay in the settlements identified as being in most need within the SIP area, which have been of particular concern to many residents of the Coalfield Area. The SIP Board agreed that a pilot project should focus on Main Street, Auchinleck, the results of which would allow the Board to determine whether the adopted approach would be suitable to roll out to other settlements in the Coalfield Area. The RCP has made considerable progress during its first year including:

- the appointment of the Restoring Communities Programme Regeneration Officer;
- completion of a town appraisal for Auchinleck, designed to identify local issues, which was undertaken by the consultant in conjunction with a local community group and the RCP Regeneration Officer;
- confirmation of secured Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) involvement to take forward a one-stop-shop in Auchinleck;

- completion of the first project demolition at Main Street, Auchinleck; and
- establishment of the Revolving Fund for Demolitions linked to the RCP set up and initial funding secured from the Scottish Executive and Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.

The emphasis throughout the life of the project is partnership working with the local community.

- **KICKSTART Programme**

The four Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnerships have been working jointly throughout the year to take forward the KICKSTART initiatives established by the Scottish Executive and adopted by Communities Scotland. The programme offered grant assistance of £40,000 to establish one post which would operate across the four SIPs to:

- develop local projects;
- identify funding strategies and deal with application processes;
- effectively manage any funds awarded; and
- forge links with the local Council of Voluntary Organisations (CVO).

The four SIPs have carried out a range of work in an attempt to take up this offer, however, SIP Managers found it difficult to make sense of the package of support which would provide one worker to cover such a wide geographical area.

Communities Scotland, therefore, agreed to split the £40,000 allocation between the four SIPs and the Manager Social Inclusion has been working with the CVO (East Ayrshire) in relation to utilising this funding to enhance the organisation's ability to assist groups to secure external funding and the work will be carried forward throughout 2003-04. A new worker has been appointed, the target group, young people, identified and building the capacity of organisations commissioned to the CVO. An effective start has been made and the full benefits will be realised during 2003-04.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- **Community involvement and development**

Nine community representatives, including four members of the Coalfield Communities Federation, have continued to participate as full members of the SIP Board and have made a valuable contribution to the success of the SIP since its inception. The CCF ensures that those living in the Coalfield communities inform, on a routine basis, the strategic direction and future programme activity of the SIP.

There is real engagement of and involvement with communities through both the initiatives which are working on the ground and active, well informed and supported community representatives who are invaluable in articulating community concerns, identifying priority issues and participating in taking forward solutions to address them.

- **Private sector involvement**

The Employment Working Group commissioned a consultant who was tasked with establishing an Employers' Forum to inform the development of a long term vision for the Coalfield Area and represent local business on the SIP Board. The Employers' Forum of business people who live and work in the local area has been established and the SIP Board is currently considering appropriate opportunities for future interaction with this group.

- **Voluntary sector involvement**

The voluntary sector continues to be represented on the SIP Board and there has been a significant investment in the voluntary managed initiatives in the local area, including the Volunteer Centre (East Ayrshire) and the local Council of Voluntary Organisations.

In addition, there has been a marked increase in the number of people volunteering their time in SIP projects and other community and voluntary organisations.

- **Partnership structures and their effectiveness**

The Coalfield Area SIP Board is autonomous and formally constituted and the partnership structures have continued to be effective throughout 2002-03 as the SIP has implemented its strategy. Details of Board membership have been included as Appendix 1(a) and 1(b).

The Social Inclusion Implementation Group continues to address urgent matters outwith the meeting cycle of the SIP Board. In addition, a Scheme of Delegation which was introduced last year to provide the Manager of Social Inclusion with delegated powers to manage a development budget to fund smaller initiatives linked to the SIP's priorities has proved beneficial.

The effectiveness of these structures is demonstrated by the many successes of the initiatives which are funded by the SIP to ensure that those who live in the Coalfield communities of East Ayrshire have increased opportunities and choices and an improved quality of life.

- **Support Team**

The SIP Support Team continues to respond to and progress the decisions of the SIP Board. The current staffing structure has been included at Appendix 2(a) and 2(b).

The Social Inclusion Co-ordinator commenced employment in August 2002 to fulfil the strategic and operational requirements within the Support Team and staff contracts were extended until March 2004. The SIP Office has also provided a training opportunity for a trainee clerical assistant from East Ayrshire Council's Skillseeker programme.

The staffing review was concluded and a confidential report submitted for SIP Board approval in June 2002. Members agreed to endorse the proposals contained within the report and the Manager Social Inclusion was remitted to carry out all necessary tasks, in consultation with the Implementation Group, to ensure that the recommendations arising from the staffing review were fully implemented.

However, in response to the significant new legislative obligations, ongoing revisions have been made to ensure that the new structure is 'fit for purpose' in relation to the community planning framework and the review arrangements will be taken forward in the near future.

- **Links to other organisations**

The SIP has continued to link to a range of organisations throughout the year including those listed below.

- **East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative** – close links have been maintained through the Manager Social Inclusion and, wherever possible, the good practice of the innovative work being undertaken in the south is implemented in the north of East Ayrshire. The Coalfield Communities Federation has been working with community representatives from the North Social Inclusion Initiative to establish a Federation of Community Groups in the north of East Ayrshire.
- **Dalmellington Partnership** – as part of the Environmental Improvement Programme, the Dalmellington Partnership expressed its intention to apply for funds to develop a piece of public art within the Town Centre. After detailed consideration of available funding opportunities it was considered that the SIP apply for funding on behalf of the Dalmellington Partnership. Consequently, £10,000 has been secured from the Scottish Arts Council to appoint an artist to work with local people to develop and design a 'public art work' for Dalmellington Town.
- **East Ayrshire Council's Community Services Department** – in conjunction with SIP Board, the Recreation Services Section of the Community Services Department submitted applications to both Sportscotland's SIP Lottery Programme and to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) PE & Sports in Schools - Active Steps Programme, to implement the Sports and Social Inclusion project on an East Ayrshire-wide basis from April 2003. Sportscotland approved the submission for £113,000 in November 2002 and the NOF approval for £96,000 was received in March 2003.
- **East Ayrshire Council's Corporate Resources Department** – officers from the SIP Support Team continue to work closely with East Ayrshire Council's Public Relations Section in relation to the production of quality promotional material and SIP publicity, ensuring that full recognition is given to the value of Scottish Ministers' Social Inclusion Partnership Funds and the support of any partners.
- **East Ayrshire Community Planning process** – links have already been established via the Manager Social Inclusion who takes a lead role in taking

forward the community planning agenda within East Ayrshire. Initial steps have been taken to ensure that the best practice of the SIP funded projects and initiatives is recognised and taken forward through the community planning process.

- **Strathclyde European Partnership (SEP)** – the SIP has been requested to comment on the 'strategic fit' of a range of applications for European Funding against the SIP's core objectives. This task has been devolved to the Manager Social Inclusion who responds to SEP detailing support, or otherwise, as required and reports recommendations retrospectively to the SIP Board.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- **Financial and Performance Monitoring Systems**

Rigorous project monitoring systems continue to operate effectively and efficiently as follows:

- projects are monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure that they are progressing towards agreed set targets and appropriate flexibility is inherent in the system to revise targets, as appropriate;
- quarterly monitoring reports are prepared by each project and Project Performance Reports are presented to the SIP Board on a bi-annual basis;
- annual performance meetings are convened throughout February and March each year to agree targets for the forthcoming year;
- grant payment claim forms are submitted to the SIP on a quarterly basis and strict auditing procedures remain in place which are imposed by both the SIP and East Ayrshire Council, as grant recipient; and
- annual review meetings are convened with all projects in November each year.

As a result of the significant increase in the number of SIP funded initiatives currently operating throughout the Coalfield Area, it had become increasingly difficult for the Implementation Group to undertake Annual Review meetings with each of the projects within the allocated timescales.

Consequently, the Annual Review process was reviewed and the following arrangements were approved by the SIP Board for implementation from 2002 onwards:

- All annual review meetings will be carried out throughout October and November each year.
- The Manager Social Inclusion and appropriate members of the SIP Support Team will convene annual review meetings to ensure that projects are meeting the agreed targets and complying with the terms and conditions of grant required by the SIP and Communities Scotland.
- Members of the Implementation Group will meet with relevant staff and Supervising Officers from the following SIP funded initiatives:
 - new projects;

- projects which appear to give cause for concern or have particular issues which require to be addressed; and
 - projects which are of specific interest to the Implementation Group.
- The Manager Social Inclusion, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Social Inclusion Co-ordinator undertake all the remaining annual review meetings.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL OUT-TURN EXPENDITURE FOR 2002-2003

Systems for regular financial reporting to the SIP Board by both the Manager Social Inclusion and East Ayrshire Council's Director of Finance remain in place.

Detailed in Appendix 3 is the full financial expenditure for the period 1 April 2002–31 March 2003.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS 2002-2003

The SIP is committed to ensuring that every initiative within its programme is of the highest quality and that services are developed based on identified need rather than the availability of funding. In addition, the SIP ensures that the projects which it funds link strategically to the activity of all partner agencies working in the Coalfield Area and to the emerging community planning priorities in East Ayrshire.

To this end, the SIP has funded and supported a range of projects and initiatives which can deliver an effective, quality service. It is these projects which deliver the achievements of the SIP. Listed below, under the themes to which they most directly relate, is the Programme of Projects 2002-03 and a summary of achievement for the year.

THEME: PEOPLE INTO WORK

- **CONDUIT ILM** provides training and support to enable unemployed people to access employment opportunities in administration and information and communication technology. Participants also provide assistance to access a public intranet service and practical support to local community and voluntary groups and small businesses. Achievements include:
 - 31 individuals (11 male and 20 female) participating on the programme, 9 of whom had been unemployed for more than 12 months;
 - 14 participants (4 male and 10 female) securing employment and still in employment after 3 months;
 - 9 individuals achieving SVQ Administration Level 2 and 1 individual achieving SVQ Administration Level 3;
 - 11 participants achieving the European Computer Driving Licence qualification;
 - 5 participants completing driving theory tests and 1 individual achieving a full driving licence through funding from the project development budget;

- 8 local employers providing a range of work experience placements to all project participants;
 - 30 community/voluntary organisations receiving assistance from the project through the provision of administrative and IT support; and
 - approval of the funding application to the European Social Fund to March 2004.
- **East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY)** provides a programme of intensive support, guidance and training to assist young people aged 16-18 years to realise their full potential and to secure work or further training. An aftercare service provides continued support for up to six months. Achievements include:
 - 59 participants (36 male and 23 female) recruited, 11 of whom had been unemployed for more than 12 months;
 - 5 participants securing employment, 14 into further training and 7 into full-time education;
 - 31 participants completing basic first aid training and 8 completing the Personal Care Unit of the ASDAN Lifeskills training programme;
 - 28 participants completing a work experience placement with a local employer;
 - establishment of a Breakfast Club funded by NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Health Improvement Fund;
 - provision of residential courses at Aviemore, Aberfeldy and Loch Eil for 30 participants, which for many is their first time away from home;
 - the display of the 'EASY on the Move' art exhibition in the Box Café, Cumnock in November 2002; and
 - relocation of the project to new premises in Cumnock in February 2003 which have been refurbished by the SIP.
- **East Ayrshire Woodlands** is an intermediate labour market (ILM) project, which provides opportunities for long-term unemployed people through the planting and management of native woodlands. SIP funding has allowed the project to extend the range of training and temporary employment opportunities in the Coalfield Area and to enhance the range and nature of the environmental improvements undertaken. Achievements include:
 - 50 individuals participating in training and 13 completing the programme;
 - 11 participants achieving SVQ Forestry Level 2 and 11 are currently progressing towards the full qualification;
 - 12 completers achieving certificates of competence in sectoral related skills, for example, chainsaw operation, fencing and brushcutter/trimmer operation; and 7 achieving a Safe Use of Pesticides module and 4 achieving a Hand Held Applicators Pesticides module;
 - 5 completers securing full time employment and 2 currently on placement with a local arboricultural company;
 - all participants undertaking weekly formal core skills training in Numeracy, Literacy, Problem Solving, Working with Others, and Information Technology since February 2002; and
 - approval of the funding application to Strathclyde European Partnership to support 24 beneficiaries throughout 2003-04.

- **East Ayrshire Works** is an ILM project for long-term unemployed individuals who are aged 18-24 years. It is a 52-week programme mixing work experience with SVQ and on the job training. Achievements include:
 - 9 participants attending the 18-24 programme and 11 participants attending the 25+ programme secured employment;
 - 10 achieving SVQ Level 2 and 8 achieving European Computer Driving Licence qualifications;
 - 10 receiving driver training and 11 participating in on-the-job training, including health and safety, telephone techniques and grass cutting/strimmer operation; and
 - establishment of the project in the Doon Valley area.

- **Individual Employment Fund** assists unemployed people to re-enter employment by providing grant assistance and vocational courses which link to skills shortages and job vacancies. Achievements include:
 - 44 applications supported, 29 individuals supported into employment, 4 into training and 11 to interview; and
 - maintenance of established links to the Action Team for Jobs and the project has contacted Careers Scotland to facilitate co-ordinated support to 16-17 year olds.

- **Ayrshire Electronic Community (AEC)** seeks to build community capacity across Ayrshire through use of ICT. Achievements include:
 - 152 community events/networks/initiatives supported in the Coalfield Area;
 - 73 organisations provided with ICT support;
 - 8 learning centres and 13 small/micro/medium enterprises (SMEs) supported; and
 - 5 unemployed individuals supported into employment.

- **East Ayrshire JobRotation Project** assists small/micro/medium enterprises (SMEs) in relation to training and development of staff. In addition, the project tackles unemployment by providing work, training and paid employment for long-term unemployed people. Achievements include:
 - appointment of project staff and the establishment of and implementation of appropriate administrative systems;
 - the recruitment of SMEs and JobRotation trainees commenced; and
 - the formal launch of the project on 14 March 2003, attended by Des Browne, MP.

- **People into Work Summary**

A total of 90 individuals have been supported into work, 30 into further education/training, 50 completed vocational qualifications, 19 achieved the European Computer Driving Licence qualification and 154 accessed training opportunities throughout 2002-03. In addition, the SIP has contributed to

employment opportunities for 73 full-time and part-time project staff as well as funding 7 full time posts within the SIP Support Team.

THEME: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **Alternatives to Addiction** provides an innovative service to local primary and secondary schools, youth groups and service users. This preventative work creates a package which develops awareness of the risks associated with drugs and alcohol. Achievements include:
 - 125 pupils registered and 317 attendances recorded at Drongan Summer School;
 - implementation of work programmes in 3 primary schools;
 - establishment of a service user group attracting up to 6 participants per session;
 - 30 Women's Group meetings and group participation in the International Women's Day Event which attracted 170 adults and 73 children;
 - 158 pupils in Primary 6/7 from 2 primary schools attending the 'I Don't Want To Be Like That' Fablevision Theatre in Education performance;
 - 181 infants in 3 primary schools attending the 'Big Bag' play and follow up workshop; and
 - the completion of the Board Game designed by Doon Academy pupils which will be piloted during 2003-04.

- **Arts for Adults with Disabilities** supports adults with a disability to participate, either on an individual or group basis, in a range of arts. Achievements include:
 - 3 sessional workers delivering a programme of dance and arts/crafts and 4 staff members participating in and supporting the groups;
 - amalgamation of existing dance groups to form one group and progress made towards formally constituting the larger group;
 - 160 sessions delivered and approximately 24 individuals attending the sessions each week; and
 - establishment of links to national dance companies.

- **The Aspirational Learning** programme continues to be delivered to raise the confidence and self-esteem of those living in the Coalfield communities. The programme has been successful with members of the community and participants in employment and addiction initiatives. Delivery of the Breakthrough programme has been less successful in SIP funded initiatives for young people and discussions are, therefore, ongoing with the Council's Department of Educational and Social Services regarding piloting the delivery of the programme as an element of the school curriculum. Achievements include:
 - 3 key project staff from SIP initiatives participating in the Investment in Excellence programme and completing facilitators' training;
 - 41 participants completing the STEPS programme; and
 - 6 members of the Coalfield Communities Federation and 3 SIP Support Team members participating in a STEPS programme.

- **The Children's Holiday Project** provides the opportunity for a low cost, one-week break for children and families in most need. It can also help families who cannot afford a holiday, carers who need to relax and recharge their batteries or youth or single parent groups. Achievements include:
 - awareness raising of the project throughout the Coalfield Area and promotion of the service in 8 targeted communities and 5 rural areas;
 - 32 holiday opportunities accessed by 106 children and 79 adults;
 - widespread support of the project from communities and 2 local representatives are members of the project committee;
 - continuation of the additional benefits from last year including complimentary fresh fruit through the healthy eating initiative, free dental products through the dental awareness initiative and advice from the home security awareness project; and
 - provision of a savings scheme allowing opportunities for families to save regularly towards a holiday.

- **Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF)** allows representatives from all local communities to have their voices heard in a forum that informs the strategic direction and future programme of activity of the SIP. The CCF has core representation on the SIP Board. Achievements include:
 - 20 members representing local areas and communities of interest and 1 individual member;
 - establishment of 7 sub groups to progress specific work including media, broadband, heritage promotion, and transport issues;
 - preparation of 2 funding applications which have been approved including an application to East Ayrshire Council for the Young Citizens' pack;
 - 9 participants undertaking 20 training sessions including IT Skills, Aspirational Learning and Writing Skills;
 - 6 primary schools and 1 secondary school providing 15 entries to the CCF sponsored schools art competition;
 - distribution of the 'Glennie' bi-annual newsletter to every household in the Coalfield Area; and
 - implementation of a rota for displaying promotional material within community facilities.

- **Coalfield Community Transport Limited** provides affordable, accessible transport to community and voluntary groups within the Coalfield Area which enables them to participate in community activities. Achievements include:
 - over 180 people attending the formal project launch in May 2002 by the Deputy Minister for Social Justice;
 - 3 vehicles available with or without driver hire;
 - 140 voluntary drivers registered and 52 completing MiDAS training;
 - 106 community, voluntary and other non-profit making groups receiving affiliated membership;
 - over 460 bookings received and 5260 passengers travelling with CCT throughout the year; and

- 3 individuals achieving the MiDAS Driver Assessor Training qualification, 3 achieving MiDAS Passenger Assistant Training qualification and 1 achieving the Emergency Evacuation Training qualification.
- **Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union** has been established to promote thrift by encouraging members to save regularly and to provide loans to members at a reasonable rate of interest. Achievements include:
 - 1 full time and 1 part-time staff in post and 23 volunteers actively participating in the project;
 - 11 additional volunteers trained and 6 awaiting training;
 - 195 qualifying members and 27 junior savers registered to date;
 - a total of over £23,000 saved and 52 loan applications approved totalling £12,500; and
 - identification of collection points in rural villages is currently being progressed.
- **East Ayrshire Carers Centre (Satellite Service) and Young Carers Initiative** - The Centre provides information, advice and support to carers of all ages who have responsibility for looking after someone who is ill, frail or disabled. Achievements include:
 - 622 carers/59 young carers registered with the Centre at 31 March 2003;
 - 7 carers' support groups established and 38 group sessions attracting 188 attendances (4 male and 184 female);
 - 3 young carers support groups established and 84 group sessions attracting 965 attendances (203 male and 762 female);
 - establishment of one-to-one sessions on a monthly basis and a total of 93 sessions, including 24 sessions with young carers, undertaken to date;
 - 423 referrals received via 2 local GP practices;
 - establishment of links to Logan and Greenmill primary schools;
 - 28 young carers accessing residential respite breaks at either Aviemore or Devon; and
 - 636 information packs and 566 leaflets distributed.
- **Volunteer Centre (East Ayrshire)** supports the development of volunteering within East Ayrshire. Achievements include:
 - 82 volunteers (29 male and 53 female) assisted;
 - 72 groups registered, 41 from the SIP area;
 - 4 training courses organised for volunteers including Induction to Volunteering and Research Skills; and
 - the launch of the national volunteering database in March 2003.
- **Older People's Day Care Service Users Group** has developed new day care services within the Coalfield Area to provide social, emotional and physical support to older, vulnerable/frail people in the community. Internet access is now available for older people in the day care centres. Achievements include:

- relocation of the project to premises which meet registration standards at Roseburn Day Care Centre, Cumnock in October 2002;
 - 3 day care facilities providing 46 places for older people;
 - availability of Internet cafés in each of the facilities;
 - establishment of links with 1 local school and 12 young people involved in interactive activities; and
 - mainstreaming of Muirkirk, New Cumnock and Mauchline day care services by East Ayrshire Council from April 2003.
- **Prince's Trust Volunteer Programme** is a personal development and training programme, assisting 16-25 year olds to develop motivation and skills through team work in the community. Achievements include:
 - 3 teams and 31 participants (21 male and 10 female) recruited;
 - 20 participants (15 male and 5 female) completing the programme and 19 (14 male and 5 female) achieving SVQ qualifications;
 - 6 unemployed male participants securing employment, 7 unemployed participants (4 male and 3 female) entering full-time education and 6 participants (5 male and 1 female) continuing to work in a voluntary capacity; and
 - completion of a community project and a team challenge by each of the teams which benefited local communities.
- **yipworld.com** is an Internet model of youth provision incorporating a range of formal and informal activities for young people aged 10-25 years living in the Coalfield Area. yipworld.com hosts a range of initiatives designed to address issues such as drug misuse, community safety and healthy lifestyles. Achievements include:
 - approximately 2059 members registered, to date, and 19,200 attendances recorded;
 - 76 volunteers (12 adult and 64 young people) actively contributing to the service;
 - over 50 young people participating in snowboarding trips and 33 participating in a range of Duke of Edinburgh Award activities;
 - provision of 6 places per hour, per day in the crèche which is open weekdays and 15 children currently registered;
 - achievement of the Investors in People Award. yipworld.com is the first SIP funded project and youth initiative in Scotland to achieve this award.
- **Ethnic Minority Inclusion** will develop effective communication strategies with ethnic minority families to facilitate better access to services, resources and community initiatives; offer a range of supports, using community languages where appropriate; allow informed decision-making; and increase opportunities and participation. Achievements include:
 - 1 Ethnic Minority Information Assistant and 2 Bilingual Support Assistants appointed;
 - production of project leaflets which are available in Chinese, Urdu and Punjabi;

- establishment of personal contact and links to local ethnic minority groups via the Ethnic Minority Forum;
 - 14 ethnic minority groups consulted and 2 Chinese representatives identified to participate on the working group;
 - 2 PC laptops available, both with Twinbridge Chinese and Urdu/English Windows installed; and
 - implementation of school surveys to determine the number of ethnic minority pupils attending local schools.
- **Investment in Drama** – Over two years, this initiative will increase access for excluded people over 16 years to professional drama activity designed to respond on three levels:
 - Level One Outreach into Rural Communities
 - Level Two Training to Employment -Skill Building
 - Level Three Investing in the Future of Drama

Achievements include:

- the formal launch of the project which took place in November 2002 at Dunaskin Heritage Centre, Waterside and was particularly well received by those who attended;
- 6 community drama groups established in the Coalfield Area and 65 workshops implemented;
- 3 groups, 25 participants, taking part in skill building workshops, including role play, relaxation and interview techniques;
- development of information packs which are available to each participant;
- promotion of the project through a Christmas show presented in all Level 1 locations in December 2002 and participation in Dalmellington Christmas Fair; and
- provision of 1 hour workshops for children at yipworld.com which are facilitated by Level 3 trainees.

THEME: POSITIVE HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Food Initiative** works with local community based food initiatives, community dieticians, health promotion staff and the private sector to address issues of food poverty and promote healthy eating by increasing awareness of the issues and range of food choices. Achievements include:
 - provision of healthy snacks and buffets to 14 Kids Clubs and healthy eating resource packs available for use;
 - 8 vulnerable families supported and basic kitchen equipment packs provided;
 - 24 families receiving Christmas hampers;
 - provision of healthy picnics to 40 groups (200 young people) between July-August 2002;
 - 53 young people attending group work sessions during January-February 2003 receiving healthy snacks;
 - 29 groups/589 key individuals contacted in relation to food issues and 69 group activity sessions provided;

- 39 cooking awareness sessions presented to 285 participants; and
 - commissioning of an evaluation of the Community Food Worker element of the project which should be completed by end May 2003.
- **Healthy Living Initiative (C.H.I.P. Van)** provides a mobile resource which ensures improved access to health information and advice, greater community participation through the establishment of local health forums, greater access to specialist health services, such as community dieticians and exercise consultants, and improved health and well being. Achievements include:
 - 84 visits/2055 attendances recorded within 11 targeted communities;
 - 1332 rapid appraisals completed in 10 areas and 1 local action plan produced for each area;
 - 8 lifestyle clinics established and 171 referrals received through the GP referral exercise programme;
 - provision of stress reduction classes and weekly exercise classes operating in 9 areas;
 - 4 volunteers from the local community attending Dalmellington Area Forum which is meeting regularly; and
 - presentation of the keynote speech at the New Opportunities Fund Annual Healthy Living Conference by the project Manager.
- **Creative Skills Programme** is aimed at people who require support with learning, specifically those disadvantaged by mental health problems and/or learning difficulties, and focuses on personal and social development within an art and craft type environment. SIP funding allows the project to expand and develop in the Coalfield Area. Achievements include:
 - 16 participants (5 male and 11 female) from the Coalfield Area achieving individual learning targets;
 - expansion of the programme curriculum to include adult literacy and student groupings which have been revised according to ability and need;
 - progression of a formal partnership between a number of relevant agencies which will develop a framework to provide an integrated service encompassing a range of services from hospital to employment; and
 - enhancement of the programme through further funding from East Ayrshire Literacy Funding, which has provided resources for individual need to be met on a one-to-one basis as well as for the purchase of laptops and software to meet the needs of the client group.
- **Recreation Partnership Project** focuses on primary school aged children to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities and healthy lifestyle awareness for children aged 5-12 years. Achievements include:
 - Active Recreation and Health Awareness sessions delivered to all P3 and P5 pupils in all primary schools in the SIP area;
 - completion of 2 playground designs at local primary schools;
 - over 5,100 attendances recorded at 12 Saturday Kids Clubs during 2002-03;
 - 1934 Recreation Inclusion Cards for Kids (RICK) renewed on 31 January 2003;

- approximately 3270 attendances recorded at 14 Summer Kids Clubs, an increase of over 23 percent on the previous year;
- provision of a range of specialist activities at RICK discounted prices during the summer holiday period, including SFA Summer Roadshows, CHAMPS Special Needs Clubs and Arts Workshops;
- a total of 118 Community Recreation Workers registered on the database, 42 residing in the SIP area and 28 involved in the delivery of sessions on a regular basis;
- approximately 110 children from the Coalfield Area Kids Clubs participating in the Ruby Young Fun Run at Dean Park, Kilmarnock raising £165 for the Ayrshire Hospice;
- production of a short promotional video highlighting the range and diversity of services provided; and
- acknowledgement of the project as an example of good practice in national research documents commissioned by the Scottish Executive.

THEME: COMMUNITY LEARNING

- **Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC)** is a high quality, multi purpose facility which provides a focal point for training, an advisory service and access to ICT for everyone. Achievements include:
 - 40 businesses/business employees provided with training/support and 3 new start up companies receiving advice/expertise or training;
 - 22 employees from small/micro/medium enterprise companies (SMEs) working towards the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) qualification;
 - 79 individuals registering for ECDL training and 24 completing the qualification;
 - 780 attendances recorded at the Centre; and
 - a project open day in September 2002 to welcome CONDUIT ILM to the shared premises.

- **Community Learning Opportunities** is working to develop and enhance existing activity in relation to parent/school partnerships, essential learning skills and young people and pregnancy. Achievements include:
 - 28 family learning sessions attracting 203 participants (101 adults and 102 children) at 7 local schools;
 - 29 children and 31 adults participating in 'Pram to Primary' courses at 4 local schools;
 - 54 parenting skills sessions delivered to 111 participants and the 'Virtual Baby Experience' delivered in 3 schools to 44 participants;
 - 17 males participating in the 'Virtual Baby Experience' and 7 taking the 'baby' home for the weekend;
 - 4 workshop sessions delivered in 11 youth groups attracting 193 participants and 27 sessions delivered in 3 schools attracting 188 participants;
 - introduction of the 'Virtual Baby Experience' into the curriculum at Cumnock and Auchinleck Academies as part of the Lifestyle and Consumer courses in the Home Economics Department; and

- 4 essential skills tutors providing 155 learning support sessions to 14 students and a communication skills package developed for under 25s.

THEME: LIVING IN A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT

- **Community Environmental Action Plans and Projects** – The project produces individual environmental improvement action plans (EIAPs) for settlements within the SIP area with the full involvement of local communities. Projects identified through the EIAPs are also implemented. Achievements include:
 - production of Action Plans for 7 local areas and 1 draft Action Plan out for community consultation;
 - 9 projects implemented throughout the Coalfield Area;
 - 29 funding applications approved which levered in £208,000;
 - implementation of the Revolving Communities Programme and the Regeneration Officer in post since November 2002;
 - completion of Auchinleck Town Appraisal and the pilot project in Main Street, Auchinleck in progress; and
 - establishment of an Officer Working Group and the Revolving Fund for Demolitions in operation.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- **Cumnock Swimming Pool** has been in the planning stage for seven years and will provide a purpose built indoor swimming pool and health/fitness suite which will serve Cumnock and the surrounding area. The new centre will create 11 full-time and 10 part-time jobs. Achievements include:
 - confirmation of financial support from a range of funders to complete a total package of over £2million; and
 - approval, in principle, of planning permission, tendering process completed and the preferred contractor appointed.
- **Family Centre Development** will provide a new Family Centre for people with young families in the Cumnock area. The development will provide 9 places for 0-2 year olds, 10 places for 2-3 year olds and additional places for 3-5 year olds and will be the first time that a Primary School campus in East Ayrshire is able to provide services for children from 0-11 years. Achievements include:
 - confirmation of the overall funding package of approximately £700,000; and
 - approval of planning permission for the development completed, site works commenced and the completion date anticipated in late summer 2003.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- **External Funding Opportunities** - The SIP and related projects have continued to attract substantial funding from a range of providers throughout 2002-03 including Community Fund, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, European Regional

Development Fund, Awards for All, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and the Scottish Executive (non SIP funding).

The dedicated Funding and Sustainability Worker from the SIP Support Team has provided advice and assistance to a range of voluntary and community groups throughout the Coalfield Area. Achievements include:

- 58 community and voluntary groups receiving assistance;
- preparation of 32 applications submitted to a range of external funders;
- 15 successful applications to external funders and confirmed funding totalling over £262,000;
- 14 applications to the Minerals Trust and confirmed funding of £156,000; and
- 2 applications for external funding totalling £205,000 are currently being considered and additional bids valued over £1.2million will be developed and submitted within the next six months.

In addition, substantial financial awards from the Scottish Executive and a range of external funders, including Sportscotland and the European Social Fund, totalling in excess of £3.69million, have been secured by a number of SIP funded projects and initiatives as follows:

• Public Transport	£2.1million
• Sport and Social Inclusion	£209,000
• CONDUIT	£172,100
• East Ayrshire Woodland	£154,500
• JobRotation	£165,400
• Business Technology Training Centre	£ 27,900
• Ayrshire Electronic Community	£864,300

The SIP has also secured the involvement of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) for a 'One Stop Shop' in Auchinleck.

- **Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme** is a well established community group which operates a valuable service throughout the Coalfield Area. Families and individuals in need are provided with donated household furnishings and equipment, wherever required. The SIP Board agreed to provide financial assistance to part-fund the replacement of the organisation's vehicle which was purchased in 1993. Achievements include:
 - confirmation of £8,000 from SCORE Environment Ltd to assist with the purchase of the new vehicle; and
 - over 300 residents throughout the Coalfield Area assisted and provided with household items.
- **The Ayrshire Key Fund** awards up to £25,000 to community based, not for profit organisations, which can demonstrate that they are operating within, or providing services to recognised SIP areas in Ayrshire. The Fund supports a broad range of activities including employment of new staff, business planning, premises refurbishment, training and ICT development. Achievements include:

- a total of £305,000 awarded from the European Regional Development fund to match the Ayrshire SIPs' contribution;
- establishment of appropriate assessment panels and the project launched in June 2002; and
- 17 applications received and 6 supported with grants totalling over £92,000.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS AMONG THE MANY

- **Coalfield Community Transport – officially launched**

Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) was formally launched in May 2002 by the then Deputy Minister for Social Justice, Hugh Henry, who commended the Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF) for its hard work in establishing a much needed service in the Coalfield Area. CCT grew directly out of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) as a result of the transport problems identified when the SIP hosted a People's Jury in May 2000.

Using public transport to get to work, training, healthcare and social activities was associated with many of the difficulties in a number of areas due to the lack of services available. Specific reference was made to the issue of safety when old, young or otherwise vulnerable people required to travel in the evenings. CCT has offered a solution to many of these difficulties.

The CCF, at the request of the SIP, has overseen the establishment of the community transport initiative and has ensured that all the transport issues identified by the People's Jury have been addressed.

CCT has been set up as a limited company with one hundred shares, all owned by the CCF. The project has taken delivery of 2 'state of the art' minibuses and a people carrier and has been operational since May 2002. Targets for the first year included affiliating 50 user groups and recruiting 45 volunteer drivers. It has, in fact, affiliated over 100 community groups, with many reporting dramatic increases in activity levels, and 140 volunteer drivers, all of whom undertake MiDAS training, have been registered.

The service has also enabled 32 children from Muirkirk Primary School to be transported to Auchinleck Academy for swimming lessons. It is a round trip of almost 30 miles and it is the first time in its history that the school has been able to offer swimming lessons to its pupils.

A remarkable start has been made to the transport initiative and its success is tied to its role in the SIP.

- **Investment in Drama – the Arts come to local communities**

The SIP was pleased to welcome an exciting and innovative new project which got underway in August 2002, namely, the Investment in Drama project which offers access to the very best of drama activity for all Coalfield residents. The project

operates at three very different levels ensuring that it can offer something for everyone in the SIP area.

Level 1 sees the formation of six new community drama groups in local areas and is particularly aimed at adults aged sixteen and over who want to become involved, regardless of experience.

Level 2 is aimed at people who are out of work and are keen to get back on the employment ladder. This is the 'skill building through drama training' part of the Investment in Drama project and is based on the precept that drama can assist people to regain self confidence that is often lost through periods of unemployment.

Level 3 provides an opportunity to invest in the future of drama. Two young residents from the Coalfield Area are currently undertaking the Community Drama Trainee Apprenticeship as a means of pursuing a career in drama and an additional three places have become available. It is hoped that these individuals will continue a career within East Ayrshire as community drama workers of the future.

The project was officially launched in November 2002 at Dunaskin Heritage Centre, where an enthusiastic audience was thoroughly entertained and sampled a taste of what is yet to come.

The project is a response to the lack of drama opportunities available within the Coalfield Area identified, by local residents and has the added benefit of providing opportunities to assist unemployed people back into work.

- **National award for yipworld.com**

yipworld.com is a highly successful youth initiative, which has been funded by the SIP since its inception and opened its doors to the public in April 2000. The project attracts members throughout the Coalfield Area and was delighted to register its 2000th member at the end of Summer 2002. The membership has continued to grow and over fifty additional young people have registered with the project since that time, to date.

Those involved in the project have repeatedly set challenging targets for themselves and have always demonstrated determination in making the project a success. This has been clearly evident in yipworld.com's commitment to the continuous improvement and development of staff. Each individual is challenged to reach his/her potential and to constantly seek to improve in all areas of activity. The service is consequently developed through developing the people involved.

It is, therefore, no surprise that yipworld.com has recently achieved the 'Investors in People' (IIP) award, having been independently assessed against a recognised National Standard, and is now one of a select group of organisations committed to continuous improvement. It is to be commended that yipworld.com is not only the first SIP funded initiative but also the first youth related initiative to achieve this award.

The SIP is committed to providing a range of quality opportunities for young people in the Coalfield Area which are clearly provided by this initiative.

- **Virtual Baby Experience**

The Young People and Pregnancy element of the Community Learning Opportunities Project aims to raise young people's awareness of the realities of parenthood through the 'Virtual Baby Experience'.

The programme, which includes practical experience for participants in caring for a 'virtual baby' over a 48-hour period, has been implemented in youth groups and secondary schools throughout the south of East Ayrshire.

The work has been developed in partnership with health visitors and school staff and over two hundred young people, including seventeen boys, seven of whom have taken the baby home for the weekend, have participated in the programme throughout the year.

The 'Virtual Baby Experience' has contributed to the reduction in teenage pregnancies in East Ayrshire from 48.9 percent to 45.2 percent per 1000 female population, compared to an overall increase in Ayrshire from 43.4 percent to 48.7 percent. The programme has recently been integrated into the curriculum at both Auchinleck and Cumnock Academy as part of the Lifestyle and Consumer courses in the Home Economics Department.

- **Recreation Partnership Project –
'serious issues addressed through serious fun'**

The SIP has funded the Recreation Partnership Project since 1999, providing an opportunity for the initiative to expand its network of Kids Clubs to the whole of the Coalfield Area.

Since that time the project's activities have grown from its beginnings as an initiative offering social interaction opportunities to children aged 5-12 years, to a programme of educational activities, health awareness and physical activity sessions, which are now available through the local schools' curriculum as well as within the community.

Against a background of physically inactive communities, children who spend little time playing outdoors or participating in sports, poor diet and a history of vulnerability to coronary heart disease and respiratory illness, the role of the Recreation Partnership Project is working to demanding but very focused health objectives, which are generally accepted to make an impact on identified local and national health priorities.

The project aims to promote the general well being of children, improve their diet and step up work to improve lifestyles. Achievements, to date, have included:

- working with all primary schools in the Coalfield Area through gym and classroom based activity sessions to P3 and P5 pupils where they learn how to keep themselves healthy;

- working with 3 schools to design and build a themed play-area which allows children to participate in active play at break times as well as during lessons;
- provision of 14 Kids Clubs offering recreational activity, after school and during school holidays;
- introduction of the RICK (Recreation Inclusion Card for Kids) card membership scheme to make activities more affordable and to encourage maximum usage by all young people;
- working in partnership with the Community Food Initiative to provide healthy snacks and buffets to raise awareness of healthy food choices; and
- provision of opportunities to local people for employment and career development.

Success has bred success and, due to the quality, variety and effectiveness of the project, a successful application to Ayrshire and Arran NHS Health Improvement Fund saw the initiative being rolled out to all communities and used by 7000 children in East Ayrshire. In addition, the project has been cited as an example of best practice both locally and nationally.

Progress through Partnership – Dalmellington Area Centre scoops 3 national awards

The Dalmellington Area Centre, which was officially opened by HRH Princess Royal in September 2001, has been selected as the winner of three prestigious, national awards this year, namely:

- the Office for Public Management prize;
- the Building Better Healthcare Award 2002; and
- the Health Service Journal Management Award 2002.

This is the first time that these accolades have been bestowed on a Scottish project.

The Centre, which houses council, health, and police services all under one roof, is the first of its kind in Scotland and serves over 11,000 people within the Doon Valley area. It features a local office, police station, GP and dental services as well as a range of important medical clinics. Most council departments have a presence in the Centre and a Business Technology Training Centre and the Doon Valley Initiative, both funded by the SIP, are also housed there.

The Coalfield Area SIP worked in close partnership with East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust, Strathclyde Police, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and Strathclyde European Partnership to fund the new Centre, the total investment in which was £2.4million.

The Centre has brought excellent facilities to the heart of local communities through joint working and is delivering results and setting new standards. It is a benchmark against which future integrated public services will be judged and has been commended by award judges who stated that, "This is an innovative, successful model with excellent initial results. It is a one-stop shop that really meets the needs of all clients. It should be replicated throughout the UK".

Following the resounding success of Dalmellington Area Centre, the recently opened Drongan Centre is another example of committed partnership working and pooled resources to provide service excellence in the delivery of local public services.

PROGRESS IN RELATION TO TARGETS/INDICATORS

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the SIP has maintained links to and is represented on the following research/information groups:

- East Ayrshire Key Web Statistics Group; and
- Health Information, Monitoring and Evaluation for Social Inclusion Partnerships Group.

In November 2002, Communities Scotland proposed revised arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of Social Inclusion Partnerships to simplify arrangements and establish closer links to the Social Justice Milestones.

The SIP welcomed the revisions to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which have resulted in changes to the Compulsory Core Indicators reducing the original list of forty indicators to sixteen. In addition, Communities Scotland can provide the majority of data required to be included in this Annual Report through a new dedicated website.

The revised Monitoring Report has been updated with the most recent data available and has been included as Appendix 4 and a summary report demonstrating changes from the baseline position, where appropriate, has been included as Appendix 4(a).

- **Project Performance Information**

SIP funded projects continue to provide a range of performance information which is incorporated into the Performance Monitoring Reports presented to the SIP Board to reflect activity and achievement. Projects are also requested to prepare and submit annual reports, where appropriate. Initial work has been carried out to link project targets to the Social Justice Milestones and this work will be intensified throughout 2003-04.

- **Social Justice Milestones**

It had been a priority for the SIP to take forward its plans to make the links between the SIP performance indicators and the social justice targets and milestones more explicit. Initial work has been undertaken to address this matter throughout the year and will be the focus of considerable attention in the coming year.

The revised Core Compulsory Indicators will assist in this process and will contribute to the development of monitoring/evaluation under community planning.

SUSTAINABILITY

The SIP Board has a firm commitment to assist the projects and initiatives which it funds to explore options for sustainability beyond March 2004. Progress to date includes:

- Two projects, namely, Older People's Day Care Service Users Group and the Doon Valley Initiative, have been mainstreamed from April 2003 by East Ayrshire Council's Educational and Social Services.
- The 'Virtual Baby Experience' and the Recreation Partnership's 'Active Recreation and Health Awareness' programmes have been integrated into the curriculum of local schools.
- In addition, service reviews have been commissioned for carers and addiction services across the Coalfield Area.
- A project networking event, hosted by the SIP Board, in December 2002 provided an opportunity for project staff and supervising officers to consider sustainability beyond the life of the SIP, where appropriate. A particular issue arising from this event was the need for projects to become more proficient in business planning and a future seminar will be convened on this subject.
- Prior to this event, the Manager Social Inclusion and East Ayrshire Council's Depute Chief Executive met with relevant Heads of Service within the Council in an attempt to identify actions/routes for sustainability of local projects. Additional meetings have been convened as required.
- A list of the financial allocations for 2003-04 and the associated conditions made by the SIP Board have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council's Corporate Strategy Group. Consequently, Group members have been requested to ensure that all actions, including those relating to sustainability, are progressed appropriately.
- Where necessary, the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer has been assigned the task of assisting SIP funded projects and initiatives to identify and successfully access appropriate external funding.
- In addition, the Community Planning Joint Officer's Group has been asked to consider how each of the projects might be continued on conclusion of the funding period in 2004 through, for example, partner funding, joint funding or reconfiguration of services. As a starting point, partners have agreed to convene meetings to move forward on the initiatives where they have an interest.
- Further preparatory work is underway to inform how the following initiatives can be taken forward jointly:
 - **Volunteer Centre and Council for Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire)**, since volunteering is an element of all Partners' service provision; and

- **Ethnic Minority Inclusion**, in view of the responsibilities placed on partner agencies by the Race Relations Amendment Act, it is essential that the activity of this initiative is sustained and further work in relation to this matter is underway.
- Individual projects have been identified as requiring support in specific areas as a means of progressing sustainability issues and preparations are underway to commission suitably experienced consultants in relation to this matter.
- As part of the conditions of grant for 2003-04, a number of projects have been requested to prepare and submit sustainability plans to the SIP Board. In addition, project management committees have been requested to consider sustainability as a priority issue.

TRANSITION FRAMEWORK/COMMUNITY PLANNING

Communities Scotland has been tasked with establishing a framework to allow the transfer of area-based regeneration funding to community planning partnerships and the SIP has already established natural links to the community planning process as follows:

- The Manager Social Inclusion has taken a lead responsibility in relation to driving forward community planning within East Ayrshire.
- Senior officer representatives from the following core public agencies, who are members of the SIP Board, also participate in the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group, namely, East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire & Arran NHS, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and Strathclyde Police. The Joint Officers' Group has been established to:
 - agree operational activity in respect of East Ayrshire Community Plan; and
 - ensure appropriate implementation of action plans.
- The guiding principles of East Ayrshire Community Plan are closely aligned to those of the SIP Strategy for the Coalfield Area and include social justice and social inclusion.
- The Community Planning Partners are currently considering sustainability options for the programme of projects currently funded by the SIP.
- East Ayrshire Council and its Community Planning Partners have secured additional resources from the Scottish Executive to participate in the national pilot scheme in relation to community budgeting, a new approach which meets the needs of partnership working. The community budgeting exercise will complement and enhance the full review of addiction services within the Coalfield Area, previously agreed by the SIP Board.
- In order to provide local involvement from the Coalfield Area, the community representatives participating on the SIP Board have agreed to take part in a

focus group in relation to the community budgeting pilot which will ensure that their intensive local knowledge informs this exercise.

The SIP recognises that community planning offers a new opportunity to tackle the problems faced in our vulnerable communities and that effective partnership working, co-ordinated resources and the streamlining of services is the only way to ensure that poverty and injustice are tackled effectively.



TACKLING DRUG MISUSE

BACKGROUND

An allocation of £68,017 was made to East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) for 2002-03. The outline proposal in the bid was prepared taking account of the SIP's key priorities.

It also took account of the gaps in provision highlighted in the Scottish Executive guidance accompanying the notice of provisional allocation and was developed to address the main themes of:

- Providing Support to Families and Carers of Drug Users;
- Breaking Down Barriers to Employment; and
- Capacity Building in Communities and Relevant Voluntary Organisations.

Whilst these themes have remained the focus of work, projects have been refined, as they have been developed, to take account of changes of circumstances.

PROGRESS REPORT 2002-03

Detailed below is the position in respect of the projects funded to tackle drug misuse in the Coalfield Area to the end of March 2003.

- **Employability Initiative – The Elevation Project**

In the bid to the Tackling Drug Misuse Fund 2002-04, £10,000 was set aside as an element of the match fund for a pan-Ayrshire bid to the New Futures Fund in respect of an employability initiative for recovering substance users. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful. However, since the SIP Employment Working Group had identified this gap in service, the decision was taken by the

SIP Board to utilise the allocation to fund a 6-month pilot initiative within the Coalfield Area only.

The Elevation Project was developed in response to a locally identified need to support substance users into training, education and employment by assisting individuals to increase both their personal development and employability skills in order that they will be more opportunity ready.

A total of 14 recovering substance users participated in the programme of which:

- 7 individuals participated in an Investment in Drama programme which seeks to assist people back into work by building skills through drama training; and
- 13 individuals participated in the Essential Skills programme which works with individuals on literacy, numeracy and basic ICT skills.

In addition, through the Elevation Project pilot:

- individuals benefited from social skills training and individual support;
- individuals participated in the STEPS programme which increases self-confidence and self-esteem;
- the group participated in regular outdoor activities; and
- group members attended an outdoor activities weekend involving team-building and problem solving skills.

On completion of the programme, participants reported an increase in their level of self-confidence and felt that they were overcoming their individual barriers to moving on into employment. Achievements include:

- 2 participants now working part-time;
- 1 service user guaranteed employment on completion of a related training programme;
- the remaining 11 service users engaged with the mainstream JobcentrePlus Progress2Work initiative to assist them further in accessing training and employment opportunities; and
- 7 individuals on the waiting list to participate in the programme in 2003-04.

• **Capacity Building**

Local providers of services to families and their carers received facilitator training to enable them to deliver the personal development programmes of the Pacific Institute to their service users and management committees. These programmes have a proven record in addressing issues of lack of self-confidence and self-esteem and poor self-image in individuals, organisations and communities. Participation provides the foundation from which parents, carers and family members can deal with the problems of life with a substance user and move on in their own lives. The personal development and work practice of the staff of these organisations is significantly enhanced which benefits both them personally and the service users with whom they interact. Achievements include:

- 3 key project staff completing facilitators training to deliver appropriate programmes within their initiatives;

- 11 service users participating in the STEPS programme; and
- 10 volunteers participating in the STEPS programme.

- **Community Drugs Worker**

The Community Drugs Worker provides a range of interventions to chaotic drug users and those attempting to rebuild their lives following prolonged drug use. The primary focus of the work is on injecting drug users and their families. In addition, the worker assists in the provision of education, training and information as co-ordinated via the Ayrshire Addiction Training Forum. Achievements include:

- provision of support to 32 of the most chaotic drug users; and
- provision of assessment, crisis intervention, substitute prescribing, rehabilitation and “moving on” services.

- **Extension of Doon Valley Initiative**

Funding was allocated in Phase 1 of the Tackling Drug Misuse Programme to address issues of rurality, specifically in relation to the Doon Valley area. This funding has enabled the Bridge Project, which is based in Cumnock, to establish a base in the Doon Valley and provide additional counselling resources through the recruitment and training of sessional staff and volunteers. Localised delivery has addressed issues of distance, poor transport links and the cost of travel. The initiative is based in the new multi-agency area centre in Dalmellington and benefits from sharing premises with health professionals, Council services and the police.

Continued funding was awarded for 2002-03 to allow the initiative to further establish and develop its service and to be linked strategically to mainstream funding and services. Achievements include:

- 13 new referrals to the initiative;
- 18 service users supported on a regular basis;
- an average of 20 hours counselling, advice and support provided each week; and
- the initiative mainstreamed by the Council’s Department of Educational and Social Services from April 2003 and continuing to be delivered from Dalmellington Area Centre with no interruption of service for service users.

FORWARD PLAN 2003-2004

East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership has been allocated £102,025 for the year 2003-04. The following initiatives will address the identified priorities of the SIP and Communities Scotland.

Project	2003-04
Employability Initiative	£ 9,000
Capacity Building	£ 3,600
Community Drugs Worker	£ 30,900
Sport as an Alternative to Drug Misuse	£ 58,525
TOTAL	£102,025



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

BACKGROUND

Communities Scotland confirmed a funding allocation of £60,000 from the Empowering Communities Budget for 2002-03, to provide continuing support of community involvement in SIP activity.

A range of support systems designed to enhance the ability of community representatives to fully participate in the work of the SIP was introduced during 2001-02 and the SIP Board agreed to sustain this package of support throughout Year 2 of this initiative as follows:

- dedicated administrative and developmental support;
- ICT access for community representatives;
- community representatives' expenses;
- training for community representatives;
- SIP Resource Directory and Induction Pack; and
- young citizens' information pack.

PROGRESS REPORT - 2002-03

Detailed below is the progress made to 31 March 2003 in relation to empowering the communities in the Coalfield Area.

- **Community Support Worker**

The financial allocation continues to fund the employment of the Community Support Worker within the SIP Support Team until 31 March 2004, who provides appropriate assistance to the community representatives involved in SIP activity.

- **IT access in the homes of community representatives**

Ongoing revenue costs of the computers, which have been installed in the homes of community representatives on the SIP Board, are met by this Budget.

- **Expenses procedures**

The expenses procedure has operated effectively throughout the year and has fully met the requirements of the community representatives who have participated in SIP activity.

- **Training and Development**

The SIP continues to invest in training and development programmes for community representatives participating in social inclusion activity, as appropriate. Training courses accessed throughout the year have included ICT Skills, Aspirational Learning and Writing Skills.

- **SIP Resource Directory/Induction Pack**

The SIP Resource Directory is amended annually and has been distributed to all SIP projects, supervising officers and Board members. The Induction Pack has been revised, developed and updated to meet the requirements of community representatives.

- **Youth Citizenship/Community Empowerment**

A range of planned projects to secure young people's involvement as active citizens has included the development of a citizenship pack which was produced this year.

The development of the pack has five main aims:

- raise children's and young people's awareness of rights and responsibilities;
- foster a sense of self-esteem and respect for others among children and young people using the pack;
- empower children and young people to have a voice, recognise that they are stakeholders in their communities and facilitate their participation in local learning activities;
- encourage active citizenship; and
- provide a functional, community-orientated resource for teachers, youth workers, voluntary based organisations and other professional bodies.

The Youth Citizenship Pack seeks to address the children's rights and citizenship information needs of Primary Seven pupils and those young people whose links with school are limited for reasons of health or social exclusion.

The Pack consists of a range of informative material with an East Ayrshire specific orientation, including useful telephone numbers, a workbook exploring a range of issues including inclusion and equality and information sheets addressing key topics, such as democracy, health, safety and stakeholding in the community.

The Pack has been completed and will be distributed throughout East Ayrshire during 2003-04.

FORWARD PLAN 2003-2004

Communities Scotland has confirmed a budget allocation of £60,000 for Community Empowerment for 2003-04 which will be utilised to continue the existing support to community representatives and encourage further involvement and engagement by the wider community in preparation for the transfer to the community planning process.



PART B – FORWARD LOOK TO THE COMING YEAR

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

There are no major adjustments to be made to the objectives set in the Strategy for Social Inclusion in the Coalfield Area 2002-2004. The SIP will continue to tackle the issues and priorities identified within the local area by the communities and partner agencies under the five key themes. Any adjustments which are required as a result of the rigorous monitoring and evaluation process will be addressed timeously by the SIP Board.

WORK PROGRAMME AND RESOURCE PLAN

- **Work Programme**

The Work Programme for the coming year has been included as Appendix 5. This programme outlines the formal reporting requirements of statutory authorities and sets out the agreed targets for the 2003-04 Programme of Projects. These programmes have been presented to the SIP Board for approval.

The SIP Board is committed to assisting the programme of projects which it funds and will explore options for sustainability beyond 31 March 2004 as a priority issue. A range of support will be provided to projects, as appropriate, including training in relation to business planning.

A working group has already been established to prepare for and support the evaluation process which will be undertaken by an independent consultant during the summer months and an Action Plan will be developed when the final guidance becomes available from Communities Scotland.

In addition, an appropriate Work Plan will be prepared to respond to the requirements of the Transition Framework which will provide direction and clarity to both the SIP and the Community Planning Partners as they plan for the future.

- **Resource Plan**

Communities Scotland has indicated a requirement for Social Inclusion Partnerships to include a forward plan, which provides prescribed information, within the Annual Report. The SIP's Resource Plan has been included as Appendix 6.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD 2003-2004

The SIP looks forward to the challenges of the coming year and to sustaining the effective joined-up response in addressing the priorities identified by the residents of the Coalfield Area. It is anticipated that the best practice of partnership working will be developed through the community planning process which will turn round disadvantaged communities and create a better life for those who live in them.

The main priorities for the year ahead include:

- continuing to listen to and responding to community needs;
 - continuing to develop community involvement/community engagement;
 - preparing for and co-ordinating the evaluation process which will be undertaken during summer 2003;
 - developing the links already established within the East Ayrshire community planning process;
 - supporting all SIP funded initiatives in terms of sustainability beyond March 2004, as appropriate, including provision of training in business planning as well as exit strategies;
 - ensuring that the quality of work in relation to regeneration initiatives is appropriately evaluated and that areas of best practice are transferred to and taken forward through the community planning process;
 - responding effectively to the requirements of the Transition Framework guidance prepared by Communities Scotland;
 - ensuring the smooth transition of the SIP to the strategic context of community planning;
 - assisting in the development of monitoring/evaluation arrangements within the community planning process; and
 - establishing closer links between the local targets/indicators and the Social Justice Milestones.
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ACHIEVING OUR VISION

To date the SIP has made significant achievements as a direct result of effective partnership working in the Coalfield Area. We can see that we are making a real difference to people's lives and continue to work together to close the opportunity gap. Our commitment is to involve local people at every stage of the process as it is they who will ultimately judge our success.

Together with the public agencies, voluntary groups and the community, as well as a programme of projects linked to the overall priorities and strategic vision, we are working to regenerate the Coalfield Area. We have learned a number of lessons along the way as we endeavour to co-ordinate action which will promote social inclusion and deliver social justice for all our residents.

In East Ayrshire, the experience of success in the partnership approach through the SIP has laid a firm foundation for the smooth transition to community planning. We look forward to meeting the challenges which lie ahead.
