

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Board members on the completion of the Shout Out Loud Young Citizens' Pack, the development of which was endorsed by the Board at its meeting of 15 August 2002, as part of a range of projects to secure young people's involvement as active citizens.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The success of East Ayrshire's Children and Young Persons Charter of Rights resulted in a commitment from the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board to ensure that a range of mechanisms are put in place to provide opportunities for children and young people to become routinely involved in not only decisions which affect them personally at specific points in their life, but more widely in the life of their communities.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative, in partnership with the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership, East Ayrshire Council Department of Educational and Social Services and the Coalfield Communities Federation undertook the development of a range of initiatives including a Young Citizens Pack. This pack would address the rights and citizenship information needs of Primary Seven children and those young people whose links with school are limited for reasons of health or social exclusion.
- 2.3 Additional projects aimed at promoting active citizenship amongst children and young people include:
- support to members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
  - a children and young person's rights video, and
  - a drama initiative.

## **3 YOUNG CITIZENS PACK**

- 3.1 The Pack has five primary aims:
- to raise children's and young people's awareness of rights and responsibilities
  - to foster a sense of self-esteem and respect for others among children and young people using the pack

- to 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
  - to encourage active citizenship, and
  - to provide a functional, community-oriented resource for teachers, youth workers, voluntary based organisations and other professional bodies.
- 3.2 The Pack contains a range of informative material with an East Ayrshire specific orientation, including information sheets on inclusion, equality, local democracy, health and safety.

#### **4 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Children and young people were involved in the practical development of the pack through Kids Clubs and School Councils. In addition children from two primary schools participated in a consultation day in December 2002.
- 4.2 It is envisaged that the packs will be introduced in group settings such as schools, community learning and other community-based projects. It is also anticipated that individuals who interact with children in smaller groups such as children's carers, Homelink teachers and residential unit staff will undertake the role of pack facilitator.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the Report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Manager Social Inclusion**  
**15 May 2003**