

**EAST AYRSHIRE NORTH SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVE BOARD**

**NOTES OF PLANNING SESSION HELD ON THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2003 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE PARK SUITE, KILMARNOCK FOOTBALL CLUB, RUGBY PARK, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillor William Menzies; Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillor Danny Coffey, East Ayrshire Council; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, East Ayrshire Council; Joyce Black, Senior Executive (Skills and Learning), Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; Yohanna Dangata, Health Improvement Department, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; Dave Wilcock, Kilmarnock College; Heather Knox, Director of Estates and Facilities, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Health Care Trust; Ciss McCreddie, Council of Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire); Linda McFadzean, Health Improvement Department, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; and Community Representatives: Jimmy Miller, Graham Piggott, Matt Donnelly, Linda Thomson, Kenneth Stewart and Maurice Ashbridge.

ATTENDING: Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager; Laurie Milwain, North Social Inclusion Co-ordinator; Helen Sinclair, Community Planning Officer; Elaine Caldwell, Public Health Co-ordinator, and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES: Community Representatives: Beryl Graham and Gerard Cassidy; Cathy Roarty, Lead Public Health Practitioner, East Ayrshire LHCC; Bob Gardiner, Ayr College; Superintendent Jim Thomson, Strathclyde Police; Jim Burns, Business Development Manager, Job Centre.

**INTRODUCTION**

The planning session was convened at the request of Community Representatives on the Board with the purpose of "re-examining the remit of the North Social Inclusion Initiative and identifying priorities for the forthcoming year". Board members, with Council officers acting as facilitators, were split into two groups and two workshops took place.

**WORKSHOP ONE**

Workshop one consisted of discussion related to reviewing and setting priorities, with group members being asked if the five objectives identified in 2001/02 were still relevant. They were also asked to identify priorities and score them according to their perceived importance.

The five existing objectives as detailed in the Constitution, are:

- to increase employment opportunities
- to improve health opportunities
- to increase pre-vocational and non-vocational learning and training opportunities
- to assist in the creation of attractive and sustainable communities, and
- to improve the opportunities for community participation and positive social interaction.

Existing priorities for 2003-04, as detailed in the Annual Report, are:

- supporting people into work
- promoting positive health opportunities, particularly for those dependent on alcohol and drugs
- attractive and sustainable communities, and
- encouraging community participation.

## **FEEDBACK - WORKSHOP ONE**

The groups agreed that the existing objectives were still relevant and the following priorities were identified:

- support people into work
- upskill existing workforce as low skilled jobs are still prevalent in East Ayrshire
- focus on developing 'trades ' to upskill young people
- positive health opportunities
- community participation
- attractive and sustainable communities
- identify pockets of disadvantage / deprivation outwith recognised areas of deprivation
- develop a system to identify individuals / communities experiencing social exclusion
- raise awareness of benefits entitlement for the unemployed and signpost to services - benefits maximisation
- focus on alcohol as a greater priority than drugs
- influence the development of new schools in relation to the provision of services eg: health, leisure
- focus on developing personal skills and attitudes as well as practical skills for work
- identify all existing funding opportunities
- provide positive opportunities to help people with a disability get back into work
- increased recreational safety

- promote participation of young people
- establish initiative to support young people to make the transition from school to work
- integrate older / isolated people into society / work ie: illness / unemployment
- encourage people to stay, live and work in the area
- resolve problems relating to dereliction / gap sites / demolition
- resource centre and network for voluntary organisations
- aim for a balanced society
- establish a one stop shop facility for communities
- improve access to health information in order for people to make informed lifestyle choices
- improve personal and community safety
- influence budget holders / service providers.

Following a scoring process the following top 5 priorities were identified by group one:

- 1 Support People into Work
- 2 Promote Positive Health Opportunities
- 3 Raise awareness in benefits entitlement / benefits maximisation – signpost to services
- 4 Focus on young people in relation to employment when they leave school
- 5 Focus on developing personal skills in addition to practical skills for employment.

Following a scoring process the following top 5 priorities were identified by group two:

- 1 Support young people to make the transition from education to work
- 2 Improve personal and community safety
- 3 Improve access to health information in order for people to make informed lifestyle choices
- 4 Provide opportunities to influence the service providers
- 5 Integrate older / isolated people into society / work.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

After consideration by the Board members present there was a broad consensus that the existing priorities were still relevant but that there was strong support for employment related priorities. It was therefore further agreed that Board members would benefit significantly from an employment related showcase and that this should be organised to coincide with the next Board Meeting on Thursday 13 November 2003.

## **WORKSHOP TWO**

Workshop two consisted of discussion related to the way in which ideas that had been discussed throughout the course of the afternoon could be progressed.

### **FEEDBACK - WORKSHOP TWO**

In relation to employment the following ideas were discussed:

- the need to identify employment opportunity programmes provided and to establish linkages with them
- awareness raising with employers of JobRotation and work experience opportunities
- establish links with East Ayrshire Employment Initiative, Disability Employment Advisers and JobCentre Plus
- raise aspirations within communities i.e.: promote wider benefits other than financial
- raise awareness of opportunities for young people when still at school ie: vocational courses
- involve young people in community projects
- ensure appropriate 'matching' of young people with job placements.

In relation to health the following ideas were discussed:

- the need to address the root cause of alcohol problems i.e.: the underlying social problems
- the need to improve health and social well-being, promote integration / co-location of services and provide access across all age groups.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The following priorities were agreed by Board members present and it became apparent that they were consistent with Community Planning priorities and that further consideration should be given to ensuring that there was no duplication of service.

### **Social Inclusion Priorities**

- People into work – skills / training / employment
- Positive health and social wellbeing
- Community Participation
- Quality Environment
- Community Learning.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Thursday 13 November 2003 from 13:30 in the Park Suite, Kilmarnock Football Club, Rugby Park, Kilmarnock.