



**EAST AYRSHIRE NORTH SOCIAL
INCLUSION INITIATIVE - THE WAY
FORWARD**

Board Meeting – 13 November 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of actions taken as a result of the North Social Inclusion Initiative Planning Event that took place on the 14 August 2003 and seek approval for future developments.

2. PLANNING EVENT

- 2.1 The Planning Event took place 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 remainder of the year.
- 2.2 The workshop format was successful in encouraging discussion. Board members were split into two groups and undertook two workshops each over the course of the afternoon. Workshop one consisted of discussion related to the review and setting of priorities for 2003-04 and workshop two examined ways in which the ideas discussed in workshop one could be taken forward.

3. FINDINGS

- 3.1 It was agreed that the existing objectives were still valid and should remain as they are within the Constitution.
- 3.2 Each group was asked to identify and score what they believed to be the most important priorities for the Board in 2003-04. The priorities differed slightly between group one and group two but as an overall consensus the following priorities were agreed and are as follows:
- People into work – skills / training / employment
 - Positive health and social wellbeing
 - Community participation
 - Quality environment
 - Community learning.
- 3.3 Many of the ideas discussed during workshop two focussed on employment related initiatives with specific reference being made to the need for measures to support young people in making the transition from school to work.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 In response to the importance that was placed on helping people into work and the need identified by Board members to be better informed in relation to what training provision currently exists within East Ayrshire there will be a series of presentations from local agencies involved in the employment field following this paper.
- 4.2 Board members will recall that the establishment of a Community Federation for the North was highlighted as one of our objectives for 2003-04. It is hoped that this will be progressed significantly from January 2004 onwards.
- 4.3 It is further proposed that a short term working group comprising of 3 to 4 board members and supported by the Social Inclusion Co-ordinator meet with the aim of devising an action plan for the Initiative focussing on points raised during the planning event.
- 4.4 The action plan should cover proposed activity across the 5 themes and should be presented in draft form at the next Board meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board:
 - i) agree that as a result of the planning event, the North Initiative objectives remain the same with the priority being employment related programmes,
 - ii) agree to work towards the development of a Community Federation for the North,
 - iii) express their interest in participating in the short term working group; and
 - iv) otherwise, note the content of the report.

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30 October 2003