

Irvine Area Committee
2 December 2009

IRVINE, 2 December 2009 - At a Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat, David O'Neill and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

I. T. Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective); A. Pettigrew, Learning Manager, Youth Services, J. McHarg, Learning Manager, Capacity Building (Community Learning and Development) (Educational Services); and A. Little, Committee Services Officer and E. Fisher, Committee Services Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant Jones, Strathclyde Police; and Station Commander Binning, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Chair

Councillor McPhee in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillors McPhee, O'Neill and Barr declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 (Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund) in relation to the application by ANCHO Community Link Project, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Strathclyde Police

Submitted report by Strathclyde Police on incidents and crimes in the Committee's area during September and October 2009.

Sergeant Jones provided details in relation to crimes of robbery, serious assault and drugs. Information was also provided on Operation Noel, a Christmas initiative which will address public safety and retail crime and will take place between Friday 4 December 2009 and Sunday 3 January 2010. Information was also provided on additional officers joining the Irvine Community Policing Team.

Noted.

3. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 22 September to 20 November 2009 in the Irvine area.

Information was provided in relation to:-

- Fires involving property
- Special Service emergency calls
- Secondary fires
- Malicious calls
- Fire alarm apparatus false alarms
- Home fire safety visits
- Fire reach and work experience courses; and
- Community Education.

Information was also provided on Y Drive, an initiative aimed at new and inexperienced drivers from schools in North Ayrshire to help them become safe and competent drivers and reduce their likelihood of being involved in a vehicle crash. An event was held locally over 2 days involving a number of agencies with the lead partner being the Council's Road Safety Department.

Noted.

4. Travelling People: Managing Unauthorised Campsites

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective) on the work being undertaken by the Council and others to deal with issues relating to unauthorised travelling people campsites.

For many years, the Irvine area has been a "stopping off" point for members of the travelling community. In the late 1980s Cunninghame District Council, in compliance with Central Government requirements, established a permanent travelling peoples' site for 16 families at Redburn. This site is usually fully occupied and well run. Recent guidance from the Scottish Government indicates that local authorities should establish short stay sites for travellers but past experience has shown that attempts to encourage travellers to use such sites are unwelcome.

The number of travelling people passing through Irvine has increased in the last 10 years. These travelling people are in the main itinerant workers undertaking a variety of services. Many of the problems being experienced stem from the debris that these workers leave behind when they move on. Costs for clearing the debris and repairing the ground falls on landowners, including the Council.

For a number of years officers of all Services of the Council have worked together to ensure that when travelling people come into the area they are treated fairly and encouraged to abide by basic rules regarding behaviour. Alternative ways of dealing with travelling people involve a multi-agency approach, involving all Council services along with the Police and landowners. Consideration is also being given to involving H.M. Revenue and Customs, Department of Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus, who have an ongoing interest in the travellers and their business activities.

Noted.

5. Youth Activity in the Irvine Area

The Learning Manager, Youth Services (Educational Services) reported on the level of involvement in diversionary youth activities in 2008/09 and the range of existing facilities available for young people in the Committee's area.

The Irvine area has two secondary schools, Greenwood Academy and Irvine Royal Academy. In the Greenwood catchment area, Community Learning and Development (CLAD) (Educational Services) had 543 registrations of young people in 31 learning programmes. There were 260 young people registered in more than one programme, and the average age being 15 years old.

Activities for young people in the Greenwood catchment area include:-

- A CLAD streetwork programme in the Bourtreehill, Broomlands and Dreghorn area which has had over 900 engagements with young people in a 10 month period.
- Youth Information Resources Education Diversionary (YIRED), an alcohol education and diversionary activity programme arranged in conjunction with CLAD Youth Services, which delivered a range of group work, sports and music activities in the Bourtreehill and Dreghorn areas.
- K.A. Campus at Greenwood Academy, which provide opportunities for young people to participate in dance, basketball, soccer and fitness activity.
- The Oasis Cafe at Broomlandsgate, operated by the local Baptist Church, which provides youth group activities throughout the week for its 116 members.
- Two Duke of Edinburgh Award groups, targeted at young people at risk, which operate out of the Oasis Cafe and provide a range of diversionary activity for these young people.

In the Irvine Royal Academy catchment area, Community Learning and Development (Educational Services) had 503 registrations of young people in 36 learning programmes. There were 246 young people registered in more than one programme, the average age being 16 years old.

Cashback for Communities funds have been used to provide soccer night leagues at Irvine Royal Academy on Friday evenings, and street rugby in the games area at Woodland Avenue, Irvine.

Other activities for young people in the Irvine Royal Academy catchment area include:-

- ANCHO's community link project based at Dickson Drive, Irvine which provides a range of activities for their youth membership of 206.
- Activities provided by a range of voluntary organisations including, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and Air Training Corps and a number of Scout Groups, Guide Companies, and Boys and Girls Brigades.
- Sports and other interest groups including Ice Hockey, Karate, Tai Chi and the Irvine District Pipe Band.

Overall, there is a wide range of facilities, activities and learning opportunities for young people resident in the Committee's area. There is however a need to continue to develop strategies and programmes that target young people not engaged in positive activities to encourage their participation.

Noted.

6. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2009/2010: Applications for financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on applications for funding from the Community Development Grants Scheme and the Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grants Scheme

Organisation

Fullarton Community Health House
Irvine Senior's Forum
Fullarton Tenants Association

Award

£4,000
£461
£350 (Subject to satisfactory financial monitoring information relating to a previous grant being received)
£500
£500
£410

Irvine Community Art Club
Create with Craft
B'Friends in North Ayrshire

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
ANCHO Community Link Project	£1,800
Sparks Duke of Edinburgh's Award New Start Group	£1,000
Irvine Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group	£1,300

7. Irvine Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from Irvine Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to provide Irvine Christmas Lights and Events Group with an underwrite of up to £6,000.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.