

Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community
Planning Partners
14 January 2004

ARDROSSAN, 14 January 2004 - At a Liaison Meeting between the Three Towns Area Committee and the Community Planning Partners at 11.15 a.m.

Present

Councillors David Munn, Peter McNamara, Margaret Munn and Alan Munro (North Ayrshire Council); Inspector Alex MacDonald and Sergeant Jim Seaman (Strathclyde Police); and Assistant Divisional Officer Garry Milne (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

In Attendance

J Currie, Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance & Transport (Property Services); M Smyth, Community Safety Co-ordinator (Legal and Protective); G Cowan and I Wallace, Community Learning and Development Workers, A Morrell, Youth Strategy Development Officer and M Gemmell, Engagement Officer (Educational Services); and J Bannatyne and B Tudhope, Corporate & Democratic Support Officers (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

B Walker, Manager (Volunteer Centre).

Chair

Councillor David Munn in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Sinclair Molloy (Ayrshire and Arran Acute Hospitals Trust); Marella O'Neill (Local Health Care Co-operative); Ian Baird (Communities Scotland); and Sub Officer Stephen Logan (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Liaison Meeting held on 8 October 2003 were confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Public Health Nurse/Addiction Worker

At the meeting on 8 October 2003 Marella O'Neill (Local Health Care Co-operative) undertook to obtain an update from the Local Health Care Co-operative on the feasibility of a public health nurse/addiction worker being in attendance within a local youth facility outwith school hours and/or at weekends and report to the next meeting.

In the absence of Marella O'Neill (Local Health Care Co-operative), Jim Bannatyne, Corporate & Democratic Support Officer, North Ayrshire Council undertook to contact the Local Health Care Co-operative to obtain the updated information and circulate this to partners.

Noted.

3. Presentations: Youth Issues

3.1 Dialogue Youth Initiative

The meeting received a presentation from Angela Morrell, Youth Strategy Development Officer and Morag Gemmell, Engagement Officer (Educational Services), North Ayrshire Council on the Dialogue Youth Initiative.

The Dialogue Youth Initiative is a partnership between Young Scot, CoSLA, the Scottish Executive, local authorities and their community planning partners and young people. The initiative aims to involve young people fully in the design, management and delivery of local services and facilities.

A North Ayrshire Young Scot Team managed by a Youth Strategy Development Officer has been established to take forward the key themes of the Initiative. These include the introduction of Smartened Cards, the provision and expansion of a youth information portal, the promotion of personal and social education, and the introduction of a research and resource base involving young people.

A Youth Consultation Strategy has been introduced to develop a more systematic approach to consulting with young people. All youth information research and consultation will be co-ordinated by the Young Scot Team. Other planned developments include the provision of ICT support, establishing Youth Achievement and Duke of Edinburgh Awards and engaging marginalised young people.

Inspector MacDonald and ADO Milne confirmed that they fully support the initiative and will promote it within their Services. The Liaison Meeting congratulated staff on their achievements in taking the initiative forward.

The Liaison Meeting agreed that the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) be requested to ensure that all Services of the Council are made aware of the Dialogue Youth Initiative and encouraged to participate whenever possible.

3.2. Three Towns Motor Project

The meeting received a presentation from Ian Wallace, Community Learning and Development Worker (Educational Services), North Ayrshire Council on the Three Towns Motor Project.

The project which is based in Central Avenue, Ardrossan, was initially created 10 years ago to provide an alternative for young people involved in car crime. The Project has developed over the years and now caters for groups of 10 young people from Community Schools in North Ayrshire on a daily basis. There is an opportunity to gain two Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Units in Motor Vehicle Systems.

The Project also works in partnership with James Watt College providing an opportunity for young people to gain either a Pre-vocational Certificate or Professional Development Award (PDA) in Motor Vehicle Systems. Through the Project, courses are offered in the evening to a number of youth and adult groups from across North Ayrshire.

The garage where the Project is based is in a poor condition and requires refurbishment works to upgrade the gents toilets and to create a female toilet.

New developments are planned for the Project which include: -

- Working in Partnership with St Michael's Academy to operate a group which will provide modules in Motor Vehicles Systems as well as integrated literacies.
- Working in Partnership with the Ardrossan Youth Association and Caley Youth Centre;
- Contacting local garages to obtain work experience placements for young people on courses;
- Development of a new computer suite;
- Plans for an extension to create a classroom, rest-room and canteen;
- Offer a practical driving test class for sixth year pupils;
- Investigating the potential for a pre-apprentice course which will allow young people the opportunity to gain basic skills in trades such as plumbing, fitting etc.

Discussion took place on the need to encourage more companies to recruit apprentices and it was suggested that Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire may be able to provide information on this. The Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport confirmed that the Council's Internal Transport Garage offers apprenticeships and work experience placements. ADO Milne reported that the Fire Brigade is placing more emphasis on recruiting apprentices and advised of a new scheme in Hamilton for off road driving training which could be relevant to the project. He also suggested that a visit could be arranged for young people to the Fire Brigade's Fleet Workshop and that a training day could be organised jointly with the police for young people on vehicle safety.

The Liaison Meeting agreed to remit to Jim Bannatyne, Corporate & Democratic Support Officer, North Ayrshire Council (a) to pursue the issues raised and report; and (b) to ascertain whether there are any additional sources of funding which could be provided by the Council to assist in the refurbishment works required to upgrade and create toilet facilities at the Three Towns Motor Project.

Noted.

3.3 Caley Youth Centre ICT-Music Learning Hub

The meeting received a presentation from Gordon Cowan, Community Learning and Development Worker (Educational Services), North Ayrshire Council on the Caley Youth Centre ICT-Music Learning Hub.

The Caley Youth Centre ICT-Music Learning Hub is based in Ardeer, Stevenston. The Project is funded by North Ayrshire Council's Educational Services and the New Opportunities Fund. It aims to offer young adults aged 16 - 25 flexible learning opportunities in Music and Information and Communication Technology, to promote Life Long Learning and improve confidence and skills.

The Hub provides a number of accredited courses including the European Computer Driver Licence (ECDL), National Certificate Modules in Music and Music Technology, Computing and Multimedia and Higher Still Modules in Sound Recording and Midi Sequencing. As well as providing accredited courses and workshops, the Hub develops programmes for groups such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Group, Ardeer Young Mums, The Princes Trust Team and The Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Team.

The Centre has undergone major refurbishment works and is equipped with state of the art IT and Music based resources and equipment including a PC Computer Suite; an Apple Mac Suite, an Eight Track Recording Studio with a minidisk based workstation, a Sixteen Track Recording Studio with analogue and digital work stations, a Live Band Rehearsal Room, and a Digital Musicians Suite.

A Volunteer/Peer Educators Group which enables young adults to develop ICT and Music skills and share these, currently organises a regular live music event called 'The Big Gig'. Group members have responsibility for graphic design, promotion, sound recording, lighting and stage management of the event. A Record Label is to be created which will have the ethos of a business and will network with local radio stations, to give young people hands on experience in the record industry.

Noted.

4. Presentation: Volunteer Centre in North Ayrshire

Brenda Walker, Manager of North Ayrshire Volunteer Centre, Saltcoats made a presentation on the work of the Volunteer Centre since it was established in October 1999.

The main functions of the Centre are to increase the number of people involved in volunteering, broaden the range of people volunteering, generate more positive attitudes to volunteering and to raise the profile of volunteering at local and national policy level.

The Centre provides guidance, support and training to people who wish to be volunteers and currently has over 700 people registered for volunteering activities. The Centre has worked closely with the Council in the preparation and implementation of the Council's Volunteering Policy. The Policy was finalised in 2001 and has been used as an example of best practice by Volunteer Development Scotland and the Scottish Executive. A new 'Strategy for Volunteering' outlining how all agencies should take volunteering forward, and how volunteering should impact on policies and initiatives will be launched shortly by the Scottish Executive.

Noted.

5. Vandalism and Graffiti

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective), North Ayrshire Council, on the work of North Ayrshire Community Safety Forum in relation to tackling vandalism and graffiti.

The Community Safety Forum, led by Strathclyde Police, acts as the Community Safety Thematic Group within the new Community Planning Partnership structure. The Forum's Strategy and Action Plan has identified the need to conduct an audit and to establish initiatives with partners to reduce the current levels of vandalism and graffiti in North Ayrshire. In order to prioritise these issues the Forum proposes that a Multi-Agency Action Plan be developed.

Vandalism and graffiti issues were discussed, including the problems associated with discarded needles and the joint working between the Council, the NHS Board and Strathclyde Police to deal with them, measures being undertaken by Strathclyde Police through community policing, and a Pilot Restorative Justice Scheme in the Three Towns area.

The Liaison Meeting agreed (a) to endorse the approach being taken by the Community Safety Forum regarding the proposed development of a multi-agency Action Plan to reduce vandalism and graffiti; and (b) that the Head of Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Transport, North Ayrshire Council be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting on the measures being taken to address problems relating to vandalism and graffiti.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Community Safety Partnership Fund

ADO Milne, Strathclyde Fire Brigade reported that £3,000 has been awarded from the Fire Brigade's Community Safety Partnership Fund to install a Pre-five Safety Kits in all nurseries throughout North Ayrshire. The kit comprises of a Firefighter's uniform for children to wear, floor puzzles and an educational CD Rom.

Noted.

6.2 Strathclyde Fire Brigade: Fatality Rates 2003

ADO Milne, Strathclyde Fire Brigade advised the meeting that fatality rates for the West Command area were reduced by over 50% (11 to 5) in 2003 with only 1 fatality occurring in North Ayrshire.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 1.35 p.m.