

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 16 October 2000

REPORT ON: Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department - Xplore Social Inclusion Partnership (formerly 'Give Youth a Chance')

REPORT BY: Director of Personnel and Management Services

REPORT NO: 642-2000

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update of Xplore's progress and seeks approval to establish a Youth Counsellor post, to enable the work to be progressed in the Primary 7/Secondary transition area. The post will be established initially on a fixed term basis until 31 March 2002.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 notes the successful outcome of the bid for Social Inclusion Partnership funding, which will bring an additional £1,100,000 over the next 2½ years into the City;
- 2.2 approves the establishment of an additional fixed term post (until 31 March 2002) of Youth Counsellor for the Partnership at a grade of AP3/4 (£15,240 - £19,224).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Partnership has a revenue allocation of £395,000 for 2000/2001, of which £60,350 is available for block purchasing. In addition to the above, the Scottish Executive has agreed that the project can carry forward £55,000 block purchasing from its first year underspend.
- 3.2 The proposal contained in this report requires a total revenue funding of £9,644 in 2000/01 and full year costs thereafter of £23,145. These costs can be contained within the Partnership's budget through its provision for block purchasing.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This initiative has been approved following national competition for projects which tackle social exclusion. The award of funding reflects the criteria set out by the Government for the administration of the Social Inclusion Partnership Fund, at the core of which is the requirement to address the needs of socially excluded groups.

5 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Partnership brings together all of those statutory agencies which are committed to the welfare of young people, and it seeks to respond to the needs of those who have been identified as being at risk of long term social exclusion.

6 **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 In November 1998, the Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department led a bid group which submitted proposals for Social Inclusion Partnership funding.
- 6.2 Following approval of an Implementation Plan by the Scottish Executive, funds were released in September 1999. Report No.430/1999 approved operational arrangements for the Partnership.
- 6.3 The Partnership is focused on helping young people make the transition from primary to secondary to post school 'adult life'. It works with 11-18 year olds, concentrating on the transitions at either end of that age spectrum.

7 **IMPLEMENTATION**

- 7.1 After a process involving all of the Partner Agencies, a Co-ordinator took up position in December 1999. A team of 5 Youth Counsellors was established by March 2000, through a bidding process involving Partner Agencies. The team includes secondments from National Children's Homes and Tayside Careers. An Administrative Assistant and Clerical Assistant have also been recruited.
- 7.2 The team is based in Mitchell Street Centre, which has been converted to ensure a more conducive environment for young people who visit the team.
- 7.3 The full team has been in place since March 2000 and, to September 2000, has received 201 referrals. The referrals have come from a variety of statutory and voluntary agencies, parents and self referrals. Of these, over one third have come from Secondary Schools. The vast majority of cases (90) are in the 15-16 age range, with only 14 cases falling into the 11-13 range.
- 7.4 The additional Youth Counsellor will work across the City, managing up to 40 referred young people at any one time. It will be his/her responsibility to:-
- assess the circumstances of young people referred to the programme;
 - explore options with young people and the agency making the referral;
 - negotiate and prepare agreements for consideration by the operating committee;
 - monitor the progress of individual agreements; and
 - follow up three months after a young person has left the programme, to evaluate the outcome.
- 7.5 Secondments from appropriately qualified staff from voluntary organisations or partner agencies will be welcomed.

8 **CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, the Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development, the Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services.
- 8.2 These proposals have been generated by the Xplore Partnership, which is an inter-agency group responsible for the implementation of the SIP.

9 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

10 **SIGNATURE**

J.C. Petrie
 Director of Personnel and Management Services

Date