

## **West Dunbartonshire Council**

### **Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services**

**Children's Services Committee: 11 October 2006**

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**Subject: COSLA Awards**

#### **1. Purpose**

This report informs Members of the projects, within the Department of Education and Cultural Services and in association with the other Council departments, put forward for COSLA Excellence Awards in 2006.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The COSLA Excellence Awards recognise projects that have demonstrated excellence in service delivery within the categories listed below. The categories are used as a way of encouraging Local Government to look to improve service delivery by providing services that are well planned, focussed on what customers want, and are efficiently delivered and creative in concept.

The categories for this year's Awards programme are:

- **Category 1** Service Improvement and Customer Needs
- **Category 2** Advancing Community Well-being
- **Category 3** Health Improvement
- **Category 4** Innovative Use of Technology
- **Category 5** 'One to watch'
- **Category 6** Securing a Workforce for the Future

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** After a process of long leeting to meet the COSLA limit of 12 submissions per Council, four projects managed and delivered by the Department of Education and Cultural Services and one delivered in partnership with Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services have been selected for submission to COSLA.
- 3.2** Applications covering three categories of Advancing Community Well Being, Health Improvement and One to Watch have been submitted to COSLA from the Department. (See Table 1)

Table 1

Categories for COSLA Awards	Project Name and Description	Service Name
<b>Category 2 Advancing Community Well-being</b>	<p><b>The Pulse</b> The Pulse is a programme with a rich mix of urban arts; design, hip hop, DJing, film-making and various sporting activities including skateboarding, BMX-ing, gym sessions and football. These activities are targeted at areas with high crime statistics and came about as a result of young people saying they have nothing to do on a Friday night.</p> <p><b>Bookstart/Early Literacies Project</b> (<a href="http://www.bookstart.co.uk/">www.bookstart.co.uk/</a>) Bookstart is a National Programme, funded by the Scottish Executive, which provides free packs of books to babies and guidance materials for parents and carers. It promotes a life-long love of books and is based on the principle that every child in the UK should enjoy and benefit from books from as early an age as possible. The Bookstart project is being delivered in tandem with the Early Intervention scheme both targeted at improving the levels of literacy of children.</p>	<p>Arts and Education Team</p> <p>Libraries and Early Intervention Teams</p>
<b>Category 3 Health Improvement</b>	To deliver an extensive programme of sport and physical activity, targeting young people residing in Social Inclusion Partnership areas within West Dunbartonshire. All sports programmes are free to participants. The approach is innovative in that West Dunbartonshire is the <u>first</u> sports development unit in Scotland to deliver sports sessions within local authority Early Years and Childcare Centres.	Sport Development
<b>Category 5 'One to watch'</b>	<p><b>The PUDO Project</b> The PUDO Project is pilot research with partners into the methods which will be used to conduct health and safety assessments of school bus pickup points and give consideration to the hazards associated with such points.</p>	Inclusion Team

Categories for COSLA Awards	Project Name and Description	Service Name
	This assessment tool is a first of its kind in the UK and so has potential for resale to other local authorities and public transport providers	

#### **4. Personnel Implications**

**4.1** There are no personnel implications

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** There are no financial implications

#### **6. Additional Information**

**6.1** Applications were sent to COSLA by the closing date of the 29 September 2006, the long leet will be completed by the 17 November 2006, the short leet by the 15 December 2006 and the choice of finalists will be picked by the 24 January 2007.

#### **7. Recommendations**

**7.1** Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Director of Education and Cultural Services

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**Ward Affected:** All Wards