

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Council Meeting : 27 June 2007

Subject: Pilot project to establish a School Based Campus Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform members of the proposal to establish a School Based Campus Officer in a secondary school as a pilot project for one year between August 2007 and June 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Strathclyde wide, Police Authority pilot scheme of establishing School Based Campus Officers began in Glasgow in April 2004.
- 2.2** Campus Officers were established to provide targeted community support and develop closer engagement with young people. Officers were located in secondary schools to provide on the spot support to the school and its wider community by contributing to school programmes and providing effective sharing of information between agencies. These functions were in addition to the officer's statutory role of protection, crime prevention and maintaining peace in the community.
- 2.3** Since the initial pilot scheme, a total of 20 Campus Police Officers are now in post in schools across the Strathclyde Police Authority area with the largest number in Glasgow schools. Another 8 posts are planned in other councils across the Strathclyde Police Authority area.
- 2.4** A meeting took place with senior officers of Education and Cultural Services and Strathclyde Police Authority to discuss the progress of the School Based Campus Officer programme and the planned expansion.
- #### **3. Main Issues**
- 3.1** The Community Police department within Clydebank Police Office has offered to fund a pilot project in West Dunbartonshire Council, located in Clydebank High School for a period of one year.
- 3.2** Education and Cultural Services has been offered the post for the one year of the pilot project on a fully funded basis by the Community Police department of Clydebank Police office. In all other areas where new posts are being introduced the posts are being part funded by the councils themselves.
- 3.3** The identified School Based Campus Officer will be based alongside pupil support staff in the school but will work closely with all school staff to identify opportunities to contribute to the work and life of the school.

3.4 Examples of Campus Police Officers' contributions to schools have included input to Modern Studies and PSE programmes, the organising of specialist speakers for classes, award bearing courses including Duke of Edinburgh and health and safety programmes. Each school has developed activities that are targeted to the particular needs of its pupils in full consultation with a range of teaching and managerial staff.

3.5 School Based Campus Officers already in post have been successful in sourcing funding that has been used to support in-school programmes and projects. Mediation and careers advice have also been found to be valuable contributions made by these officers.

3.6 The pilot project will be evaluated at the end of the one year trial period.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 The report has no implications for personnel. The officer will be line managed by the Community Police department of Clydebank Police office but will liaise closely with an identified member of the school's senior management team.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The post will be fully funded in this pilot year by the Community Police department of Clydebank Police office.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Education and Cultural Services is pleased to undertake and evaluate a pilot project to establish a School Based Campus Officer in Clydebank High School.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Members are requested:

- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
- (b) to seek a report to committee on the evaluation of the pilot project.

Liz McGinlay
Director of Education and Cultural Services

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Ward Affected **Ward 5**