

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services)

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee : 6 December 2006

Subject: Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the successful introduction of a Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme in West Dunbartonshire.

2. Background

2.1 With over 2000 children injured on Scotland's roads last year, Scottish children are more likely to be involved in a road traffic accident than any of their European counterparts. The Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme has been developed by Road Safety Scotland as part of the national strategy to help reduce the number of child casualties on our roads. The JRSO scheme was launched in 2002.

2.2 The government has set targets for casualty reduction for the year 2010. The aim is to achieve a 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads based on the year 2000 figure. The JRSO scheme is one of a series of initiatives which contributes to the achievement of this target.

3. Main Issues

3.1 54 children from 27 West Dunbartonshire primary schools have been appointed as Junior Road Safety Officers (JSRO). They will be responsible for highlighting road safety issues within their schools through other pupils, teachers, parents and the community. The JSROs are presented with their badges and resource packs after undergoing induction training carried out by the Council's Road Safety Officers.

3.2 Before being appointed, the JRSOs go through a comprehensive selection process, including completing an application form and being interviewed for the post. Throughout the year they will be required to carry out four main tasks including, putting up and maintaining a prominent notice board, running school competitions, giving class or assembly presentations and using the website (www.jrso.com).

3.3 The JRSOs will be supported during their year in post by an adult helper at their school.

3.4 A key aim of the JRSO scheme is to empower children to highlight road safety issues within their school. Primary schools in Scotland are encouraged to appoint two JRSOs from Primary 6 or 7 for a one-year period.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues at this time.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The JRSO is supported by Standard Life Plc.

5.2 There are no financial implications to West Dunbartonshire Council.

6. Conclusions

6.1 With road traffic accidents being the largest single cause of child death in Scotland, the aim of the JSRO Scheme is to empower children to highlight road safety issues within their school and to help reduce the number of child deaths and casualties on our roads. The scheme is well underway in West Dunbartonshire and the early results are very promising.

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that Committee note the contents of this report and endorse the roll-out of the JRSO programme throughout all of our primary schools.

Ronald M. Dinnie
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(Land & Environmental Services)
Date: 6 December 2006

Wards Affected: All

Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

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