

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**

**Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee : 4 October 2006**

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**Subject: Scottish Accident Prevention Council (SAPC) 2006 Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition Winners: West Dunbartonshire Council – St Andrew's High School**

### **1. Purpose**

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of West Dunbartonshire Council's success in the 2006 Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition organised by the SAPC. The team are attending this Committee meeting to deliver their winning presentation.

### **2. Background**

**2.1** The ability to speak well in public, once acquired, stays with you as a life skill; gives you the edge in a multitude of situations both professional and social; and increases confidence and self esteem. The earlier young people acquire this facility, the better the outcome is likely to be.

**2.2** Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (HRES), in partnership with Education and Cultural Services, is committed to giving our young people the opportunity to develop the art of speech making through not only promoting and supporting the SAPC Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition, but also through its unique Road Safety Primary Schools' Public Speaking Competition.

**2.3** HRES work in close partnership with ECS to promote and support the SAPC Secondary Schools' Public Speaking Competition.

**2.4** HRES organise the local heat and also one of the semi-finals of the national competition. The semi-final is jointly funded by the two Services and is held in the Education Centre at St Margaret's Hospice.

### **3. Main issues**

**3.1** This year, St Andrew's High School, Clydebank won the local (West Dunbartonshire) heat to go on to represent West Dunbartonshire at the semi-final stage. The team from St Andrew's High were Amie Loudon (Chairperson) and Stacey Ferguson (Speaker), both Second Year students at the time.

- 3.2 At the semi-final, they beat off competition from East Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway and Renfrewshire to go forward to the national final along with East Dunbartonshire. They were joined in the final by teams representing City of Dundee, City of Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire.
- 3.3 The teams spoke on the topic of "Taking Action for Child Safety" and focussed on one or more of the areas of concern for the SAPC, namely road, home and water and leisure safety. The judges, following extended deliberation, announced St Andrew's High as national winners.
- 3.4 Amie and Stacey (now in Third Year) were also invited to repeat their winning performance at the SAPC's Annual Conference in September.
- 3.5 As winners of this year's competition, West Dunbartonshire will be hosting next year's final.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

#### **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

#### **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 West Dunbartonshire is taking a lead role in supporting public speaking in our primary and secondary schools culminating this year in a local team, representing St Andrew's High School, winning the national public speaking competition. We will be hosting the 2007 competition national final.

#### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 **It is recommended that Committee note the achievement of the team from St Andrew's High School, Amie Loudon and Stacey Ferguson, and congratulate them on their success.**

**7.2 It is recommended that Committee also note the particular ongoing support to public speaking in West Dunbartonshire given by St Andrew's High School 'team manager', Claire McWilliams (Principal Teacher of English), and the Headteacher, Michael Vassie.**

**pp David McMillan  
Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services  
Date: 8 September 2006**

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**Wards Affected:** All

**Background Papers:** Presentation will be given at the Committee meeting

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