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**To: Houston, Crosslee Linwood Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee**

**On: 26 May 2015**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Purchase of new equipment for Expeditions**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council holds a license for the delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE). Youth Services is responsible for the oversight and delivery of these Awards, with the Service Manager being the central contact point and champion for the progressive development of the DofE Awards within Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The DofE award is a personal development award where young people engage on Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The award comprises of four sections (five for gold) where participants need to complete a physical section; a skills section; a volunteering element and an expedition in an outdoors environment. The fifth element for Gold is a residential experience. This application seeks funding for outdoor equipment for DofE expeditions. The purchase of this equipment will ensure that a greater number of young people across Renfrewshire have ready access to a local opportunity to complete DofE awards within their own school, or within an Open Award Group set up to provide additional capacity.
- 1.3 A proportion of participants come from low income families and some groups are specifically established to work with young people who are at risk of exclusion from school. Having good levels of high quality equipment will ensure that these people are able to participate without having to fund the purchase of wet weather clothes, boots and other items. This removes a

significant barrier to participation for all pupils and young people attending local DofE centres.

- 1.4 There are five DofE centres based in the secondary schools within the LAC boundary and there is a brand new Open Award group based in Bargarran Youth Learning Centre. These centres need to have a reasonable supply of high quality equipment to ensure that DofE participants can complete the expedition section of the award.
- 1.5 This report seeks £14,020 funding from Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine LAC. This will enable the purchase of new equipment and for existing resources to be renewed if they are damaged or worn out.

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## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee approves a request for £14,020 this financial year, to enable additional equipment to be purchased to ensure that young people from the area can actively engage in their local DofE programme.
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### 3. Background

- 3.1 There are five DofE centres within the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine LAC. Four are attached to local secondary schools, and one is a new Open Award group based in Bargarran Community Centre.

The table below shows the growth in demand for DofE places during the past 2 year period with a doubling of registrations for Awards with the greatest growth in demand being at Gryffe High School where total registrations have grown from 9 in total to 156.

**Table 1: Registrations for Awards**

|                  | New Starters 1/4/13 to 31/3/14 |           |           |              | New Starters 1/4/14 to 16/3/15 |           |           |              |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| D of E Centre    | Bronze                         | Silver    | Gold      | <b>Total</b> | Bronze                         | Silver    | Gold      | <b>Total</b> |
| Bargarran Award  | 0                              | 0         | 0         | <b>0</b>     | 12                             | 0         | 0         | <b>12</b>    |
| Gryffe HS        | 5                              | 4         | 0         | <b>9</b>     | 102                            | 42        | 12        | <b>156</b>   |
| Linwood HS       | 1                              | 0         | 0         | <b>1</b>     | 11                             | 5         | 0         | <b>16</b>    |
| Park Mains HS    | 69                             | 31        | 33        | <b>133</b>   | 74                             | 16        | 17        | <b>107</b>   |
| St Benedict's HS | 0                              | 3         | 0         | <b>3</b>     | 34                             | 0         | 0         | <b>34</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>75</b>                      | <b>38</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>146</b>   | <b>211</b>                     | <b>63</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>325</b>   |

- 3.2 DofE awards achieved have also seen significant growth in the past two complete years as set out in the following table with almost double the number achieving their award during the following year.

**Table 2: Awards achieved per Renfrewshire DofE centres.**

|                  | Awards Achieved 1/4/12 to 31/3/13 |           |          |              | Awards Achieved 1/4/13 to 31/3/14 |           |          |              |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|
|                  | Bronze                            | Silver    | Gold     | <b>Total</b> | Bronze                            | Silver    | Gold     | <b>Total</b> |
| Gryffe HS        | 4                                 | 0         | 0        | <b>4</b>     | 47                                | 11        | 0        | <b>58</b>    |
| Park Mains HS    | 58                                | 16        | 0        | <b>74</b>    | 50                                | 35        | 4        | <b>89</b>    |
| St Benedict's HS | 0                                 | 0         | 0        | <b>0</b>     | 3                                 | 0         | 0        | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>62</b>                         | <b>16</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>78</b>    | <b>100</b>                        | <b>46</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>150</b>   |

- 3.3 The award requires participants to undertake expedition training and expeditions lasting between 2 and 4 days in length.

The range of equipment required to undertake expeditions is listed in Appendix 1 with inclusion of sample prices. Although expeditions may be undertaken by canoe, cycling or horse riding, all of the expeditions undertaken by Renfrewshire DofE centres are completed on foot – involving multi-day treks and camping.

Expeditions comprise a maximum of 7 participants, so apart from the tents and camping stoves, the cost of renewing equipment to keep expeditions running can quickly mount up.

- 3.4 The table below sets out the equipment needs for each DofE centre.

With new centres at St Benedict's, Linwood High School and at Bargarran Youth Learning Centre, we have groups that need the entire range of equipment. Other centres have equipment that is very well used and this is approaching the end of its safe/ useful lifespan.

| <b>Name of DofE Centre</b>    | <b>Boots, Wet weather clothing, Sleeping bags and mats.<br/><br/>(£2,500 – enough for one group of 7 participants)</b> | <b>Tents, Stoves and Rucksacks.<br/><br/>(£1,200 - enough for one group of 7 participants)</b> | <b>Compass, survival bag and first aid kit<br/><br/>(£140 – enough for one group of 7 participants)</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Bargarran Centre</b>       | <i>new equipment needed</i>  | <i>new equipment needed</i>  | <i>new equipment needed</i>   |
| <b>Gryffe High School</b>     | <i>new equipment needed</i>  | sufficient equipment   | sufficient equipment  |
| <b>Linwood High School</b>    | <i>new equipment needed</i>  | <i>new equipment needed</i>  | <i>new equipment needed</i>   |
| <b>Park Mains High School</b> | sufficient equipment   | sufficient equipment   | sufficient equipment  |
| <b>St Benedict's</b>          | <i>new equipment</i>   | <i>new equipment</i>   | <i>new equipment</i>  |

|  |               |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | <i>needed</i> | <i>needed</i> | <i>needed</i> |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|

- 3.5 Based on an assessment of current stock levels, and the need to purchase a significant level of new equipment to meet growing demand for DofE Award activities, a spending budget of £14,020 is sought from the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee to make purchases of new equipment where this is most needed. The costs identified above meet the equipment needs for one award group and will be of significant benefit toward the award units' own fundraising efforts.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial - £ 14,020 is sought from the Local Area Committee.**

2. **HR & Organisational Development - None.**

3. **Community Planning –**

### **Children and Young People –**

The provision of awards schemes to local young people enables them to develop skills to improve personal achievements.

### **Community Care, Health & Well-being –**

The DofE award scheme recognises the key role individuals and groups can make to community involvement and participation.

### **Empowering our Communities –**

Local young people are encouraged to participate and engage in volunteering through the DofE Award scheme.

### **Greener –**

The development of DofE supports social, cultural and recreational activities which contribute to local sustainability.

### **Jobs and the Economy –**

The provision of DofE supports individuals and groups to develop skills to improve personal achievements while increasing their potential for gaining employment and or further education opportunities.

### **Safer and Stronger –**

The development of awards contributes to the development of local communities.

- 4. **Legal – None**
- 5. **Property/Assets – None**
- 6. **Information Technology - None**
- 7. **Equality & Human Rights - None**

(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

- 8. **Health & Safety - None**
- 9. **Procurement - None**
- 10. **Risk - None.**
- 11. **Privacy Impact - None**

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### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Background Paper 1:

Appendix 1: Renewal Costs for Typical Duke of Edinburgh Equipment and Resources.

The foregoing background papers will be retained by Children's Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is:

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**Appendix 1: Renewal Costs for Typical Duke of Edinburgh Equipment and Resources.**

| <b>Protective clothing, waterproofs, boots and sleeping bags</b> | <b>Cost per item</b> |
|--|----------------------|
|  |                      |
| Waterproof Jackets   | £ 75.00              |
| Waterproof over – trousers                                       | £ 50.00              |
| Boots  | £125.00              |
| Vango Sleeping Bag – 3 Season                                    | £ 65.00              |
| Vango Trek Standard Roll Mat                                     | £ 22.10              |

| <b>Tents, Stoves and Rucksacks</b> | <b>Cost per item</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
|                                    |                      |
| Vango Halo 300 – 3 person tent     | £139.00              |
| Trangia 25-2-UL Gas Stove          | £ 93.50              |
| Vango Sherpa Rucksack 60+10        | £ 68.00              |

| <b>Other Equipment</b> | <b>Cost per item</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
|                        |                      |
| First Aid Kit          | £ 9.00               |
| Survival Bag           | £ 3.62               |
| Silva Field Compass    | £18.00               |