



| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| meeting | ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE | |
| date | 7 November 2007 | agenda item number |

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Environmental Education Liaison Meetings in Derbyshire

Purpose of report

1. This report makes a request for the provision of hospitality for an environmental education liaison meeting in Derbyshire.

Information and advice

Background

2. The County Council's Children and Young People's Department maintains two residential Environmental Education Centres in Derbyshire, at Hagg Farm in the Derwent Valley and St. Michael's in Hathersage. Excellent working relationships have been developed with the Peak District National Park and with landowners, farmers and the local community surrounding these centres. These working relationships ensure local support for the centres and allow access for school groups onto privately owned land for environmental education activities. Some organisations, such as Peak National Park Rangers and National Trust undertake direct work with the young people which adds (at no cost to Nottinghamshire County Council) a unique dimension to the visits.
3. By way of recognition of the work and goodwill that these partners contribute to the centres and young people of Nottinghamshire, an annual liaison meeting has been established for representatives of relevant organisations, and individuals involved. This has taken the form of a meeting and meal, with the opportunity to reaffirm the County Council's policies and plans for the centres and crucially thank the partners for their contributions which are vital to the Centre's success.
4. The people who attend are usually representatives of the following organisations:

The Peak Park Ranger Service – who work weekly (at no cost to the County Council) with our young people on conservation projects and

allow use of their Home Office licence for Hagg Farm's emergency radio equipment.

Severn Trent Water - who own the buildings and are major landowners in the area. They are partners in a range of curriculum materials that EESS produce.

The National Trust – who offer direct work with young people on a range of projects and are major landowners in the area.

Sir Hugh and Lady Sykes – owners of Brookfield Manor, the grounds of which St Michael's Centre use for many outdoor sessions.

Mr and Mrs Atkin – local tenant farmers to Hagg Farm, whose land the centre uses during some activities.

Lockerbrook Outdoor Centre – local centre to Hagg Farm. The centres share resources as required. Partner in Eco Centre Committee for Hagg Farm.

Losehill Hall – Peak Park Environmental Centre, which is a partner in curriculum materials and in Eco Centre Committee for Hagg Farm.

Hathersage School – Partner in St Michael's Eco Centre Committee.

5. During the meeting it has become customary for Heads of Centres to present a brief report of the centres work over the previous year, and for the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services (formerly Education) to thank the partners on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. This simple but effective process has ensured continued positive relationships over the last 18 years at the Centres.
6. It is proposed that this year's liaison meeting with hospitality takes place on 19 December 2007.

Statutory and policy implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

Financial implications

8. The cost of the meeting is estimated at £600 and this will be met from the Children and Young People's Services Budget for Hospitality, which amounts to £2,629 in the 2007/08 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

9. That approval be given to the provision of hospitality for the Environmental Education Liaison meeting in Derbyshire to be held on 19 December 2007.

DR ROBERT GARNETT

Strategic Director for Children and Young People

Reasons for recommendation

10. In order to maintain the current good local support for the Centres.

Other options considered

11. Not holding the event with hospitality would be detrimental to the current good relationships.

Legal Services' comments

12. The Administration Committee has delegated authority to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council. The Committee must be satisfied that offering hospitality is a proper use of County Council funds.

Director of Resources financial comments (NDR)

13. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

None

Electoral division(s) affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1933