



## Andrew Jarvie Speaking Up for Young People

Andrew Jarvie, aged 17, a pupil at Belmont Academy in Ayr, is one of the newest CPP Board members.

A representative of the South Ayrshire Youth Forum, Andrew has already proved how well he presents the views of young people by raising a number of pertinent issues with partners at Board meetings.

Speaking about his involvement with the CPP, Andrew said: "It is a fantastic opportunity for South Ayrshire Youth Forum to have representation at the Community Planning Board. I am delighted to have been nominated to attend the meetings to represent young people from South Ayrshire. I hope to raise awareness of the work of the Community Planning Partnership among young people, and to gather and represent views to the Board."

The South Ayrshire Youth Forum gives young people an opportunity to make their views known on a wide range of matters. The Youth Forum meets once a month to discuss projects, such as the arts programme, and talk about issues that affect young people. A number of varied activities give young people the chance to become involved in projects and events that they otherwise might not have known about.

## A Good Start in Life

Young people are our future, so getting them off to a good start in life is very important. Currently there is a particular focus on getting young people into positive destinations when they leave school, and before they fall into the trap of long-term unemployment. Last year 88% of school leavers in South Ayrshire moved into employment, education or training, up on last year's figures and above the Scottish average of 85.7%.

The new Future Jobs Fund has already secured 15 jobs for 16 to 24 years old and a further 57 jobs have just been confirmed.



## Councillor Hugh Hunter Chair of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

*Welcome to the second edition of our quarterly 'Bitesize' bulletin, that keeps you up to date with what is happening in the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).*

*We have changed the format of the bulletin, and from now on will be including a feature on a different aspect of the CPP. There will also be 'Newsbites', bringing you up to date with news and signposting you to places where you can access further information.*

*This issue focuses on children and young people in South Ayrshire, so it is an ideal opportunity to learn more about one of our active young citizens.*

*I hope that you enjoy reading this edition, and we would welcome any feedback from you.*

*Hugh R. Hunter*

## Girvan First

Around 4,500 children in South Ayrshire are living in poverty. To address this, a community planning approach is being rolled out in Girvan to ensure that we are 'Getting it Right for Every Child'. Individuals, partners and services working with children in the Girvan area are jointly developing a more effective approach to ensure that the child's needs are always paramount. Having good support services in place is an important part of the process. This pilot includes mapping of community based assets, such as parent support groups, local youth projects, Scouts and Guides, which all have a role to play in ensuring positive outcomes for children. A Getting it Right for Girvan event is scheduled for Friday 22nd January 2010.

# Young People Aloud

The Ark Bridge Project is a dedicated, safe alcohol and drug-free social setting, attractive to young people throughout South Ayrshire and beyond. The youth project has provided a successful approach over the past 5 years, recruiting and supporting a group of, currently, 40 volunteers and providing direct on site services for up to 300 young people per week.

The Ark in Ayr is running a project, 'Young People Aloud', aimed at 11 to 18 years olds, using £30,000 of funding from the CPP. Drinking among young people, in particular excessive drinking, is a major concern for parents, practitioners and the wider community in South Ayrshire. Drinking impacts on young people's long and short-term health, as well as their chances of being in risky situations when drunk. There are also implications for crime and antisocial behaviour as well as for society as a whole.

The development of this project has been remitted to the South Ayrshire Youth Strategy Implementation Group to ensure it fits with the CPP's strategic intentions and operational plans for young people and existing youth diversionary services.

The project aims to:

- *Develop early intervention programmes to prevent the involvement of young people in problematic and harmful drinking.*
- *Assist young people in understanding the risks associated with alcohol-related harm.*
- *Develop the skills of young people to be able to challenge whether drinking alcohol is in their best interests.*
- *Reach those young people who are not otherwise engaged in youth provision and to target those young people who are disaffected and harder to reach.*



- *Ensure that the service outcomes contribute to the South Ayrshire Youth Strategy and South Ayrshire Council Single Outcome Agreement.*
- *Develop the capacity of volunteers and train volunteers on health and safety, child protection issues, and brief interventions.*

For specific alcohol counselling, the Ark will engage with Ayrshire Council on Alcohol for information and advice; NHS Ayrshire and Arran Addiction Services for specific alcohol training; and the Addiction Officer Health Promotion for preventative information and advice.

This service will be focused on working with young people who are not currently involved in mainstream youth provision and who are at risk because of their problematic and harmful drinking. It will be an extension to existing youth provision at the Ark. The Ark can be contacted on **01292 264020**, **mark@ayrark.co.uk** or **morag@ayrark.co.uk**, or visit **www.ayrark.co.uk**

## Arran Park Allotment

Residents of Arran Park in Prestwick recently embarked on an intergenerational allotment project. The aim is to bring a better understanding of the issues faced by older and younger generations, along with an increased community spirit and improved perceptions of safety in the area.

The project was designed to address problems of youth disorder in the area following complaints by residents and concerns raised by police and elected members. The Scottish Agricultural College kindly gave a plot of land at Auchincruive which has been divided into a community plot, a plot for young people, and individual plots for volunteers. Funding has been sourced for the purchase of gardening tools. The project is seeking more volunteers from the Arran Park area. For further information contact **01292 612134**.

## ..News Bites....News Bites..

View South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board committee papers by logging on to [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

The next meeting of the Community Planning Board takes place on Wednesday 3 February 2010. You will be able to access all the Board papers from Friday 29 January 2010 on the South Ayrshire Council website – select 'Committee Services' and then click on Agendas, Papers and Minutes.

The Community Safety Partnership has been successful in its bid for over £12,000 from the Safer Streets Fund. The money will be used to expand the police and taxi marshal elements of the SafeAyr Weekend Zone Project over the Christmas period, as well as to fund additional joint patrols by community support officers, environmental health officers and the South Ayrshire Council litter warden on 3 weekends during the festive season.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING**

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