

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**REPORT**

To: Education (Community Services) Sub-Committee	Subject: "FOCUS YOUTH" : INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
From: Director of Education	
Date: 12 May 1997	
Ref: JMcG/LL	

Purpose of Report

To inform members of an application from the "Focus Youth" project in Viewpark for financial support for its forthcoming international exchange visit to Northern Spain.

Recommendation

The sub-committee is asked to:

- (i) approve funding of £80 per person to support the "FocusYouth" visit to Logrono.
- (ii) refer the report to the civic functions group for its consideration.

Members wishing further information please contact:

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337 or
Jim McGuinness, Head of Support for Learning, on 01236 812280

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**“Focus Youth” : International Exchange****Report by Director****1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Within the 1997/98 education budget a sum of £9,430 is available to support and promote international exchanges between community education affiliated youth groups from within North Lanarkshire and corresponding groups from other countries. Such exchanges must have a clear purpose and should not merely provide for holidays or activities which are exclusively sporting in nature.
- 1.2 To date a total of £3000 has been committed to support groups from Commonwealth countries attending the forthcoming Commonwealth Youth Conference in Edinburgh in October 1997. These young people will be paired with peer groups from North Lanarkshire during their visit to Scotland. This initiative was approved by members at their meeting on 14 January 1997.
- 1.3 A sum of £6,430 remains uncommitted.

2. Application from Focus Youth Project, Viewpark

- 2.1 “Focus” is a well-established youth project based within the PPA in Viewpark. It is a voluntary urban programme project supervised by the community education service and offers a variety of programmes for the young people of the area.
- 2.2 The group are currently planning an exchange with a group from Logrono in Northern Spain. A party of 16 young people and 4 youth workers will travel to Spain on 5 July, returning on 19 July 1997. The group is composed of young people who originally became involved with the project as a result of its detached youthwork programme. The group from Logrono will consist of 20 young people and 3 leaders and will be visiting Viewpark from 2 to 16 August 1997.
- 2.3 The young people from Viewpark are fundraising and will also apply to the Youth Exchange Centre for support. This is normal practice in such circumstances. The group have been involved in language and cultural awareness raising sessions in order to familiarise themselves with the area of Northern Spain which they will be visiting.
- 2.4 “Focus” is seeking financial support from the council. The education department would strongly support the exchange which will greatly enhance the education and understanding of the young people taking part as well as opening up a new area of international partnership and friendship.

- 2.5 It is proposed that a grant of £80 per person be made available. It is also suggested that the council provide a civic reception for its Spanish visitors and that the Viewpark delegation be provided with council momentos to take to Spain for presentation to their hosts and local civic leaders.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The sub-committee is asked to:

- (i) approve funding of £80 per person to support the "FocusYouth" visit to Logrono.
- (ii) refer the report to the civic functions group for its consideration

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