

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 June 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Duke of Edinburgh's Award
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide a progress update on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) in South Lanarkshire and plans for its future development.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report which provides a progress update on the involvement of young people in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and on the positive outcomes for young people are noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The DofE was founded in Scotland in 1956 and is now widely acknowledged as the world's leading achievement award for young people. Available to all young people aged between 14 and 25, the DofE encourages the development of key life and employability skills, such as confidence, commitment and team working through participation at three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.
- 3.2. There are four sections of the programme at Bronze and Silver; volunteering, physical, skill and an expedition. At Gold there is an additional requirement of a residential element, which involves staying away from home doing a shared activity. DofE participants design their own programme and select activities that are tailored to suit their personal circumstances and choices.
- 3.3. Young people taking part in the award gain invaluable life skills which help to set them up for a positive future. The programme offers skills, confidence and a view of life that potential employers, colleges and universities are looking for. A recent study conducted by the United Learning Trust involving major employers rated The Duke of Edinburgh's Award as the number one activity undertaken as an extra curricular activity, which they look for in potential employees.
- 3.4. The flexible and personalised nature of the DofE means that it is accessible to young people and the skills.

4. Current Position in South Lanarkshire

4.1. Currently, there are 1347 young people actively participating in the award in South Lanarkshire. This is delivered through 25 DofE centres including 5 Youth Learning Service (YLS) centres, 14 schools and 6 community led and vocational development groups.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award in South Lanarkshire is managed and administered through Youth Learning Service.

4.2. In South Lanarkshire, there have been significant developments and below are some of the highlights:-

- ◆ New starts are up 26% compared to last year
- ◆ Awards achieved are up 60%
- ◆ Awards achieved by participants from disadvantaged areas up 70%
- ◆ The value of participants' contribution to their community through the volunteering section is 13,478 hours
- ◆ The value of DofE leaders' contributions to their community is calculated as 88,363 hours
- ◆ South Lanarkshire is above the national average for participants in the age range 19 to 24

4.3. Schools are using a range of ways to support the programme including Pupil Equity Funding and Scottish Attainment Challenge to enable pupils to participate in the DofE and gain a nationally recognised award.

4.4. A major priority for the DofE Support team has been to ensure that all young people who wish to participate in the award can do so. Performance data shows that South Lanarkshire is above the national average for participation and completed awards for young people from the most deprived areas (Appendix 1).

4.5. One of the guiding principles of the award is that it is achievable by all. Young people, therefore, design their own programme to provide appropriate but achievable challenges for themselves. The inclusive and supportive nature of the award means that it is also suited to vulnerable young people or those going through difficult transitions in their life. Some feedback from participants is provided in Appendix 2.

4.6. Parental and community engagement.

A key part of the success of the DofE can be the involvement of parents and community members. The DofE support team has been working closely with Cathkin High and its Parent Council and Cathkin volunteers to develop new and innovative ways to deliver the award. This has allowed for a much more targeted approach to recruiting participants and has seen some notable successes in helping young people who lack confidence or opportunities to find success through the DofE. The wider community benefits include 14 young people volunteering with Reach Autism and undertaking Autism Awareness Training, and participants volunteering with Project 31 are helping to deliver Forest School activities to younger children.

Parents can be key to supporting participants in successfully completing the award.

4.7. **Funding**

During 2017/2018, the DofE Support Team has been successful in attracting over £15k from a range of external funders and local businesses. This money has been used in a variety of ways, including to:-

- ◆ fund training for volunteers to become qualified to lead and assess expeditions
- ◆ purchase expedition equipment
- ◆ purchase boots and clothing for participants who might not otherwise be able to afford it
- ◆ directly meet the costs of the expedition and residential sections of the award for young people who would not otherwise have been able to participate

By training more volunteer leaders and buying group equipment, the overall cost of delivering the expedition is significantly reduced for participants.

4.8. **Volunteers**

A role of the Duke of Edinburgh team is to be proactive in recruiting and supporting volunteers to help with the delivery of the award. In line with the Council's policy on volunteering, the benefits are two fold;

- able to offer more expedition places and keep down the costs
- volunteers benefit from gaining valuable experience and qualifications. Some volunteers have now been able to use this to help them gain employment with outdoor activity providers.

4.9. A particular success story has been the number of young people who have completed their award and go on to volunteer as young DofE leaders. Others who have undertaken their volunteering section with youth organisations such as the Scouts and Guides have used their experiences and team working skills to become leaders in those respective organisations.

5. **Future Plans**

5.1. Under the new Youth, Family and Community, the award will continue to be offered through Universal Connections facilities and the other YLS groups. The support given to schools and community groups will continue so that successes can be further built upon.

5.2. Volunteers will continue to be supported through provision of training and advice and active recruitment. Older participants will be encouraged to consider volunteering to help the younger participants.

6. **Employee Implications**

6.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. **Financial Implications**

7.1. The current DofE Operating Authority Annual Licence is £2,596.32.

7.2. External funding continues to be explored to reduce the costs to participants.

8. **Other Implications**

8.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2 Consultation and engagement takes place with the young people are involved in the planning of DofE activities.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

29 May 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational
- Tackle disadvantage and deprivation, and support aspiration
- Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

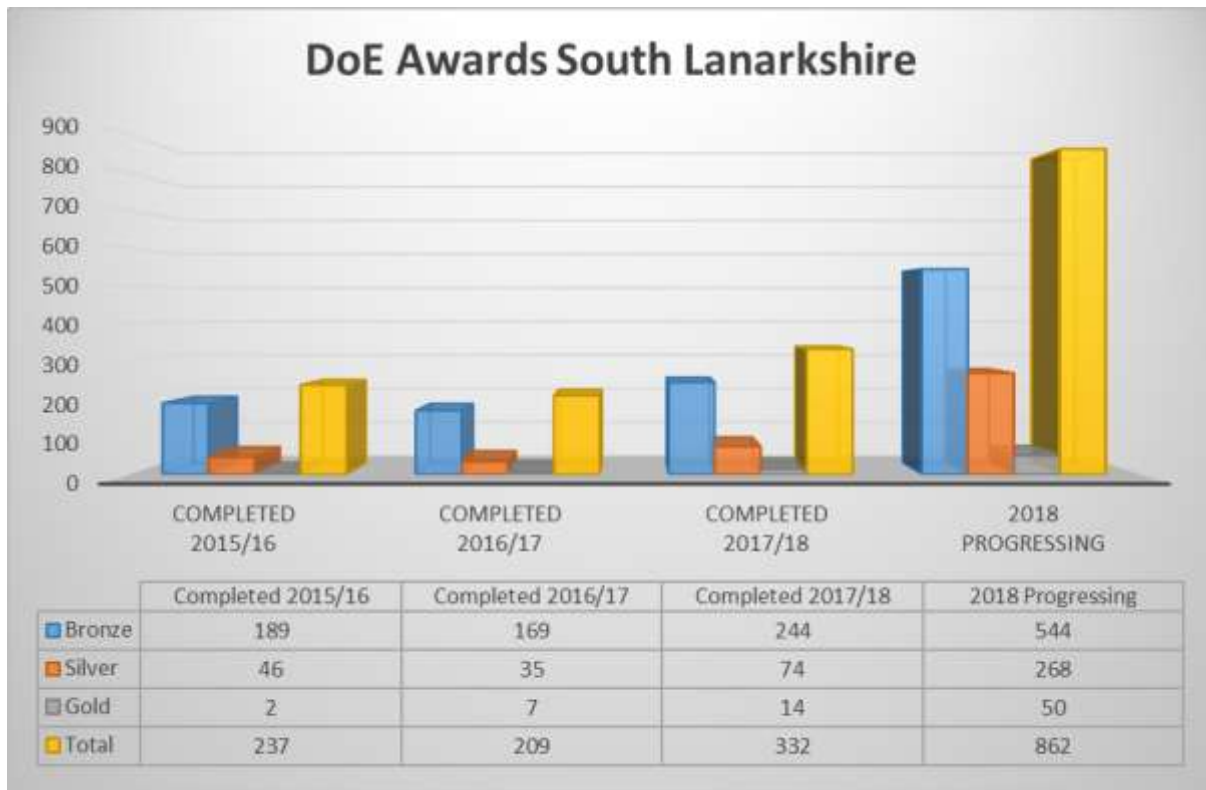
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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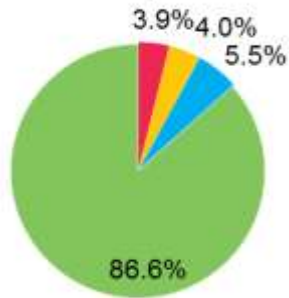
Participant Data Trends



DoE Profile Data

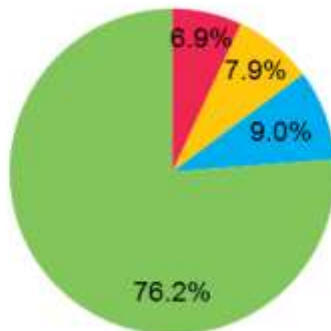
	10% most deprived	11%-20% most deprived	21%-30% most deprived
National participant profile	3.9%	4%	5.5%
South Lanarkshire participant profile	6.9% (3% higher than national average)	7.9% (3.9% higher than national average)	9% (3.5% higher than national average)

2017/18 DofE Participant Profile



- 10% most deprived
- 11%-20% most deprived
- 21%-30% most deprived
- Least deprived

S. Lanarkshire Profile



- 10% most deprived
- 11%-20% most deprived
- 21%-30% most deprived
- Least deprived

Appendix 2

Feedback from participants on their activities and from community members who have benefited from their volunteering.

“15/10/16 Cowcaddens Fire Station 10am-2pm - Health and safety brief, kit allocated and explanation on hose, hydrant, stand pipe key and bar. We got to try out the crawling galleries... I learned that I'm not scared of being in confined, dark places. I worked well as a team member and was a good leader as well. I used communication skills to communicate with my team-mate and coordinated well with them.”

(Silver DofE Participant – aged 15)

“FINAL DAY! Hallelujah. On this expedition I remembered just how tough they were back when I was doing my bronze and silver and I remembered why I never pursued my Gold back then. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud of myself for going out and taking part in the expedition having only just signed up to do DofE 3 weeks beforehand.”

(Gold DofE Participant – aged 24)

“.... xx was able to do all the things that I can no longer sustain. Pleasant, friendly, funny and kind young person. We have grown together so well that it is a pleasure to have her in my life. xx has filled a space I did not realise that I had lost in my life.”

(Elderly person writing about a Bronze participant's time volunteering with her)