

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2003

THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON

ABSTRACT

This report informs the Social Work and Health Committee of the background history to the European Year of People with Disabilities and gives details about the activities that have been taking place on a global and national level. In addition the report also provides information of an event organised by the Disabilities Services that will be taking place in Angus College, Arbroath on the 3 and 4 December to celebrate ability and achievement as part of the European Year of People with Disabilities.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- i) notes the content of this report;
- ii) notes the details of the event being held to celebrate ability and achievement as part of the European Year of People with Disabilities.

2 BACKGROUND

On the 3 December 2001, the European Union adopted 2003 as the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD). This was in recognition of the millions of disabled people who live in the Member States of the European Union. It was also seen as a perfect opportunity to raise awareness, promote understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities and encourage disabled people to express their views.

About 38 million Europeans- 10% of the populace have a disability. Despite some progress to date they still face numerous barriers- finding accessible transport, getting into buildings and facilities or gaining access to school or work.

The EYPD is about the rights of people with disabilities to full equality and participation in all areas and the slogan of the year "**Get On Board**" is an invitation to all to participate and help set up long term goals and develop initiatives to do this.

3 EYPD EVENTS ACROSS EUROPE

Thousands of activities and events have taken place throughout the year in the participating countries. These events have been linked by a march which began in Greece in January of this year and will end in Italy in December 2003.

The European Year of People with Disabilities was launched in Scotland by Jack McConnell, First Minister, in January 2003.

The Scottish Enterprise Network is supporting and contributing to the EYPD. Through Careers Scotland and the Business Gateway they aim to help people with a disability set up in business and help fulfil the ambition for a Smart, Successful Scotland.

A conference will be held on the 20 November 2003 at the SECC Glasgow to address the barriers faced by disabled people to getting into business.

4 EYPD EVENT IN ANGUS

Disabled people are citizens with equal rights. They are active as politicians, workers, consumers and taxpayers. New measures and active involvement from all sectors should lead to a positive change in the way our societies include disabled people. 2003 is the start of a new era, a new way in which society will look at people with disabilities.

With this in mind an event is being organised in Angus, as part of the EYPD, the theme of which will be "**Get On Board**" and help celebrate ability and achievement. The event will be held at Angus College Conference Centre in Arbroath on the 3 and 4 December 2003.

Over thirty organisations have been invited to attend as well as individual service areas from Social Work and other Council departments. It is planned that the event will be a mixture of information stands, workshops and demonstrations that include videos, art, music and drama. The times for the two days have been chosen to maximise public attendance and are as follows:

Wednesday 3 December 2003 from 12 noon - 8.00pm;
Thursday 4 December 2003 from 9.00am - 4.00pm.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

This event will contribute productively to tackling discrimination, and to enhancing rights under Article 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health Liaison

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.