

**Partnership Working – Education Representative**

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**1. SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the benefit of considering appointing a Member to the Committee who can represent the education service and progress educational projects for young people within and around the woods. Eileen Kay, Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning and Development Worker, has shown an interest in taking up such a role.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee note the content of this report and agree that Eileen Kay become the representative on the Committee from Education.

**3. BACKGROUND**

Eileen Kay is the local Youth Service Worker with responsibility for the primary sector, and the main focus of her work is the upper end of Primary schools P4-P7. She covers 11 Primary schools including Parklands School.

Her work includes supporting transition between primary and secondary school; improving health and wellbeing; developing literacy and numeracy; promoting and recognising achievement; community based family learning and promoting citizenship.

There are clear educational benefits to be gained from involving young people in and encouraging them to make use of the opportunities which the woods present to them. Areas worthy of exploration for potential partnership working include:

**Outdoor Learning:**

- Environmental Project
- Physical Activities - potential partnership working with Active Schools
- Outdoor Literacy Project

**Family Learning:**

- Wild Days Out - A family adventure of quests, challenges, storytelling and creativity in the secret areas of Duchess Woods

- Camp craft
- Family out-door cooking

**Generations Working Together:**

- Using already established activities such as Bug Life and the Guided Flower Walk, the aims of the project would be to involve young people from local primary schools to encourage the sharing of experiences and skills between generations
- Establish an outdoor Intergenerational Choir

**Accreditation for young which could be associated with some of the projects:**

- John Muir Award
- Dynamic Youth Awards
- Argyll Voluntary Action - Young Volunteer Award (non-accredited)

**4. CONCLUSION**

The appointment of a representative from Education will complement the activities already promoted by the Friends of Duchess Wood and encourage structured development of activities for young people in and around the woods. This has the potential to increase the wider community use of the wood, and to develop the health and well being of children and their families.

**5. IMPLICATIONS**

5.1	Policy	None
5.2	Financial	None
5.3	Legal	None
5.4	HR	None
5.5	Equalities	None
5.6	Risk	None
5.7	Customer Service	None

For further information, please contact Eileen Kay, Community Learning and Development Worker (01436 658743).