

# The Highland Council

25 June 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

## The Duke of Edinburgh Award-Progress Update

### Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

#### Summary

The report describes the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Highland, the systems in place to support it and recent positive developments that have taken place to expand the reach of the Award. The report provides background to the presentation of Gold Awards to young people at the meeting of The Highland Council.

## 1. Background

### 1.1 What is the Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of activities for anyone aged 14-24. Doing their DofE gives young people the opportunity to experience new activities or develop existing skills. There are three progressive levels of programmes which when successfully completed lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Young people create their own DofE programme by choosing volunteering, physical and skills activity, going on an expedition and, for their Gold only, taking part in a residential activity.

1.2 The Duke of Edinburgh Award operates regional offices to support the Operating Authorities; the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scotland operates from Edinburgh. One part of their role is to support Expedition Area Panel and Co-ordinators whose role it is to support expeditions in their area. The Highland Council area encompasses six Expedition Areas each supported by a Co-ordinator and volunteer team.

## 2. The Award in Highland

2.1 The Highland Council operates The Duke of Edinburgh Award under licence from The Duke of Edinburgh Award charity. Uniformed groups such as Girls Brigade, The Scout Association, Girls Guides and Air Training Corps may also run DofE groups under their own Operating Authority licence within the Highland area;. A list of DofE groups is noted in Appendix 1.

Some key features of the Award in Highland-

- Most participants are of school age.
- Many groups operate only at Bronze level.
- Over 100 volunteers are involved.

In period 2008-9

- 41 DofE groups operated under The Highland Council Operating Authority
- 1136 young people enrolled with DofE
- 93 Bronze Awards granted

- 15 Silver and 18 Gold Awards granted
- 80+ groups completed expeditions

### **3. Supporting Partnerships**

3.1 Operating DofE requires partnerships with local businesses, voluntary organisations and communities in order to offer young people the widest range of opportunities to complete each section of their DofE programme.

#### **3.2 Highland Award Project**

Highland Award Project (HAP) was formed in 1991 to support the development of the DofE in the Highland area. Currently Councillors Douglas and Gormley represent the Council on this group; other members are from local business or have shown a particular interest in supporting DofE.

### **4. Expeditions**

4.1 The expedition section of the Award requires volunteers to have specific training and be competent to train and supervise young people's expeditions in "wild country". All groups operating under our licence agreement are required to follow HC Health and Safety procedures. The Outdoor Education team have developed an in-house training course for those involved in adventurous activity, including DofE, who do not hold National Governing Body (NGB) qualifications. In addition volunteers have been able to access NGB training courses at Glenmore Lodge, initially as part of funding received from Big Lottery. This partnership may continue dependent on funding.

### **5. Recent Developments**

#### **5.1 Structures Fit for Purpose**

Running DofE across numerous locations in Highland and supporting large numbers of volunteers to deliver the Award requires robust support structures. As part of the ongoing development of youth services in Highland these structures have been examined and rationalised.

A Senior Youth Development Officer has overall responsibility for the Award including its strategic development. This is supported at a local level with 3 part-time development officers servicing local groups. All the Council's Youth Development Officers are also required to support the Award. In addition the Outdoor education team offer support ensure the expedition section of the Award is conducted safely.

#### **5.2 Broadening the Reach of the Award**

Over the past two years, DofE groups in Dornoch Academy and Gairloch High School have taken part in a pilot exploring links between DofE and Curriculum for Excellence. The schools have been encouraged to look to link elements of the DofE programme with curriculum subjects, to explore new ways of supporting young people through DofE and encourage cross disciplinary working. Pilot groups were asked to give a staff member dedicated time to support the development of DofE within the school and each pupil in S3 was offered the opportunity to develop their own DofE programme. Both Highland schools took different approaches to the pilot and both have been very successful.

The DofE Development Officer in Inverness has set up an Open DofE group in Inverness with support from three new volunteers. A small Bronze group met for the first time in early June to begin work on their DofE programmes. This group will work with young people who cannot access DofE through their school or those who are over school age.

The DofE Development Officer in Lochaber, has been working to support a group of young people from An Cala (Intensive Support Unit) through their Bronze Award. Activities completed by these young people include fitness activities related to the local boxing club; film making and a Highland and Islands Fire and Rescue Service course. In one case a young woman helping out at the local stables has gone on to complete the National Certificate in Horse and Stable Management. Each of these young people has been referred by youth workers, school or guidance teachers to be supported to complete their DofE programme and this project shows effective partnership working.

## **6. Recommendations**

Members are asked:-

- 6.1 To note the positive progress in developing support structures for the Award that are fit for purpose.
- 6.2 To note the progress in developing the accessibility of the Award to diverse groups of young people.
- 6.3 To welcome the presentation of Gold Awards to young people at the meeting.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 16 June 2009

Background Papers:

## Appendix 1

### DofE groups operating under Highland Council Operating Authority (2008/9)

DofE Group	Town	Area	DofE group type	No of participants	Number of enrolments			Number of Awards		
					Bronze	Silver	Gold	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Pulteneytown People's Project	Wick	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	13				1		
1st Wick Scouts	Wick	CSER	Youth Clubs	1						
Wick High School	Wick	CSER	Secondary Schools	39				1		
Tain Royal Academy	Tain	CSER	Secondary Schools	23		6	1	8	2	
Thurso ATC	Thurso	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	11						
Wick ATC	Wick	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	10						
Caithness Guides	Thurso	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	11						2
Thurso Scouts	Thurso	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	0						
Thurso High School	Thurso	CSER	Secondary Schools	23	14					
Wick Amateur Swimming Club	Wick	CSER	Voluntary Youth Organisations	9	6	2		4		
UKAEA	Thurso	CSER	Business Units	1						1
Farr High School	By Thurso	CSER	Secondary Schools	24	9			2		
Golspie High School	Golspie	CSER	Secondary Schools	34	12	7		2		
Dornoch Academy	Dornoch	CSER	Secondary Schools	130	55		1		1	
Kinlochbervie High School	Kinlochbervie	CSER	Secondary Schools	16				1		
Grantown Grammar School - Silver/Gold	Grantown on Spey	INBS	Secondary Schools	37		10		8	5	1
Crown	Inverness	INBS	Youth Clubs	62	2	12	1	12	1	3
Kingussie High School	Kingussie	INBS	Secondary Schools	62	22	2		10		
Charleston Academy	Inverness	INBS	Secondary Schools	78	30	10		5		
Inverness Royal Academy	Inverness	INBS	Secondary Schools	94	36	16	10	12	4	10

Nairn Academy	Nairn	INBS	Secondary Schools	6						
Glen Urquhart High School	Inverness	INBS	Secondary Schools	3						
MP33	Inverness	INBS	Youth Clubs					1		
IRA ASN group	Inverness	INBS	Secondary Schools	4						
Grantown Grammar School - Bronze	Grantown on Spey	INBS	Secondary Schools	33	21					
Inverness Open Group	Inverness	INBS	Open Award Centres	1						
Millburn Academy	Inverness	INBS	Secondary Schools	31						
Gairloch High School	Ross-shire	RSL	Secondary Schools	67	26	4	2	7	2	1
British Red Cross	Kyle	RSL	Voluntary Youth Organisations	4	4					
Lochaber High School	Fort William	RSL	Secondary Schools	30	2	1				
Kinlochleven High School	Kinlochleven	RSL	Secondary Schools	40	10	1		7		
Ardnamurchan High School	Strontian	RSL	Secondary Schools	25	10					
Caol DoE Group	Fort William	RSL	Youth Clubs	67	16	1		1		
Dingwall Academy	Dingwall	RSL	Secondary Schools	7				2		
Fortrose Academy	Fortrose	RSL	Secondary Schools	80	35			6		
Plockton High School, ASN	Plockton	RSL	Secondary Schools	2						
Ullapool High School	Ullapool	RSL	Secondary Schools	40	24	1		3		
Portree High School	Portree	RSL	Secondary Schools							
Portree NOF	Auchtertyre	RSL	Secondary Schools	12	6					
WildWalks	Various	RSL/INBS	Other (please specify)	6	3					
				1136	343	73	15	93	15	18