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YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE FUTURE OF LARNE

A local group of parents, families and friends heard the Mayor, Councillor Robert McKee, praise the hard work and commitment of a group of young people as he presented them with Community Leadership Programme certificates at the Highways Hotel on 11th February 2004.

The young people had completed the first stage of the Peer Education Project, initiated by the Larne Children's Services Planning Group and Larne Community Development Project.

At the presentation the young people displayed their projects for the audience and described how the communication, organisational and leadership skills they had gained on the course had been put to use in their local communities. Larne community

workers Anne Carson and Bertie Shaw helped the young people to implement their projects in this area.

Participants of the Peer Education Project will now continue on to the second part of the course, which will provide Drug and Alcohol Awareness training. At the end of the course they will be equipped to act as Peer Educators.

Course organiser David Norris also commended the young people's willingness and hard work during the course. During the presentation David's colleague, Maureen Lynd, described how the projects implemented by the young people participating in the course had brought benefits to the local communities in Antiville and Seacourt.

Grainne Keane, Chair of the Larne Children's Services Planning Group said:

"It is wonderful to see an idea become a reality through this project. It is a credit to the commitment and hard work of the young people involved. Congratulations to participants and organisers on

this tremendous achievement and I look forward to seeing you succeed at the next stage.”

The Northern Drug and Alcohol Co-ordinating Team are funding the Peer Education Project. The Larne Children’s Services Planning Group is a sub group of the Northern Area Children and Young People’s Committee, which is led by the Northern Health and Social Services Board.