

## **9 SCOTTISH EDUCATION AWARDS (AN207- 2004)**

The third Scottish Education Awards were held at the Adventure Centre, Ratho on Friday, 19th March, 2004. Dundee City Council, through the Kick-It Kick-Off project, was named as winner in the Closing the Gap category – the only award that is open to entries on behalf of Local Education Authorities.

The Closing the Gap award aims to recognise a project which tackles deprivation, raises achievement and increases success for all pupils or for vulnerable groups such as excluded children, looked after children, whether at home or away from home or those from deprived or vulnerable backgrounds.

Dundee City Council chose to nominate the Kick-It Kick-Off project. This project is a partnership between the City Council and Dundee Football Club and is based at Dens Park Stadium. The project initially supported secondary aged young people who were involved/at risk of involvement in substance abuse, offending behaviour and exclusion from school. Through demand the project was recently extended to include primary aged children. Priority was also given to children and young people looked after by the local authority and links between the project and the local authority young people's residential units were established. Kick-It Kick-Off is a 10 week programme which deals with issues relating to misuse of illegal drugs, offending, alcohol abuse, health and fitness, drugs in football, and relationships between young people and adults in authority. In addition those involved use the Community Learning Centre for academic lessons and work with football coaches.

Members of the Education Committee are asked to record their congratulations to all involved with the Kick-It Kick-Off project on this national recognition.

In addition to the success of the Authority's entry, an entry by Menzieshill High School was named a runner-up in the award category "Schools For All" for their Peer Education Anti-Bullying Project.