

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 FEBRUARY 2004  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 FEBRUARY 2004**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE FOOTBALL CLUB COMMUNITIES LEARNING CENTRE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
HEAD OF COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT NO: 115-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The report provides Committee members with a progress report on the development of a Community Learning Centre through a partnership involving Dundee Football Club and Dundee City Council's Education and Communities Departments.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the progress achieved to date.
- 2.2 approve the continued involvement of Council staff in supporting the development of this initiative with Dundee Football Club and other partner agencies.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Dundee Football Club have agreed to lease accommodation to the Community Learning Centre free of charge and meet the overhead costs of heating and lighting as part of their contribution to project costs.
- 3.2 The Project was successful in attracting £20,000 SIP monies to provide ICT furnishings and fittings.
- 3.3 The Education Department have identified funds to pay for the construction of additional accommodation. They will also seek to second an IT tutor.
- 3.4 The Communities Department have identified resources to establish a literacy project for socially excluded young people aged 16-18 years.
- 3.5 The medium to long term aim is for the Project to achieve charitable status to enable access to Lottery monies through the Community Fund. Any other costs will be met initially within existing departmental resources.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The project seeks to relieve financial hardship by providing support for young people and adults experiencing poverty and social exclusion
- 4.2 The Community Learning Centre initiative provides participants access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a fuller part in society.
- 4.3 The project provides opportunities for social, leisure and cultural activities within a supportive social environment.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The project aims to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Dundee without distinction of sex, sexuality, political, religious or other opinions by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time so that their conditions of life may be improved.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 In furthering the Community Learning Centres objectives, the project aims to:

- Enable participants to enjoy greater access to lifelong learning and development opportunities
- Use football and sport as an outreach into health development activities
- Provide access to vocational and non-vocational training opportunities and careers education/guidance
- Provide information, guidance and support on relevant social issues
- Develop participants confidence, self esteem and capacity to engage in independent learning
- Raise participants motivation, aspirations and levels of achievement

6.2 On 13 and 20 January 2003, Neighbourhood Resources and Development and Education Committees approved the involvement of Council Staff in supporting the development of this initiative.

## **7.0 DUNDEE FOOTBALL CLUB COMMUNITY LEARNING ASSOCIATION**

7.1 The Dundee Football Club Community Learning Association, elected a Management Committee at its inaugural annual general meeting which took place at Dens Park Stadium on Thursday 26 June 2003.

7.2 The Composition of the Management Committee was agreed as follows:

Dundee Football Club	2 places
Dundee City Council	2 places
Dundee College	1 place
JobCentre Plus	1 place
Careers Scotland	1 place
University of Abertay	1 place
Dundee F C Development Group	1 place
Kick-It, Kick-Off Project	1 place
Individual Members	5 places

## **8.0 COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE ACCOMMODATION**

8.1 The Community Learning Centre currently operates in four linked areas in the football ground, providing facilities for individual support, educational group work, recreational activities, IT based learning and administrative support.

8.2 Community Learning Centre accommodation will continue to be owned by Dundee Football Club but will be managed by the Community Learning Association.

8.3 The intention is for Dundee Football Club to lease the accommodation to the Community Learning Centre Association free of charge.

## **9.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

During the last year over 150 young people and adults of mixed gender have participated in the following projects activities.

### **9.1 Football Skills Development**

Programmes included a wide range of topics including fitness, diet, teamwork, discipline, the laws of the game and football coaching.

### **9.2 Social Education**

Social education programmes have addressed a wide range of social issues including; drugs and alcohol awareness, drugs and the law, sexual health, life as a professional footballer, positive adult role models, anger management and team building.

### **9.3 Junior Sports Leader Award**

34 young people have participated in the Junior Sports Leader Award Scheme during the past year. Through this scheme young people have gained knowledge in sports and fitness and developed skills including their peers in a variety of sports including football, basketball, indoor hockey and short tennis.

### **9.4 Peer Support**

Young people participating in personal and social development programmes have been encouraged to take responsibility for providing information and support for their peers.

### **9.5 IT Programmes**

Groups of young people have been able to develop their IT skills using a variety of software packages.

### **9.6 Learning Through Football**

Children and young people have had access to football coaching in their communities through the Learning Through Football Programme. The programme has been extended to target football coaching towards women and ethnic minorities.

### **9.7 Healthy Living Initiatives**

A booklet entitled "Eating For Performance" has been produced and made available to school children and community groups. A "Healthy Eating" information session was provided for parents with children under 12, in the form of a pub quiz.

## **10.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

10.1 The difficult financial position faced by Dundee Football Club has been well documented in the local press.

10.2 The Administrators charged with managing Dundee Football Club's business affairs have indicated that the development of Community Learning Centre should continue, and that the project is very much part of the Club's future plans.

10.3 In the event of the closure of Dundee Football Club, all the resources owned by the Community Learning Centre Association would be passed on to other organisations with similar objectives.

10.4 The aim is to establish The Dundee Football Club Community Learning Association as an independent charitable organisation and produce a development plan/funding strategy for the period 2004 – 2007. The intention is to commission a feasibility study to look into the longer term development of the project.

10.5 The Community Learning Centre Association intend to develop a wider range of activities during the coming year, in line with project objectives, including literacy development work for socially excluded young people aged 16 – 18 years and out of schools hours learning activities for primary school aged children.

## **11.0 CONCLUSION**

11.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Education.

## **12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 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.

**Anne Wilson**  
**Director of Education**

**2 February 2004**

**Stewart Murdoch**  
**Head of Communities**