

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Communities Committee - 15 January 2007

REPORT ON: Youth Literacies

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 25-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the progress of youth literacy work in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note:

2.1 The local and national impact of the 16-24 age group project.

2.2 The 16-24 age group annual report.

2.3 Awards of £5,000 and £6,000 from Youth Link Scotland.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability
None.

4.2 Strategic Environment Assessment
None.

4.3 Anti Poverty
Youth literacy work targets those who are particularly likely to experience poverty. It develops their participation and potentially improves their economic prosperity.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The work of the 16-24 age group Project is targeted at those who had little tradition of participation in lifelong learning and aims to provide opportunities to address inequalities through addressing literacy needs.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 National Context

"Hard to reach" young adults aged 16 to 24 years were identified in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland report (Scottish Executive, 2001) as a target group for literacy and numeracy support.

The Scottish Executive allocated funding to local authorities to take forward the priorities identified in the Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland report.

6.2 Local Context

Dundee Community Learning Partnership Literacies Initiative also identified "Hard to reach" young adults aged 16-24 in the Dundee Literacies Strategic Plan (2006-2008).

6.3 During 2002 a small piece of research was carried out with young adults in Dundee to ascertain their attitudes to literacy and learning. As a result of this research the need for a youth literacy project was established.

6.4 Funding was received from the Literacies Initiative to employ two part-time Youth Literacy Workers to develop literacy programmes with young people using innovative methods e.g. music, art, poetry, drama, photography etc. The project has evolved and the 16-24 Literacy Project, originally called Y.A.L.P. (Young Adult Literacies Project), now has a staff team made up of a full-time Youth Literacy Development Worker, a part-time Art and Group Worker, two Sessional Literacy Tutors and two Sessional Youth Workers.

6.5 16-24 has developed programmes of work around creative subjects, for example, art, music, photography, poetry and film. The courses are creative in nature and have literacy elements built into them. The project has been in existence for three years and has well established courses and develops new courses around young people's expressed needs and interests as they arise (e.g. motorbike group, young mum's group). Group work takes place in a youth work context and follows a social practice model. As well as group work, 16-24's qualified tutors deliver one to one tuition in literacy and numeracy.

6.6 A copy of the 16-24 Literacy Project Annual Report 2005-2006 is available in the Councillors Lounge.

7.0 LOCAL AND NATIONAL IMPACT

7.1 Local Impact

During 2005-2006, 16-24 has worked with 72 young people (48 male and 24 female). Forty three learners have been engaged in group work, 25 in one to one tuition and 12 started with the project as group participants and have gone on to access one to one literacy provision.

7.2 The majority of young people that 16-24 work with are either unemployed or attending a training scheme to get into work. The average age of participants is 18 and most have been out of formal education from the age of 14.

7.3 The lifestyles of many of the participants has been chaotic and they may drop in and out of provision. Allowances have been made for this by structuring group and one to one tuition in such a way that it is flexible and learner led.

7.4 16-24 delivers a combination of group work in various venues around Dundee (e.g. Highwayman, Fairbridge Dundee, Menzieshill Community Centre, Ardler Complex, DCA and Central Library) and one to one tutoring. Group work involved integrated literacy activities, whereas one to one support is dedicated to literacy work.

7.5 Referrals to the project come from various routes including other youth agencies, training providers, Careers Scotland, Throughcare Aftercare, Literacy Outreach Team and self referrals. 16-24 is a citywide project and participants have come from all over Dundee.

8.0 NATIONAL IMPACT

- 8.1 16-24 in a partnership bid with Fairbridge Scotland received £5,000 funding from the YouthLink "To the Max Project", to develop a Creative Literacies Resource Pack. The pack has been developed as a resource for youth workers and other workers who are in contact with young people who would like to introduce literacy into their work. The pack consists of activity sheets and examples of integrated creative literacies under the following subject headings - poetry, music, creative writing, art, photography and poetry.
- 8.2 16-24 have recently been awarded a further £6,000 from Youth Link's Capital Grants Fund to purchase multi-media equipment.
- 8.3 Two learners from the 16-24 initiative were nominated for Young Adult Learner of the Year Awards. One of the learners received a certificate for her achievements in learning and the other made it through to the finalists and received the Young Scot Award.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted in the preparation of this report, which is based on recommendations made by the Literacies Sub Group of the Community Learning Partnership and are in agreement with its contents.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following paper was relied upon in the presentation of this report:
Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland (ALNIS), Scottish Executive, 2001.

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3 JANUARY 2007