

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 20 AUGUST 2012**

**REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FUNDING SUPPORT TO PRINCE'S TRUST'S FAIRBRIDGE PROGRAMME IN DUNDEE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO.: 277-2012**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to support the work carried out by the Prince's Trust's Fairbridge Programme, in Dundee in supporting young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion from school.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. notes the contents of this report; and
- ii. approves the award of funding to Prince's Trust in Dundee.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 It is proposed that the sum of £10,000 be awarded to Prince's Trust's Fairbridge Programme in Dundee in the financial year 2012-13. Approval was sought and granted for financial year 2011/12 (Committee Report 324-2011). Approval will be sought from the Education Committee for any proposal to award funding in future financial years. Funding will come from accessibility funding as detailed in the Accessibility Strategy: 2009-2012 (Education Committee Report No 536-2009 of 23 November 2009 refers).

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Prince's Trust is a charitable organisation which has taken over the charitable organisation formally referred to as Fairbridge. Fairbridge has providing a service to young people from Dundee schools over a period of 11 years and will continue to do so under the banner of Prince's Trust's Fairbridge Programme. Fairbridge enables young people from inner cities to meet the opportunities and responsibilities of society today by offering them a long-term personal development programme that builds confidence, motivation and personal, social and life skills.

4.2 Since April 2011 Fairbridge has worked with 82 young people aged 13-15 whose challenging behaviour or circumstances mean that they are underachieving, persistent truants and/or at risk of exclusion from school. The ultimate aim of the programme is to support young people to re-engage with education, or to help them build the skills to move forwards towards employment, college or training programmes.

4.3 The Education Department recognises the positive impact their work has in supporting positive outcomes for the young people referred to Fairbridge by secondary schools.

4.4 The Education Department is keen to provide support to Fairbridge to enable them to continue to work with young people in the Dundee area. Experience has shown the young people tend to have diverse needs including disabilities ranging from ADHD, diabetes, asthma, behavioural capacity, visual impairment, mental health and bereavement and loss.

- 4.5 During the 2011/12 session Fairbridge took positive steps to address the gender imbalance within their previous programmes and offered a female only Access course. This resulted in a doubling of the number of female participants compared to the previous year.
- 4.6 This funding will allow Fairbridge to continue to support young people who attend a recognised programme which will assist them to develop a better understanding of their debilitating issues. It will also enable them and their families to view education in a positive light and achieve positive outcomes for their futures.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website:  
<http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

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Director of Education

16 July 2012

MW/EW/MM