

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 2011
REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FUNDING SUPPORT TO FAIRBRIDGE IN DUNDEE
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO.: 324-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to support the work carried out by Fairbridge 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 Fairbridge in Dundee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 It is proposed that the sum of £10,000 be awarded to Fairbridge in Dundee in the financial year 2011-12. Approval was sought and granted for financial year 2010/11 (Committee Report 631-2010, 25 October). 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 Fairbridge is a charitable organisation which has been providing a service to young people from Dundee schools over a period of 9 years. 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 Fairbridge aims to work with approximately 80 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 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, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

JIM COLLINS
Director of Education

1 June 2011

JC/EW/MM