

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEES –
23 AUGUST 2010**

REPORT ON: REVISED CHARGES FOR DUDHOPE HOUSE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 419-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report requests approval to increase the charges for the educational provision at the Young Persons' Unit, Dudhope House, in order to cover the costs of providing the education service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Policy & Resources Committees:

- i. note the content of this report ;
- ii. approve the proposal to increase charges as outlined in paragraph 3.2 below; and
- iii. instruct the Director of Education to inform other local authorities of this decision.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 A review has been undertaken of the charges made to other local authorities for providing education in accordance with Circular No 5/2001, Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000, Education of Children Absent from School Through Ill-health.

3.2 The previous charge of £98.00 per day was raised in line with inflation to £101.00 following a decision taken by the Policy & Resources Committee in February 2010 (report no. 82-2010, refers) pending the outcome of the review. This review has highlighted (see Financial Appendix) that the existing charge no longer reflects the actual cost of providing the service and recommends that the daily charge is increased from £101.00 to £150.00 per patient per day.

3.3 All local authorities on which a rise in charges would impact were informed in March 2010 of the intention to seek Committee approval to raise the charge to £150 from the start of the new academic session.

3.4 The impact on the revenue income will be dependent on the number of young persons who require the service. Dundee City Council has no locus in referring young people to Dudhope House, that being a medical decision reached by each young person's local health authority and NHS Tayside. The level of income can, therefore, change significantly year on year depending on the number of children who attend from outwith the authority.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Dudhope House is a National Health Service facility, managed by NHS Tayside, which supports children and young people with a diagnosis of a mental health illness. The service provides for children and young people from across the north of Scotland. Children can only be referred to and placed in the facility for health reasons. Within the facility Dundee City Council has a duty to provide an education service and ensure continuity of education for the duration of the young persons' treatment in Dudhope House.
- 4.2 The *Young Persons' Unit* within Dudhope House is a residential facility with the capacity for 6 inpatients from age 12-18. Education is provided on the basis of a morning's or afternoon's attendance.
- 4.3 A careful log is kept of the access to education by each individual. For children from authorities other than Dundee, the local authority responsible for the education of each individual is then charged accordingly. Educational sessions are timetabled around therapy sessions delivered by NHS staff.
- 4.4 Consideration has been given to sustainability of the level of teacher support provided within Dudhope House. This review of charges will enable the Department to sustain the necessary staffing levels and maintain the high quality of educational provision available to Dudhope House in-patients.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental 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 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment

Jim Collins
Director of Education

11 August 2010

EW/JC/MM

Financial Appendix

Comparison of Income and Expenditure: Financial Year 2009-2010

INCOME

	£	£
Recharge to local authorities		60,417

EXPENDITURE

Staffing (2.2FTE)	102,760	
Supplies and Services	2,000	
Administration	10,400	

TOTAL 115,160

Shortfall 54,743

Projected Income based on a charge of £150/day
(based on an average 3-5 pupils for 190 days) 114,000