

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 13 SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: LITERACIES ACTION PLAN – ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2004/2005

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 569-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report makes recommendations for the allocation of resources to deliver on the key elements contained in the Literacies Action Plan, which was approved by the Scottish Executive in March 2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees the allocation of Literacies Action Plan funding 2004/2005 as recommended by the Community Learning Partnership (Literacies Sub Group) on 23 June 2004, and as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The value of the allocations is £10,497 and this can be contained within the allocation to the Dundee Community Learning Partnership of £386,475 (2004-2005), previously reported to Committee on 10 February 2003 (Report No 135-2003). The Partnership allocation for project bid purposes is £230,000 (2004-2005).

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Report seeks to ensure that resources are used as efficiently as possible to achieve Departmental and Council agreed service priorities, and ensure a sustainable partnership approach to literacy provision.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals will continue to reflect the priorities of the Council and the Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities. The resources made available are targeted at the 23% of the adult population identified as having literacy needs and aim to provide equality of opportunities to learning.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 In July 2001 the Scottish Executive produced a circular ELLD 1/01 providing guidance on the role expected of Local Authorities in the new drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. This role is set within the context of the Community Learning Strategy and Local Authority duties were outlined as follows:

- Ensure that the partnership group responsible for the Community Learning Strategy make effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy.
- Co-ordinate and lead on the creation of clearly defined action plans on adult literacy as components of Community Learning Strategies

The definition of what constitutes an appropriate level of literacy and numeracy for people is set out as follows:

“The ability to read, write and use numeracy, to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners”.

- 6.2 £51 million has been allocated nationally to adult literacy for the period 2001–2006, to underpin a national drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Programmes delivered through these funds are to be targeted at learners with an ability level below intermediate level 1.

Dundee's allocation is

▪ 2001 – 2002	£ 95,732	(part year)
▪ 2002 – 2003	£191,465	
▪ 2003 - 2004	£368,747	
▪ 2004 – 2005	£386,475	
▪ 2005 – 2006	£397,112	

- 6.3 Authority to recommend funding allocations under the Community Learning Partnership – Literacies Action Plan has been delegated to a Partnership Sub Group which has representatives from Dundee City Council (Communities/Education), Dundee College, Tayside Chamber of Commerce, Dundee Trades Union Council, Scottish Trades Union Council, Job Centre Plus, Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Dundee Voluntary Action.
- 6.4 The Partnership Sub Group have recommended the award detailed in Appendix 1.
- 6.5 The Action Plan submitted to the Scottish Executive outlined a broad-based and flexible delivery programme for the city.

The following are the agreed target groups:

- People with limited initial education, particularly young people (limited educational attainment – intermediate level one or below).
- Unemployed people and workers facing redundancy (this includes people who are on sessional/casual/temporary contracts, or in marginal employment).
- People with English as a second or other language.
- People who live in disadvantaged areas (areas designated by Scottish Executive, City Council or Scottish Enterprise Tayside).
- Workers in low skill jobs (requiring minimal or no pre and on job training).
- People on low incomes (those receiving state benefits or on minimum wage).
- People with a health problem or disability affecting learning, speech, sight or hearing (only people who are able to articulate their own learning needs are covered by this funding – it is not acceptable for a carer to set out their need).

The delivery of the Action Plan is based on four aspects:

- A partnership approach – where possible delivery should involve more than one agency.
- Utilising existing networks and professionals to raise awareness with potential learners and refer them to providers through the establishment of a formal Spotters and Referrers Network.
- A common gateway approach utilising a core information gathering structure, assessment approach, individual learning planning framework, recording and evaluation and monitoring structure.
- Delivery of learning to occur at venues and times to suit the learners across the city – this to include community and workplace settings.

The action plan sets a target number of new learners to be achieved in each year:

▪ 2001 – 2002	50
▪ 2002 – 2003	520
▪ 2003 – 2004	1320
▪ 2004 – 2005	1587
▪ 2005 – 2006	1607

These figures must be achieved over and above previous student numbers attained by members of the Community Learning Partnership, thus showing a net increase across the partners and the City.

6.6 The allocation of funds to community learning partners will address the targets contained in the action plan.

6.7 The Scottish Executive expects that Local Authorities will:

- ensure that the Partnership Group responsible for community learning strategies makes effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy;
- ensure new resources continue to support and, where possible, build on the increased capacity evidenced in the existing Action Plan and improve the quality of local provision;
- ensure all partners, including Further Education and the Voluntary Sector, have equal access to the new resources.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 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.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities**

Date: 3 September 2004

**DUNDEE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
LITERACIES ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2004/2005**

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF49	Dyslexia Institute	To provide specialist support to adults with dyslexia who are referred via existing literacy providers. The Dyslexia Institute will provide specific programmes of support to adults and offer initial screening for dyslexia. Current projects are unable to offer this level of support.	10,497	10,497
			10,497	10,497

Total Project Bid Allocation 2004/2005	£230,000.00
Previously committed Report No 270-2004	£205,524.72
Proposals contained in this report	<u>£ 10,497.00</u>
Balance remaining	<u>£ 13,978.28</u>