

8 'ACCESS TO LEARNING PROJECT (ENGAGING MINORITY ETHNIC FAMILIES)' MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATION - CENTRAL LIBRARY, WELLGATE (AN255-2006)

The 'Access to Learning Project (engaging minority ethnic families)' works directly with minority ethnic communities in Dundee. The client group is minority ethnic mothers and their children 0-5 years. The diversity of communities includes of Japanese, Indonesian, Polish, Vietnamese, Indian, Scottish, Chinese, Spanish, Pakistani, Libyan, Iranian, German with new clients attending regularly.

For the past two years the Access to Learning Project has been showcasing the work carried out through the Project and hosting multi-cultural celebration events working in partnership with Central Library, and other partnership agencies. This has seen a marked increase in successful engagement of agencies with this client group, including a substantial increase in minority ethnic family membership of the library. This year's event was bigger and more successful than last year's event and attracted approximately 500 people on Thursday, 6th July, 2006 into Central Library where a variety of cultural activities were on offer.

The event aimed to demonstrate how Access to Learning Project (engaging minority ethnic families) focuses on community development and learning and providing learning opportunities to encourage and support minority ethnic families within Hilltown and Stobswell/Fairmuir areas. The Project promotes community engagement by bringing together equality, diversity and culture by involving hard-to-reach communities. This is achieved through celebrating and raising awareness of the different cultures and nationalities living in Dundee and empowering them to take a more active role within the community, therefore reducing isolation.

The Access to Learning Project (engaging minority ethnic families) has continued to work in partnership with local minority ethnic communities, schools, community projects, and other agencies and organisations to develop the needs of minority ethnic families. The range of activities and initiatives run within the Project demonstrate the Project's increasing presence in communities, its focus on partnership working and its role in bridging the gap between local need and service provision.

The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Note the continuing success of the Access to Learning Project, and in particular, its Open Day events and;
- (ii) Approve the running of the event on an annual basis subject to the award of external funding support.