

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2004

REPORT ON: FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 278-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee the Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony proposed for 9 September 2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:
- i note the contents of this report;
 - ii instruct the Director of Education to take forward the preparations for and to hold the first Citywide Awards Ceremony

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of the awards ceremony are contained within the existing Education Department budget.
- 3.2 Sponsorship for the Awards Ceremony will also be sought from local businesses.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Citizens of Dundee and, in particular, parents, will have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the success of our young people.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The awards are open to all and will actively support schools in promoting equality of opportunity across the City by engaging all Education Department staff and pupils in identifying and celebrating achievement.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Inspection of the Education Functions of Dundee City Council carried out in May 2001 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) recommended that:

“The senior management team should redouble efforts to support and challenge schools in meeting and surpassing attainment targets, celebrating staff and pupils' successes “

- 6.2 The Dundee City Council Education Department Development Plan 2002-2005 seeks in its aims to:

“Promote a culture where everyone is valued equally and all achievements are recognised”

It also seeks to build and strengthen relationships by creating a recognised reward and recognition system for all staff, by sharing good practice across the City and by formalising the system of congratulation and recognition for all pupils including “celebration ceremonies for pupils”

- 6.3 The Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony will recognise the energy and commitment demonstrated by Education Department staff, parents and pupils.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1 Many of our pupils’ successes are already celebrated through established awards eg “The McManus Award for Citizenship”, “The McIntosh Patrick Award” for art. These and other awards are presented at individual ceremonies throughout the academic year.
- 7.2 The Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony will not diminish the value of the individual awards presented at specific events such as “The McManus Award for Citizenship” but will rather enhance the profile of these awards through their further inclusion in such a high profile event
- 7.3 The Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony seeks to extend the number and categories of awards and to present them at a high profile awards evening to be held in the Caird Hall.
- 7.4 **The Categories:**

Theme 1 –Awards for Schools and Educational Services

These five categories are open to all Dundee schools and educational services. The categories are:

- *Improving the Quality of Learning and Teaching*
- *Removing Barriers to Learning*
- *Developing Partnerships*
- *Creating a Positive Ethos – Building Self-esteem*
- *Developing Citizenship*

Theme 2 – Awards for Pupils

A number of awards will be made to senior (S5-S6) pupils. These awards aim to recognise outstanding talent and performances. The categories of Awards for Pupils are:

Citizenship The McManus Award for Citizenship

Art and Design The McIntosh Patrick Award

Music Male Vocalist of the Year
 Female Vocalist of the Year

Instrumentalist of the Year

Sport

Sportsman of the Year
Sportswoman of the Year

SQA Awards Outstanding performance in the SQA Examinations 2004

The McManus Award for Citizenship and the McIntosh Patrick Award are existing awards. Winners will be decided upon in the usual manner.

The SQA Awards will be based purely on performance in the SQA Examination diet taking place in May/June 2004.

Theme 3: The Award for Service to Education in Dundee

The Award for Service to Education in Dundee has been established to recognise and reward outstanding service to education in the city.

Schools, educational services, School Boards, parents, individual pupils or classes will be invited to nominate a person who has made a specific and valuable contribution to the life of their school/service.

8.0 PROPOSAL

- 8.1 The Director of Education be instructed to proceed with the planning and implementation of the Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony.

9.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Management) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

24 March 2004

AW/LW