

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 21 AUGUST 2006**  
**REPORT ON: LITERACIES INITIATIVE - END OF YEAR REPORT 2005/2006**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
**REPORT NO: 448-2006**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This Report seeks to inform members of the progress in the implementation of the Community Learning and Development Partnership - Literacies Initiative and the key points reported to the Scottish Executive in the End Year Report 2005/2006 as per external funding requirements.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to note:

- 2.1 Progress on the initiative exceeded its targets. The number of learners receiving literacy support in 2005/2006 was 1,990.
- 2.2 The number of venues providing adult literacy support across the city has increased to 41 during 2005/2006.
- 2.3 The range of partners who have received funding to deliver literacies provision, which addresses all target groups as identified by Scottish Executive (see Appendix 1).

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications for the City Council arising from this report.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All sections of the community are targeted for literacy provision.
- 4.2 The Literacy Initiative works in partnership with key organisations within the city to ensure resources are used as effectively as possible to achieve agreed priorities.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

5.1 The Literacies Initiative reflects the high priority given by the City Council and the Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities. The main purpose is to target individuals who do not traditionally participate in learning, and who have been identified as most at risk from exclusion due to literacies difficulties. Participation in literacies provision is open to everyone regardless of their race, colour, gender, sexuality, age, class, ethnic or religious belief.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 The Dundee Literacy Action Plan was submitted to the Scottish Executive in December 2001, this Action Plan outlined a partnership approach to building literacy/numeracy capacity across the city. The Leisure and Communities Department was given the lead role in taking this Initiative forward. The Action Plan approved by the Scottish Executive is based on four aspects:

- a partnership approach - where appropriate, 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 core information gathering, common assessment approaches, usage of an individual learning plan and a recording monitoring and evaluation structure.
- delivery of learning to venues and times to suit learners across the city - including community and workplace settings.

6.2 The Scottish Executive definition of what constitutes an appropriate level of literacy and numeracy is:

"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."

6.3 Achievements to April 2006

Between April 2005 and April 2006, the Literacies Initiative has made significant progress in achieving targets identified in the Scottish Executive approved Action Plan and, as highlighted in Appendix 1, have undertaken the following:

- Exceeded the target for learners by 23%, with a total of 1,990 learners receiving literacy support.
- Increased venues where literacy support is available to 41 venues across the city.
- Funded 9 partnership projects.
- Extended the Gateway Unit which operates as a first point of contact for literacy learners to provide an outreach service to partners across the city.
- Continuously upgraded the Discover Learning website [www.discoverlearning.org](http://www.discoverlearning.org).
- Co-worked with Dyslexia Action (formerly Dyslexia Institute) to train 15 tutors in an accredited award on delivering dyslexia support to adults.
- Made positive progress in developing literacy provision in the workplace, with negotiated time off for staff to attend literacy support.

Literacies provision delivered by the Leisure and Communities Department has been inspected by HMIE and found to be of a high standard. In the inspection report published in April 2005, it was rated "very good".

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

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

## 8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

**Signed:**     **Stewart Murdoch**  
                  **Director of Leisure and Communities**

**Date:** 11 August 2006

## LITERACIES INITIATIVE - END YEAR REPORT 2005/2006

**Delivery**

The Partnership has maintained its approach to of developing a range of city-wide provision to meet the varied needs of all learners. Quality remains at the centre of the Partnership's work with its partners and providers. Projects have been approved which meet these criteria. The following projects have received funding to deliver literacies programmes, meeting the needs of key target groups across the city:

**All Target Group Services**

- **Dundee College: Learning Curve (Constitution, Melrose and Kingsway Campus)**

Provides a drop-in literacies support service, offering guidance, assessment and student centred literacy and numeracy programmes open to all residents of Dundee.

- **Craigowl Communities**

Providing literacy support to vulnerable young people and families in the Hilltown and Fintry areas of Dundee.

- **Community Based Adult Learning Network**

Providing literacy and numeracy provision in local communities.

- **Increasing Access**

Providing 1-1 and group learning programmes to meet identified needs.

**Work Based Literacies**

- **Reemploy**

Providing literacy support on a 1-1 and group basis to support learners in their working environment

- **Waste Management Department**

Learning programmes developed to suit the needs of the learner related to work and wider community issues.

**ESOL**

- **Dundee City Council/College ESOL Partnership**

Providing a variety of English as a second or other language learning opportunities across the city to suit the needs of learners. The provision focuses on basic reading and writing skills in a second language, through ESOL methodology.

**Youth Provision**

- **16-24 Young Adult Literacies Project (YALP)**

Provides integrated and 1-1 literacy programmes for vulnerable young people aged 16-24. This project links with NCH, Fairbridge and other youth projects across the city.

- **Ergo**

Provides dedicated literacy support to clients preparing for work. (Available for ERGO clients only).

### **Specialist Services**

- **Dundee City Council: Adult Learning Team - Gateway Service**

Provides assessment and support to potential learners contacting the Discover Learning phone line both centrally and on outreach.

- **Literacies Guidance and Progression**

Provision of pre-exit guidance for learners to assist them with identifying their next steps.

- **Dyslexia Institute**

Provides specialist assessment and tutoring support for adults with dyslexia.

The following are the partnership members who have been actively involved throughout the area:

Careers Scotland	Chamber of Commerce	Dundee City Council
Dundee College	Dundee Trade Union Council	Jobcentre Plus
Scottish Enterprise Tayside	Scottish Trade Union Council	Transport & General Workers Union

### **Venues**

Literacies learning programmes have been delivered in 41 venues - an increase of 8 (24.24%) over the previous reporting year.

### **Targets**

The target set in the 2004-2006 Action Plan for this reporting year was 1607 learners and this figure has been exceeded by 383 which is the equivalent of a 23.83% increase.

The actual number of learners supported during 2005/2006 was 1,990 learners.

### **Progress**

Progress has been made on a number of different aspects of the delivery in Dundee, examples are:

- **Central and Outreach Gateway Service** - the Gateway unit which offers assessment and guidance to all prospective learners has developed its services to offer support not only centrally to new learners but also on outreach for new and existing learners.
- **Work-based learning projects** - this area is showing positive progress with existing employers consolidating their participation and prospective employers encouraging employees to take up the option.
- **16-24 Young Adult Literacies Project (YALP)** - this project has had considerable success with the advent of a full-time development officer's post. The number of partners has increased and the number of young people participating has grown. Examples of learner's work have been published, exhibitions of artwork and poetry readings held along with encouraging individual students to promote the materials they have developed.

- **Dundee College** - has successfully developed a literacies service which offers learners support to enable them to take up part-time and full-time courses both within and outwith the College. The College offers drop-in classes across the day and in the evening.