

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 21 AUGUST 2006
REPORT ON: LITERACIES STRATEGIC PLAN – ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2006/2007
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 487-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report makes recommendations for the allocation of resource to deliver on the key elements contained in the Literacies Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Scottish Executive in January 2006.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 Agree the allocation of Literacies Strategic Plan funding 2006/2007 as recommended by the Community Learning Partnership (Literacies Sub Group) on 31 July 2006 and as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the proposal is £15,594 which can be contained within the allocation to the Dundee Community Learning Partnership previously reported to Committee on 9 May 2005 Report No 301-2005.

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 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's Education and Lifelong Learning Department Circular (ELLD) 1/01 provided guidance on the role expected of local authorities in the drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy.

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”.

The Community Learning Strategies' and local authorities' duties are outlined as follows:

- Ensure that the partnership groups 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.

- 6.2 In March 2005 the Scottish Executive announced additional funding to underpin the national strategy aimed at raising levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Learners who can benefit from programmes delivered through these funds should have an ability level below intermediate level 1.
- 6.3 Authority to recommend funding has been delegated to a Partnership Sub Group which has representatives from Dundee City Council – Leisure and Communities Department/Education Department; Dundee College; Tayside Chamber of Commerce; Dundee Trades Union Council; Scottish Trades Union Council; Job Centre Plus; Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Careers Scotland and Worker Education Association.
- 6.4 The Partnership Sub Group has approved this award as 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 targeting the following 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:

Year	Target Number of Learners
2006-2007	1607
2007-2008	1607

- 6.6 The allocation of funds to literacies projects will address the targets contained in the action plan.
- 6.7 The Executive expects that local authorities will:
- ensure that the Partnership Group responsible for community learning strategy makes effective use of the resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy;
 - ensure 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 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
Director of Leisure and Communities

Date: 11 August 2006

**DUNDEE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
LITERACIES ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2006/2007**

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF12/06	Assessing Adult Oracy - Afasic Scotland	This project provides the opportunity to break new ground with active collaboration occurring between Speech and Language Therapists and Adult Literacies Practitioners to develop an assessment framework for adults, from which work to raise levels of oracy and literacy can be planned.	£4,950	£4,950
LF13/06	BSA Scotland "Voyage of Discovery" Open Day - British Stammering Association	BSA Scotland are applying for a grant to assist with the funding of their open day in Dundee to support young people who stammer, their families and interested professionals. Stammering is a complex communication difficulty that impacts on all areas of life – educational attainment, personal relationships, career choice and social life. The Initiative is to have a stall at the event to highlight the potential for literacies interventions.	£500	£500
LF14/06	Dyslexia Workshops - Dundee College	This project builds upon participation in the recent dyslexia tutor training programme by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing discrete and targeted training for dyslexic literacies learners • evaluating the impact of the ALP programme, over a period of time, with the client group. 	£3,868	£3,368
LF15/06	Helping Young Parents to Support their Children - 16-24 Youth Literacy Project	The need for this project has been highlighted through a recent course with young parents who indicated that their level of literacies made it difficult for them to access and understand information relating to pregnancy and health, family budgeting and the value of educational play/games with children. It is therefore intended to create an information pack, which would operate as a teaching/learning tool targeted at young parents – the pack would provide information for young parents and work through pre and post-natal issues.	£3,463	£3,463

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF16/06	Development of CD and Curriculum Framework - Craigowl Communities	<p>This project is targeted at the NEET group and the products will be a CD Rom which will provide training and guidance materials and a curriculum framework outlining supporting workshop sessions.</p> <p>The software will incorporate soft skills, confidence building, assertiveness, a customer service module, job search skills and transition to work awareness. It is intended that this project will ultimately provide a medium to present core skills and employability skills with a range of vocational options to match the aptitude and job aspirations of unemployed young people in Dundee.</p>	£3,313	£3,313

*Total Allocation of Challenge Fund 2006/2007	£205,000
Previously committed Report No 132-2006 for	£177,285.68
Proposals contained in this report	£ 15,594.00
Balance remaining	£ 12,120.32

* This allocation has increased as a result of additional money being made available