

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 26 January 2009

REPORT ON: Allocation of Funding to Literacies Partnership

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 55-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the allocations received by the Literacies Partnership from Youthlink Scotland and Learning Connections, Scottish Government, and seeks approval for implementation of the projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Approval is recommended for the acceptance and implementation of £11,503, received from Youthlink Scotland, to establish a paired reading scheme for young adults.

2.2 Approval is recommended for the acceptance of £39,942.73, from Learning Connections, Scottish Government, to meet the challenges for delivering effective literacy learning to offenders inside and outside prison.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funds awarded will be utilised as detailed in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.7.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 In July 2001 the then Scottish Executive's Education and Lifelong Learning Department published Circular (ELLD 1/01). The Circular provided guidance on the role expected of local authorities in the new drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy.

4.2 The definition of what constitutes an appropriate level of literacy and numeracy was set out as follows:

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

4.3 External funding was made available from Cash Back for Communities Fund to be allocated via Youthlink Scotland. The Literacies Partnership has been successful in receiving an allocation which will allow it to undertake the development of peer mentors to work with young adults to develop their reading through a paired reading scheme.

4.4 It is proposed that the project work will be undertaken by employing a part-time (18.5 hours) Adult Learning Worker, Grade 7, for 44 weeks between April 2009 - March 2010. £11,503 has been allocated and the money must be spent and programme completed by 1 June 2010.

4.5 In recognition of the significant percentage of the offender population who have literacies difficulties a Challenge Fund was established, by the Scottish Government, for the period 2009-2012. Dundee has been successful in receiving an allocation for this, which is based on enhancing the capacity of educational services to offenders, both in the community and in prison, and to develop the capacity of these organisations to deliver literacy learning.

4.6 The allocation from the Scottish Government, to Dundee, for offender literacy learning is:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2008/2009 | 930.68 |
| 2009/2010 | 8,598.84 |
| 2010/2011 | 15,033.61 |
| 2011/2010 | 15,379.60 |
| Total | 39,942.73 |

4.7 Partner involvement

The funding detailed in this report has been allocated to the Literacies Partnership. The key deliverer for the paired reading is the 16-24 Youth Literacies Team based in Dundee City Council. The allocation for Offender Literacy Learning will be disbursed through the literacies partnership, as per the application. A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up with Craigowl Communities to deliver key aspects of the approved project.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.0 None

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
7 JANUARY 2009