

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
– 20 OCTOBER 2003**

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP – LITERACIES INITIATIVE PROGRESS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 653-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report informs members of progress in implementation of the Community Learning Partnership – Literacies Initiative and the development of a Spotter and Referrer Network.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 notes the progress that is being made by the Literacies Initiative in reaching its targets, summary contained in the packs made available to each elected member;

2.2 endorses the Spotter/Referrer Network and actively promotes participation by Council staff in the network;

2.3 considers taking up the invitation of Spotter and Referrer training (see pack).

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications of the report can be contained within the allocation given to the Community Learning Partnership previously reported to Committee on 10 February 2003, Report Number 135-2003.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Community Learning Partnership seeks to ensure that resources are used as efficiently as possible to achieve Partnership and Council agreed priorities, and encourage a partnership approach to the development of literacies provision in the city.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The development of the Literacies Initiative within the city reflects the high priority given by the City Council and Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities. The main purpose behind the Initiative is to target groups who do not traditionally participate in adult learning provision, and who have been identified as those most at risk from exclusion due to literacy difficulties.

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 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 – 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 core information gathering, common assessment approaches, usage of 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 work place 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 June 2003.

Between April 2002 and June 2003, the Literacies Initiative has made significant progress in achieving targets identified in the approved Action Plan, and as detailed in the attached pack have undertaken the following:

- branding and launching of the Discover Learning Campaign, organised by the Partnership and led by Communities Department, to raise awareness of learning and the opportunities available
- advertising campaign on the buses
- a range of new literacy, numeracy and English for Speakers of Language provision now available across Dundee, in City Council premises, further education venues, voluntary and community projects
- 795 new learners period 2002-2003
- launch of Spotter and Referrer Network which 16 organisations have signed up to - a copy of the Charter is available in the attached pack
- the development of one point of entry into literacy opportunities through setting up a learning gateway managed by the Mitchell Street Centre on behalf of the Partnership
- development of Discover Learning website www.discoverlearning.org
- partnership with IC-CAVE, Abertay Computer Games Department, which has produced a computer game for use with literacies students
- delivery of six tutor training sessions, 49 tutors trained to date
- research on youth literacy has been commissioned
- learners handbook produced (2,000 copies distributed to public venues throughout Dundee)
- development of a full year training programme for literacy tutors
- delivery of seven Spotter/Referrer training sessions, 66 people trained to date
- project development with Perth Prison to address literacy needs of prisoners being released back into the Dundee area.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 This report has been prepared following consultation with organisations in membership of the Dundee Community Learning Partnership.

7.2 The Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services) have been fully consulted in the development of this report.

8.0 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 the preparation of this report.

Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

3 October 2003