

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 OCTOBER 2004**  
**REPORT ON: COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP – LITERACIES INITIATIVE PROGRESS**  
**REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES**  
**REPORT NO: 698-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs members of progress in implementation of the Community Learning Partnership – Literacies Initiative and the updating of website discoverlearning.org.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress that is being made by the Literacies Initiative in reaching its targets, summary contained in the reports made available to each elected member.

## **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 and individuals 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 – 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 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 2004**

### **Central Gateway**

Dundee Literacies Initiative decided that it should make it as easy as possible for potential learners to make contact and this led to the establishment of a central gateway – a dedicated telephone number – 01382-666665.

### **Increase in the Number of Providers and Venues**

In 2001 there were only two established providers of literacy programmes in Dundee. By 2004 the number of providers has increased to 12 and the number of venues to 24.

### **Increase in the Number of Tutors**

A pool of experienced staff have been trained and many organisations are now skilling up their own staff members through spotter and referrer training, initial tutor training and by taking advantage of the annual programme of Continuous Professional Development.

100 people have completed initial tutor training, this includes 25 from partner agencies new to literacies delivery.

### **Increase in the Number of Learners**

Since the initiative was launched in 2001 the number of learners has increased by 50% to reach 1,237 in 2004.

### **Centralised Student Database**

To allow the collection of robust management information a central database has been developed to register all learners, and their views on their own progress through the initiative.

### **What our learners have been saying about the Dundee Literacies Initiative**

- 44% of learners felt they would be more confident in applying for a job.
- 69% of learners felt learning had positively changed their daily life at home.
- 38% of learners continued on to a further course.

### **In addition learners said:**

“The help I received was great – I wasn’t made to feel stupid because I didn’t know simple maths.”

“I can now read bedtime stories to my daughter.”

“I read more and try to spell words without asking someone.”

- 6.4 Information now available online for learners, tutors and other partners in addressing adult literacy can be viewed by accessing the website [discoverlearning.org](http://discoverlearning.org).

## **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, the Depute Chief Executives (Finance and Support Services) have been fully consulted in the development of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch  
Head of Communities**

**Date: 8 October 2004**