

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2001**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL ACCESS SCHEME**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 120-2001**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To seek Committee approval of the principles and objectives underpinning the operation of the City Council's scheme aimed at making Higher/Further Education more accessible to the City's secondary school pupils.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1** It is recommended that the Education Committee approve the principles, aims and objectives set out in Sections 7 and 8 of this report to be applied to the operation of the Council's Access Scheme.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**3.1** Pupils receive an "Access Scheme Bursary" to cover subsistence and travel, if required, and also an element of compensation for foregone earnings while in attendance at University Summer Schools. The bursary is subject to satisfactory attendance. Learning materials, including laboratory materials, books and handouts, are also provided for pupils. The "Access Scheme Bursary" is available to residents of the City who attend a City Council school or are within two years of leaving school.

The cost of bursary provision is approximately £20,000 per annum for which there is provision in the Education Revenue Budget and Transport provisions.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** NIL.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The Access Scheme assists with increased equality of access to educational opportunity for pupils.

## 6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Access Scheme has been in operation since 1993 when a pilot Summer School was run as a collaborative venture undertaken by the University of Dundee in partnership with Tayside Regional Council Education Department.

6.2 Since its inception in 1996 Dundee City Council has recognised the importance of continuing to assist pupils who are from socially, physically or financially disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in the Access Summer School courses now organised by Dundee University, The University of Abertay, The University of St Andrews and Dundee College.

6.3 Of the 548 students who have participated in the summer school courses since that time 90% have come from Dundee schools and of these 85% have gone on to obtain a Higher Education place.

The undernoted table provides detail for the last two years.

Institution	Year	Number started Summer School	Completed Summer School	Offered University or College place
University of Dundee	1999	52	52	43
	2000	57	56	41
University of Abertay	1999	24	24	23
	2000	12	11	12
Dundee College	1999	24	21	19
	2000	15	11	8*
St Andrews University	2000	1	1	1

\*3 Returned to S6

6.4 As the Scheme has been developed and expanded over the years since 1996 it is now appropriate to reaffirm and formalise the principles, aims and objectives under which it operates.

## 7.0 PROPOSED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

7.1 The Access to Higher/Further Education Scheme will be operated for the benefit of pupils in Dundee City Council secondary schools in collaboration with Dundee College, University of Dundee, the University of Abertay and St Andrews University.

7.2 The Scheme will seek to make pupils more aware of Higher/Further Education as post-school goals, and to make Higher and/or Further Education more accessible to pupils. The initiative will comprise one element of the Education Department's contribution to the Authority's Social Inclusion Strategy.

7.3 The Scheme, in its overall principles and operational practices, will further the Authority's policy to promote equality of opportunity for all pupils.

7.4 The scheme will promote the further development of partnerships based on forging effective links between parents and schools, schools and institutions of Higher/Further Education and between the Education Authority and these institutions.

7.5 In all its activities the Scheme will seek to develop the involvement of, and derive support from, other interested agencies.

7.6 The activities of the Scheme will be regularly monitored by the partners.

## 8.0 PROPOSED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 The Scheme will encourage and facilitate entry for able young people who are from socially, physically or financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Students who will be supported are those nominated by their school who are deemed to have the potential to benefit from Higher Education and who meet at least one of the following:

- i. unlikely to proceed to Higher Education without participating in the programme.
- ii. little or no family tradition of Higher or advanced Further Education.
- iii. examination performance prejudiced by disadvantages such as disrupted study, poor health, financial difficulty, physical disability, home environment.
- iv. from a background under represented in Higher/Further Education.

8.2 The Scheme will seek, wherever possible, to guarantee access to Higher/Further Education in respect of pupils who have achieved predetermined goals.

8.3 The curriculum of the Summer Schools will aim to give students an authentic experience of Higher Education as well as a foretaste of first-year study and opportunities to sample new subjects.

## 9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Director of Finance and Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 10.0 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 preparing the above Report.

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Director of Education

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Date

AHW/DD  
Jan 2001