

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2005
REPORT ON: HOMEWORK CLUB PROVISION IN COMMUNITY LIBRARIES
REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 171-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on the development of homework support delivery in Community Libraries

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approve the following:

2.1 The introduction of Homework Clubs in Broughty Ferry, Coldside, Fintry, Hub and Kirkton Libraries.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of these proposals can be contained within the £31,000 made available from the Education Department to support homework club delivery and by the utilisation of existing staff and resources within the Communities Department Revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals aim to ensure the most effective and efficient use of departmental resources.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Dundee's strategy for Community Libraries reflects the needs of the City. The location of Community Libraries serves the population profile of the City and provides access to services locally for groups who would otherwise find it more difficult to access these opportunities.

Libraries play a key role in social inclusion. The Homework Clubs will ensure children have equal access to resources including books, CD ROMs and ICT in an identified safe, welcoming and relaxed environment.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Dundee Libraries have always supported the homework requirements of children by providing access to a wide range of study resources, ICT, and the specialist knowledge of library staff. In 2001 funding was made available to develop more structured homework support in libraries through the NOF funded Learning is for Everyone Project.

6.2 The Learning is for Everyone Project concluded in November 2003. The children benefited from the opportunity to learn and succeed in a safe, neutral environment, developing their study skills and enhancing their social skills. An evaluation exercise identified the five libraries named above as being the most successful clubs and recommended that structured homework support should be continued in these locations.

6.3 Teachers from the Education Department will work in partnership with library staff to provide Homework Clubs on one evening each week during term times, providing children with the best possible services to meet their individual needs and help them acquire new skills and knowledge, build confidence, and develop their lifelong learning.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 These changes reflect feedback from current and prospective library users, and have been discussed with staff.

7.2 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services), and the Director of Education in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities**

Date: 4 March 2005