

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2004

REPORT ON: COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT/DUNDEE COLLEGE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 414-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of the progress on the Communities Department (formerly Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department)/Dundee College Learning Partnership, "Learning On Your Doorstep". This partnership aims to provide community access to a wide range of learning opportunities, with a view to looking at progression into further learning.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 notes the programme of 16 activities that have taken/will take place between August 2003 finishing in June 2004 – details contained in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 notes the enrolment of 194 students during the academic year.
- 2.3 provides a commitment to continue the partnership into its ninth year.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of this report can be contained within the Communities Department's Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 The partnership has in-kind contribution by the Communities Department through free access to premises and learning resources, for Learning On Your Doorstep provision, and the provision of Guidance/Adult Learning staff. Dundee College contributes staff in-kind for subject delivery.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report seeks to ensure that the resources are used as effectively as possible to achieve departmental and Council agreed service priorities. It ensures a sustainable partnership approach to the provision of learning opportunities in communities.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The partnership reflects the priorities of the Council, the Community Learning Partnership and the Community Plan Working and Learning Theme Group, to ensure that equal opportunities are given across Dundee to access learning.
- 5.2 The partnership provides a taster of further education, with supported guidance and learning. It targets those who have not traditionally participated in further and higher education, thus ensuring that there is equality of opportunity to further education across the city.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 In 1996 a partnership was established between the then Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department and Dundee College to provide outreach learning opportunities for those who had not traditionally participated in further education. This project recognised that there were a number of barriers which prevented people accessing further education. These were identified as including:

- low educational attainment
- lack of access to childcare

- lack of access to transport
- low confidence or self-esteem in educational abilities
- lack of family tradition of participation in further or higher education

6.2 The aim of the partnership is to provide relevant community based adult learning opportunities for adults who are reluctant or unable to take up similar opportunities in College premises, with a view to looking at progression into further education.

The partners' contribution includes:

Dundee College

- lecturers for course content
- support with fees where appropriate (via Passport to Learning)
- marketing and recruitment
- enrolment procedures
- course materials
- course evaluation and tracking

Communities Department

- adult guidance
- access to learning support
- free access to premises
- marketing and recruitment
- enrolment procedures
- access to IT network and library and information services
- course evaluation and tracking

6.3 The partnership is managed by a Group made up of representation from Dundee College and Communities Department staff who are responsible for the overall management of the partnership and its strategic direction.

6.4 The Partnership has evolved over the years with an increasing emphasis being placed on subjects which will lead to progression into further education. If, however, during consultation with the community a demand has been identified for other learning activities the Department will make every effort to accommodate them. For example, Tai Chi classes are currently being held in Blackness Library.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive and the Depute Chief Executives (Support Services) and (Finance).

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 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.

Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

Date: 4 June 2004

COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT/DUNDEE COLLEGE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

SUMMARY – OUTREACH PROGRAMMES AUGUST 2003 – JUNE 2004

COURSE	COMMUNITY CENTRE/CAMPUS	NOS ENROLLED
Stress/Relaxation Taster	Finmill Centre	10
Greener Ardler	Ardler Complex	7
Forensic Taster	Hub Community Centre	15
Insights into Forensics	Hub Community Centre	13
Legal/Civil Rights	Hub Community Centre	10
Introduction to Counselling	Kirkton Community Centre	16
Forward into Science	Kirkton Community Centre	*
Electronic Computer Driving Licence	Kirkton Community Centre	6
	Douglas Community Centre	9
Health and Beauty Taster	Lochee Community Centre	16
Legal/Civil Rights	Menzieshill Community Centre	16
Forensic Taster	Menzieshill Community Centre	15
Forensic Taster	Menzieshill Community Centre	15
Forensic Taster	Menzieshill Community Centre	13
Spanish – Introduction	Mitchell Street Centre	15
Spanish – Conversational	Mitchell Street Centre	18
Health and Lifestyle Taster	Mitchell Street Centre	*
	Total Enrolled	194

* Course not commenced at time of Report