

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject : FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING : GRANTS : PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2001-2002
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	
Date: 28 Sept 2001	Ref : MM/AS

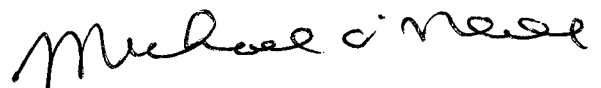
Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the footwear and clothing grants budget for the period April to September 2001. It also includes statistics on footwear and clothing grant applications for academic session 2001-2002.

Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the performance of the footwear and clothing grant budget for the period April to September 2001.
- (b) request the submission of a further performance review report to the sub-committee at the end of the financial year.



Members wishing further information about this report should contact

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background.

- 1.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1980, section 54(I), requires education authorities to take appropriate steps to ensure that pupils are adequately clothed for attending school.
- 1.2 It is also worth noting the legal obligation in the following cases
 - (a) except for children with a record of needs, pupils attending school in another authority area are entitled to seek assistance from their school authority
 - (b) pupils with a record of needs attending school in another authority area are entitled to seek assistance from their home authority.

2. Considerations

- 2.1 In 2001-2002 parents or guardians are entitled to receive a fixed sum of £50 towards the clothing and footwear of each child:
 - (a) if they are in receipt of income support, housing benefit or council tax rebate
 - (b) if their child attend a school managed by North Lanarkshire Council, or any other school if the child has a record of needs
- 2.2 Where the parents or guardians are in receipt of income support or jobseekers allowance (income based) their child is be entitled to receive free school meals in addition to the footwear and clothing grant.
- 2.3 Footwear and clothing grants were previously paid where the applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) received Family Credit. However, when this was replaced by Working Families Tax Credit the earnings threshold at which Working Families Tax Credit was awarded was significantly higher than that at which Family Credit had been paid.
- 2.4 A decision not to award footwear and clothing grants to those families in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit was adopted as council policy from 2000-2001.
- 2.5 The 2001-2002 budget for footwear and clothing grants is £770,200. Given that the grant is needs driven, expenditure in this budget area is difficult to control. Table 1 shows a breakdown of applications processed by each area office by 20 September 2001 and the expenditure to date.

Table 1 – Applications processed and expenditure to date

Area Office	No of applicants	Amount
AIRDRIE	2268	£113,400
BELLSHILL	1792	£ 89,600
CUMBERNAULD	2695	£134,750
COATBRIDGE	2429	£121450
MOTHERWELL / WISHAW	3801	£190,050
SHOTTS	500	£ 25,000
TOTAL	13485	£674,250

3 Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended:

- (1) to note the performance of the footwear and clothing grant budget for the period April to September 2001.
- (2) to request the submission of a further performance report to the sub-committee at the end of the financial year.