

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject : FURTHER EDUCATION AND HIGHER SCHOOL BURSARIES 2001-2002: PERFORMANCE REVIEW
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	
Date: Ref: MM/AS	

Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the further education and higher school bursaries budget for the period April to November 2001. It also includes statistics on bursary applications received and pupil attendance.

Recommendations

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

- (a) note the performance of the further education and higher school bursaries budget for the period April to November 2001.
- (b) request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.



Members wishing further information about this report should contact

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337, or
Murdo Maciver, Head of Service, on 01236 812269

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background.

1.1 917 applications have been received to date in academic session 2001-2002, a decrease of 18% on the equivalent period in session 2000-2001. Of these, 7 applications were refused because the students were not eligible for bursary support due to not being resident in North Lanarkshire, having previously been awarded support for 2 years or attending courses not funded by the authority. A further 131 students are not eligible for support until January 2002 because they do not meet the age requirement.

1.2 In accordance with the bursary policy, the deadline for the submission of applications from students eligible for full year bursary awards was Monday 22 October.

Applications received after that date will be considered for a two-term award from January 2002. To date, 15 late applications have been received.

1.3 Of the remaining 764 applications 664 letters of award have been processed. These have resulted in 50 no awards due to the level of parental income ("financial refusal"), 30 awards made provisionally to students whose parents are self-employed or whose parents' income has reduced by more than 15% compared to that of the last financial year and 584 standard awards. A further 100 applications are yet to be processed.

Table 1 – Awards Processed

Financial Refusals	Provisional Awards	Standard Awards
50	30	584

1.4 913 of the applications received so far are for higher school bursaries. The remaining 4 are for further education bursaries. 2 of these were submitted on behalf of students with special educational needs and are "fees only" applications. The remaining 2 applications were refused as the students are not attending courses funded by the authority.

2. Payments 2001/2002

2.1 A total of £161,001 has been paid in respect of these awards between August and December 2001. In addition, £152,190 was paid in the period April and June 2001.

2.2 Table 2 is a detailed analysis of expenditure for both further education and higher school bursaries for the full financial year to date.

Table 2 - Expenditure

Budget	Budget 2001/2002	Expenditure, April – Nov 2001	Projected full year expenditure
Higher School Bursaries	588,000	297,198	588,000
Further Education Bursaries	134,800	15,993	47,619

3. Attendance

- 3.1 Attendance will be monitored in 3 periods; 20 August to 2 November 2001, 5 November 2001 to 25 January 2002 and 28 January to 19 April 2002. The awards to students with an attendance of less than 95% will be reduced.
- 3.2 Table 3 shows a comparison in attendance figures for the period 20 August to 2 November 2001 and the corresponding period in sessions 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. It is important to note that the minimum attendance requirement was raised from 90% to 95% in academic session 2000/2001.

Table 3 – Attendance Comparison

Academic Session	Minimum attendance requirement	No of applicants	No. under minimum requirement	%age under minimum requirement
Aug – Oct, 1999/2000	90%	847	154	18%
Aug – Oct, 2000/2001	95%	772	244	32%
Aug-Nov, 2001/2002	95%	640	164	26%

Despite the reduction in the number of applications received in the current session, attendance has improved by 6% on the equivalent period in session 2000-2001.

4. Recommendations

The education resources sub-committee is recommended:

- (1) to note the performance of the further education and higher school bursaries budget for the financial year 2001-2002.
- (2) to request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the education resources sub-committee.

MM/AS
28 November 2001