

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject : EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE, 2005-2006, PERFORMANCE REVIEW	
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION			
Date: 05/12/2005	Ref: MM/AS		

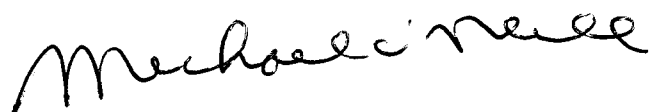
Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme for the period August to October 2005.

Recommendations

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

- (a) note the performance of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme
- (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

Education Maintenance Allowance : Performance Review

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background.

- 1.1 The phased national rollout of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) commenced in August 2004. In session 2004-2005, eligibility for EMA was restricted to students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 March 1989, i.e. S4 and S5 students. In session 2005-2006 this was extended to include students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 March 1990 (S4 to S6 students), i.e. an additional year group.
- 1.2 EMA is assessed on the basis of gross household income. The Scottish Executive has raised the income thresholds for session 2005-2006, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Income Bands and Weekly Payments

Gross Household Income	Amount of Weekly Payment
0 to £20,270	£30
£20,271 to £24,850	£20
£24,851 to £30,000	£10
Over £30,000	0

- 1.3 Students may also be entitled to receive 1 or 2 bonus payments of £150, dependent on when their eligibility for EMA support began. Bonuses will be paid provided the student meets the targets for progress, attainment and attendance set down in the Learning Agreement.
- 1.4 To date, 1656 applications have been received. This is an increase of 778 against the same period in session 2004-2005 and an increase of 488 against the whole of session 2004-2005.
- 1.5 8 applications have been refused for the following specific reasons: (a) the student does not meet the residency criteria of having been “ordinarily resident” in the United Kingdom and Islands for 3 years immediately preceding the date of application; (b) the student is attending a Further Education college or (c) the student is too young to qualify for EMA support. Table 2 shows a breakdown of this.

Table 2 – Applications Refused

Not resident in UK for 3 years	Attending FE College	Too Young for EMA
4	3	1

- 1.6 A further 255 applications have been received from students who are not eligible for support until January 2006 because they do not meet the age requirement. 50 applications have been cancelled because the students have left school or have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered for support.

- 1.7 Of the 1393 full year and 255 two-term applications, 1274 letters of award have been processed, as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 – Awards Processed

Award	No award	£30 per week	£20 per week	£10 per week
No of students	36	968	140	130

- 1.8 A breakdown of awards made to date to students in individual schools in North Lanarkshire is detailed in table 4

Table 3 – Awards Processed

School	S5-S6 roll	Pupils receiving EMA	
		Number	% of roll
Abronhill High	107	32	30%
Airdrie Academy	233	53	23%
Bellshill Academy	144	29	20%
Bothwellpark High	13	5	38%
Braidhurst High	116	50	43%
Brannock High	168	37	22%
Calderhead High	115	31	27%
Caldervale High	221	45	20%
Cardinal Newman	236	60	25%
Chryston High	176	39	22%
Clyde Valley High	122	40	33%
Coatbridge High	163	50	31%
Coltness High	165	54	33%
Columba High	132	29	22%
Cumbernauld High	152	47	31%
Dalziel High	272	56	21%
Drumpark High	17	6	35%
Firpark School	40	10	25%
Glencryan School	34	12	35%
Greenfaulds High	242	42	17%
Kilsyth Academy	199	47	24%
Our Lady's High (C)	213	51	24%
Our Lady's High (M)	152	29	19%
Redburn School	13	3	23%
Rosehall High	108	30	28%
St Aidan's High	325	82	25%
St Ambrose High	327	66	20%
St Margaret's High	312	81	26%
St Maurice's High	239	56	23%
St Patrick's High	182	40	22%
Taylor High	212	76	36%
Willowbank School	16	3	19%

2. Payments April to November 2005

- 2.1 A total of £333,720 has been paid to eligible students since the start of the new session. In addition, £360,600 has been paid since April 2005 to students entitled to EMA in session 2004-2005, a total of £694,320 to date. This includes bonus payments. Table 4 shows a breakdown of these figures.

Table 4 – Payments

Weekly payments, Session 2004-2005	Outstanding Bonus 1 payments Session 2004-2005	Bonus 2 payments Session 2004-2005	Weekly payments, Session 2005-2006
£249,900	£600	£110,100	£333,720

3. Attendance

- 3.1 In accordance with Scottish Executive guidelines, students must attain 100% attendance in any week in order to receive payment for that week. Absences due to illness will be taken into account in calculating attendance provided that the student submits a medical certificate or self-certification form to the school within 14 days of the absence. Self-certification forms will only be accepted for 5 days absence over the course of the academic session.
- 3.2 Schools have responsibility for monitoring the attendance of EMA students and for authorising payment.

4. Recommendations

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

- (a) note the performance of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme
- (b) request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.