

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

To: <b>Education (Resources) Sub- Committee</b>	Subject: <b>Education Maintenance Allowance 2005-2006 Performance Review</b>
From: <b>Director of Education</b>	
Date: <b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2006</b>	
Ref: <b>MM/AS/FC</b>	

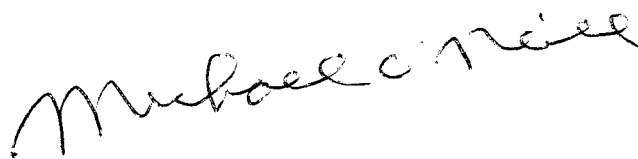
**Purpose of Report**

This report reviews the performance of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme for the period August 2005 to January 2006.

**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 February 1989, i.e. S4 and S5 students aged 16. In session 2005-2006 this was extended to include students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1990 (S4 to S6 students aged 16 and 17).
- 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 their individual Learning Agreement.

#### 2. North Lanarkshire Applications

- 2.1 To date, 1863 applications have been received. This is an increase of 840 against the same period in session 2004-2005 and an increase of 689 against the whole of session 2004-2005.
- 2.2 9 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;
  - (c) the student is too young to qualify for EMA support or
  - (d) the student does not maintain a regular pattern of attendance at school to qualify for support. Table 2 shows a breakdown of this.

**Table 2 – Applications Refused**

<b>Not resident in UK for 3 years</b>	<b>Attending FE College</b>	<b>Too young for EMA</b>	<b>Not in regular attendance at school</b>
4	3	1	1

- 2.3 A further 421 applications have been received from students who only met the age requirement from January 2006. 153 applications have been cancelled because the students have left school or have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered for support.
- 2.4 Of the 1436 full year and 421 two-term applications, 1662 awards have been made, as detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3 – Awards Processed**

<b>Award</b>	<b>No Award</b>	<b>£30 per week</b>	<b>£20 per week</b>	<b>£10 per week</b>
No of students	45	192	189	1233

- 2.5 A breakdown of awards made to date to students in individual schools in North Lanarkshire is detailed in Appendix 1. An additional field has been entered to show a comparison of EMA uptake against the percentage of pupils in each establishment entitled to receive free school meals.

### **3. Payments, April 2005 to January 2006**

- 3.1 A total of £693,990 has been paid to eligible students since the start of the new session. This includes weekly payments totalling £604,140 and bonus payments totalling £89,850. In addition, £360,600 has been paid since April 2005 to students entitled to EMA in session 2004-2005, a total of £1,054,590 to date. Table 4 shows a breakdown of these figures.

**Table 4 – Payments**

<b>2004-2005</b>			<b>2006-2006</b>	
<b>Weekly payments</b>	<b>Bonus 1 payments</b>	<b>Bonus 2 payments</b>	<b>Weekly payments</b>	<b>Bonus 1 payments</b>
£249,900	£600	£110,100	£604,140	£89,850

#### **4. Attendance**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Schools have responsibility for monitoring the attendance of EMA students and for authorising payment.
- 4.3 The Scottish Executive guidelines require authorities to carry out a 1% spot-check each month to ensure the validity of payments. These are carried out on a random sample of students across all schools. Spot checks have been carried out for the period August to November 2005 and the records of students in 14 schools have been examined. To date, schools have been able to provide the medical certificates or self-certifications forms necessary to justify payment of EMA to students in their establishments who have had absences.

#### **5. Recommendations**

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

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

Appendix 1

EMA Awards 2005-2006						
School Name	% Entitled to Free Meals	Pupils eligible on basis of age	Applications Received		Successful Applicants	
			Total	% of those eligible	Total	% of applications
Abronhill HS	15%	149	44	30%	41	93%
Airdrie Acad	17%	314	74	24%	62	84%
Bellshill Acad	22%	216	55	25%	43	78%
Bothwellpark HS	52%	9	6	67%	6	100%
Braidhurst HS	34%	155	68	44%	59	87%
Brannock HS	14%	223	58	26%	54	93%
Calderhead HS	22%	181	41	23%	38	93%
Caldervale HS	23%	301	75	25%	67	89%
Cardinal Newman HS	21%	305	81	27%	76	94%
Chryston HS	14%	226	49	22%	45	92%
Clyde Valley HS	30%	195	58	30%	47	81%
Coatbridge HS	21%	220	74	34%	66	89%
Coltness HS	16%	260	68	26%	59	87%
Columba HS	22%	172	48	28%	42	88%
Cumbernauld HS	20%	244	65	27%	58	89%
Dalziel HS	10%	323	79	24%	74	94%
Drumpark HS	43%	18	8	44%	6	75%
Firpark School	40%	31	13	42%	11	85%
Glencryan School	41%	43	14	33%	13	93%
Greenfaulds HS	11%	307	63	21%	49	78%
Kilsyth Acad	12%	263	62	24%	52	84%
Our Lady's HS (C)	13%	262	68	26%	54	79%
Our Lady's HS (M)	19%	172	44	26%	33	75%
Redburn School	36%	7	3	43%	3	100%
Rosehall HS	20%	144	46	32%	41	89%
St Aidan's HS	13%	410	119	29%	105	88%
St Ambrose HS	12%	450	102	23%	89	87%
St Margaret's HS	21%	412	121	29%	108	89%
St Maurice's HS	10%	320	87	27%	66	76%
St Patrick's HS	19%	215	70	33%	57	81%
Taylor HS	17%	256	94	37%	85	90%
Willowbank School	44%	28	6	21%	5	83%
<b>North Lanarkshire</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>1863</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>87%</b>