

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT AGENDA ITEM No. 6.7

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>24/04/06</b>	Ref: <b>MM/AS</b>	

**Purpose of Report**

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

*Michael O'Neill*

Members wishing further information about this report should contact

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# 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 S4 and S5 students aged 16 born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1989. In session 2005-2006 this was extended to include S4 to S6 students aged 16 and 17 born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1990.
- 1.2 EMA is assessed on the basis of gross household income. The income thresholds for session 2005-2006 are 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 are paid provided the student meets the targets for progress, attainment and attendance set down in their individual learning agreement with the school.

#### 2. North Lanarkshire Applications

- 2.1 To date, 1940 applications have been received. This is an increase of 869 against the same period in session 2004-2005.
- 2.2 18 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;
  - (d) the student does not maintain a regular pattern of attendance at school to qualify for support or
  - (e) the application was received after the deadline for submission of 31 March.
- 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>	<b>Application received after 31 March</b>
6	3	3	1	5

- 2.3 221 applications have been cancelled because the student have left school or have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered for support.
- 2.4 Of the 1922 eligible applications, 1797 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	52	1332	205	208

- 2.5 A breakdown of awards made to date to students in individual schools in North Lanarkshire is detailed in Appendix 1. The table also shows a comparison of EMA uptake against the percentage of pupils in each establishment entitled to receive free school meals.

### **3. Payments**

- 3.1 A total of £1,054,060 has been paid to eligible students since the start of session 2005-2006. This includes weekly payments totalling £908,760 and bonus payments totalling £145,300. In addition, £360,600 has been paid since April 2005 to students entitled to EMA in session 2004-2005. Table 4 shows a breakdown of these figures.

**Table 4 – Payments**

<b>2004-2005</b>			<b>2005-2006</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	£908,760	£145,300

### **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 are not 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 are only accepted for 5 days absence over the course of the academic session.

- 4.2 Schools have the 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. In North Lanarkshire these are carried out on a random sample of students across all schools. For the period August 2005 to February 2006 the records of students in 20 schools have been examined. To date, all schools have been able to provide the medical certificates or self-certification forms necessary to justify payment of EMA in their establishment who have had absences.

#### **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.

MM/AS  
24 April 2006

Appendix 1

EMA Awards 2005-2006

School	% Entitled to Free Meals	Eligible pupils (on basis of age)	Applications received		Awards	
			Total	% of those eligible on basis of age	Total	% of applications
Abronhill HS	15%	149	46	31%	45	98%
Caldervale HS	23%	301	77	26%	73	95%
Rosehall HS	20%	144	48	33%	45	94%
Calderhead HS	22%	181	43	24%	40	93%
Dalziel HS	10%	323	86	27%	80	93%
St Aidan's HS	13%	410	124	30%	115	93%
St Margaret's HS	21%	412	125	30%	116	93%
Taylor HS	17%	256	96	38%	89	93%
Brannock HS	14%	223	62	28%	57	92%
Chryston HS	14%	226	51	23%	47	92%
Cardinal Newman HS	21%	305	88	29%	80	91%
Coatbridge HS	21%	220	76	35%	69	91%
Cumbernauld HS	20%	244	67	27%	61	91%
Airdrie Acad	17%	314	78	25%	70	90%
Greenfaulds HS	11%	307	67	22%	60	90%
Braidhurst HS	34%	155	71	46%	63	89%
St Ambrose HS	12%	450	106	24%	94	89%
Columba HS	22%	172	50	29%	44	88%
Coltness HS	16%	260	71	27%	62	87%
Clyde Valley HS	30%	195	59	30%	51	86%
Bellshill Acad	22%	216	55	25%	47	85%
Our Lady's HS (C)	13%	262	67	26%	57	85%
St Patrick's HS	19%	215	72	33%	61	85%
Kilsyth Acad	12%	263	64	24%	54	84%
Our Lady's HS (M)	19%	172	48	28%	40	83%
St Maurice's HS	10%	320	90	28%	75	83%
Bothwellpark HS	52%	9	7	78%	7	100%
Drumpark HS	43%	18	8	44%	8	100%
Glencryan School	41%	43	15	35%	15	100%
Redburn School	36%	7	3	43%	3	100%
Firpark School	40%	31	14	45%	12	86%
Willowbank School	44%	28	6	21%	5	83%
<b>North Lanarkshire Total</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>86%</b>