

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

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| To: Education (Resources) Sub-Committee | | Subject : EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE PERFORMANCE REVIEW |
| From: Director Of Education | | |
| Date: | Ref: MM/AS | |

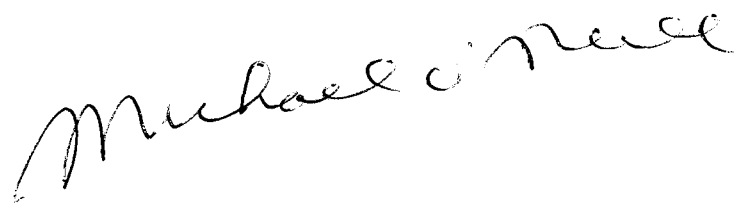
Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme for the period April 2006 to November 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

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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 students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1989. In session 2005-2006 this was extended to include students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1990. This has been extended again in session 2006-2007 to include students born between 1 March 1988 and 28 February 1991.
- 1.2 To qualify for EMA the students are required to sign a learning agreement negotiated with the school. It includes the requirement to meet certain curricular attainment and attendance criteria.
- 1.3 EMA is assessed on the basis of gross household income. The Scottish Executive raised the income thresholds for session 2006-2007, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Income Bands and Weekly Payments

| Gross Household Income | Amount of Weekly Payment |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 to £20,817 | £30 |
| £20,818 to £25,521 | £20 |
| £20,522 to £30,810 | £10 |
| Over £30,810 | 0 |

- 1.4 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 A total of 1519 applications have been received to date, compared to 1660 at the same point last year, a decrease of 8%. However, it is important to note that those students not eligible for EMA support until January 2007 were encouraged to apply from November 2006 onwards.

2.2 4 applications were refused for the following specific reasons:

(a) the student does not meet the residence criteria of having been “ordinarily resident” in the United Kingdom and Islands for 3 years immediately preceding the date of application;

(b) the student was attending a Further Education college.

2.3 Of the 1515 eligible applications, 1239 awards have been made. Table 2 shows a comparison between awards in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.

Table 2 – Awards Processed

| Session | No award | £30 per week | £20 per week | £10 per week |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2005-2006 | 35 | 945 | 135 | 128 |
| 2006-2007 | 24 | 953 | 145 | 117 |

2.4 74 applications have been cancelled because the students have left school or have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered for support.

2.5 Appendices 1 to 4 show a breakdown of the number of applications processed at £10, £20 and £30 per week and those where the student received no award by area, i.e. Cumbernauld & Kilsyth; Coatbridge & Airdrie; Motherwell & Wishaw and special schools. The figures are shown as a comparison to the number of students in the eligible age band in each establishment.

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 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.

3.2 Schools have responsibility for monitoring the attendance of EMA students and for authorising payment.

3.3 The Scottish Executive guidelines require authorities to carry out a 1% spot-check to ensure the validity of payments. In North Lanarkshire, these are carried out on a random sample of students across all schools on a monthly basis. Any issues highlighted by the spot-check procedure have been discussed with schools and resolved

4. Scottish Executive Statistics

- 4.1 The Scottish Executive has now issued statistics on the progress of EMA throughout Scotland in session 2005-2006.
- 4.2 Appendix 5 shows the total number of successful applicants by authority, together with the percentage of those students in each authority who were awarded £30 per week.
- 4.3 Appendix 6 shows the percentage of applicants in each authority who received at least one bonus payment.
- 4.4 Appendix 7 shows the percentage of applicants in each authority who did not receive any bonus payments.

5. 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.

EMA AWARDS 2006-07 - AMOUNT OF AWARD

CUMBERNAULD & KILSYTH AREA

| SCHOOL NAME | £0.00 | £ 10.00 | £ 20.00 | £ 30.00 | Total | Students eligible by age | %age Processed |
|-------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| ABRONHILL HS | 1 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 33 | 118 | 28% |
| CHRYSTON HS | 0 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 51 | 164 | 31% |
| CUMBERNAULD HS | 0 | 7 | 3 | 31 | 41 | 170 | 24% |
| GREENFAULDS HS | 1 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 42 | 226 | 19% |
| KILSYTH ACAD | 0 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 32 | 183 | 17% |
| OUR LADY'S HS (C) | 1 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 33 | 205 | 16% |
| ST MAURICE'S HS | 0 | 3 | 4 | 42 | 49 | 247 | 20% |
| | 3 | 26 | 35 | 217 | 281 | 1313 | 21% |

EMA AWARDS 2006-07 - AMOUNT OF AWARD

COATBRIDGE & AIRDRIE AREA

| | £0.00 | £ 10.00 | £ 20.00 | £ 30.00 | Total | Students eligible by age | %age Processed |
|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| AIRDRIE ACAD | 1 | 3 | 6 | 35 | 45 | 245 | 18% |
| CALDERVALE HS | 1 | 3 | 4 | 36 | 44 | 201 | 22% |
| COATBRIDGE HS | 0 | 4 | 11 | 31 | 46 | 176 | 26% |
| ROSEHALL HS | 0 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 30 | 94 | 32% |
| ST AMBROSE HS | 1 | 8 | 3 | 43 | 55 | 332 | 17% |
| ST ANDREW'S HS | 2 | 6 | 12 | 59 | 79 | 302 | 26% |
| ST MARGARET'S HS | 1 | 12 | 5 | 56 | 74 | 295 | 25% |
| | 6 | 39 | 46 | 282 | 373 | 1645 | 23% |

EMA AWARDS 2006-07 - AMOUNT OF AWARD

MOTHERWELL & WISHAW AREA

| SCHOOL NAME | £0.00 | £ 10.00 | £ 20.00 | £ 30.00 | Total | Students eligible by age | %age Processed |
|--------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| BELLSHILL ACAD | 1 | 3 | 2 | 44 | 50 | 151 | 33% |
| BRAIDHURST HS | 1 | 4 | 6 | 34 | 45 | 134 | 34% |
| BRANNOCK HS | 1 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 44 | 164 | 27% |
| CALDERHEAD HS | 0 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 28 | 102 | 27% |
| CARDINAL NEWMAN HS | 2 | 7 | 5 | 46 | 60 | 241 | 25% |
| CLYDE VALLEY HS | 0 | 5 | 4 | 31 | 40 | 135 | 30% |
| COLTNESS HS | 2 | 6 | 8 | 31 | 47 | 177 | 27% |
| DALZIEL HS | 1 | 4 | 7 | 40 | 52 | 269 | 19% |
| OUR LADY'S HS (M) | 0 | 2 | 5 | 25 | 32 | 172 | 19% |
| ST AIDAN'S HS | 4 | 5 | 11 | 62 | 82 | 323 | 25% |
| TAYLOR HS | 1 | 6 | 2 | 51 | 60 | 195 | 31% |
| | 13 | 50 | 59 | 418 | 540 | 2063 | 26% |

**EMA AWARDS 2006-07 - AMOUNT OF
AWARD**

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

| SCHOOL NAME | £0.00 | £ 10.00 | £ 20.00 | £ 30.00 | Total | Students eligible by age | %age Processed |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---|---------------------------|
| BOTHWELLPARK HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 57% |
| DRUMPARK HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 20 | 35% |
| FIRPARK SCHOOL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 30 | 33% |
| GLENCRYAN SCHOOL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 35 | 34% |
| REDBURN SCHOOL | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 56% |
| WILLOWBANK SCHOOL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 15% |
| | 2 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 40 | 114 | 35% |

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EMA STATISTICS, 2005-2006

Breakdown of EMA recipients by local authority

| | Total Students | % in the £30 group | | Total Students | % in the £30 group |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Scotland | 17,365 | 77% | | | |
| Glasgow | 1995 | 88% | Highland | 895 | 75% |
| West Dunbartonshire | 390 | 87% | Aberdeen City | 435 | 75% |
| North Ayrshire | 505 | 80% | Moray | 285 | 75% |
| East Renfrewshire | 380 | 80% | Shetland | 80 | 75% |
| Stirling | 255 | 80% | Edinburgh | 1265 | 74% |
| South Lanarkshire | 1045 | 79% | Dumfries & Galloway | 585 | 74% |
| Orkney Schools | 70 | 79% | South Ayrshire | 390 | 74% |
| North Lanarkshire | 1185 | 78% | Midlothian | 290 | 74% |
| Dundee | 690 | 78% | Fife | 1225 | 73% |
| Renfrewshire | 655 | 78% | West Lothian | 480 | 73% |
| Inverclyde | 460 | 78% | East Lothian | 280 | 73% |
| Argyle & Bute | 285 | 77% | Angus | 320 | 72% |
| Clackmannanshire | 175 | 77% | Aberdeenshire | 535 | 71% |
| East Ayrshire | 490 | 76% | Western Isles | 120 | 71% |
| East Dunbartonshire | 410 | 76% | Perth & Kinross | 405 | 69% |
| Falkirk | 395 | 76% | Borders | 390 | 67% |

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EMA STATISTICS, 2005-2006

Those receiving at least one bonus, by local authority

| | Share of total | | Share of total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Scotland | 90% | | |
| Angus | 100% | Western Isles | 92% |
| South Ayrshire | 99% | Aberdeen City | 91% |
| Moray | 98% | Argyle & Bute | 91% |
| North Ayrshire | 98% | Dumfries & Galloway | 91% |
| East Renfrewshire | 97% | East Dunbartonshire | 91% |
| Highland | 97% | Midlothian | 91% |
| Renfrewshire | 97% | Glasgow | 89% |
| Dundee | 96% | Borders | 88% |
| West Lothian | 96% | East Ayrshire | 87% |
| Fife | 95% | Edinburgh | 87% |
| Inverclyde | 95% | North Lanarkshire | 87% |
| Shetland | 94% | Clackmannanshire | 86% |
| Aberdeenshire | 93% | Falkirk | 86% |
| East Lothian | 93% | Perth & Kinross | 86% |
| Orkney Schools | 93% | Stirling | 84% |
| South Lanarkshire | 93% | | |

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EMA STATISTICS, 2005-2006

Those receiving no bonus, by local authority

| | Share of total | | Share of total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Scotland | 8% | | |
| Angus | 0% | South Lanarkshire | 7% |
| South Ayrshire | 1% | Orkney Schools | 7% |
| North Ayrshire | 2% | Aberdeen City | 9% |
| Western Isles | 2% | Argyle & Bute | 9% |
| East Ayrshire | 3% | Dumfries & Galloway | 9% |
| East Renfrewshire | 3% | East Dunbartonshire | 9% |
| Highland | 3% | Midlothian | 9% |
| Dundee | 4% | Glasgow | 10% |
| Moray | 4% | Borders | 12% |
| Renfrewshire | 4% | Perth & Kinross | 12% |
| Fife | 5% | Edinburgh | 13% |
| Inverclyde | 5% | North Lanarkshire | 13% |
| West Lothian | 5% | Clackmannanshire | 14% |
| Aberdeenshire | 6% | Falkirk | 15% |
| Shetland | 6% | Stirling | 16% |
| East Lothian | 7% | | |