

Report

Report to:	Corporate Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 May 2005
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Vocational Development Programme Rollout
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1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on progress of the rollout of the Vocational Development Programme and the rural project for disengaged young people
- ◆ request approval for the appointment of employees to support the programme
- ◆ detail the funding to support projects within the programme

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Vocational Development Programme be rolled out to all South Lanarkshire Council mainstream secondary schools;
- (2) that the occupational areas of Administration, Manufacturing and Early Years Care and Education be added to the existing options;
- (3) that the vocational development programme be expanded as follows:-
 - Mainstream programme from 155 pupils to approximately 615 pupils
 - Special needs programme from 26 to 46 pupils
 - December leavers programme from 100 to 250 pupils;
- (4) that a temporary Co-ordinator post be established to assist with the programme, funded by City Visions, graded SCP 46-57 (£19,161 - £22,574), initially for one year;
- (5) that a temporary Co-ordinator post be established for the special needs programme, funded by the European Social Fund graded SCP 46-57 (£19,161 - £22,574) initially for one year; and
- (6) that 2 temporary Co-ordinator posts be established to support the rural project for disengaged young people funded by European Social Fund graded SCP 46-57 (£19,161 - £22,574) for two years.

3 Background

- 3.1 The South Lanarkshire Council Vocational Development Programme (VDP) Pilot started in the academic year 2003 – 2004. This was made up of 30 pupils from five mainstream schools, 8 looked after and accommodated young people, 15 special educational needs pupils and 50 December leavers.
- 3.2 The aim of the programme is to give pupils the opportunity to have first hand experience and, where appropriate, qualifications in specific occupational areas. This will enable young people throughout the area to make an informed decision on their future choice of career.

3.3 The first phase of the rollout 2004 – 2005 had four strands:-

1 Mainstream (What's With Work):-

- 120 S3 pupils on 2 year programme - 13 schools
- Construction, hospitality, social care, finance and customer services
- 35 S4 pupils on one year programme - 5 schools
- Construction only
- Total of 155 pupils

2 Looked After and Accommodated (Work it Out):-

- 8 pupils
- Hospitality

3 Special Educational Needs (Work it Out):-

- 15 pupils
- Various

4 December Leavers:-

- 100 pupils
- Various

3.4 Pupils participating in the mainstream and looked after and accommodated programme spend half a day per week at college or on work placement learning the practicalities of their chosen occupation. All pupils work towards an accredited qualification.

3.5 Pupils on the special educational needs programme have an individually tailored programme based around their own vocational profile. This includes personal and social development, work tasters and placements.

4 Evaluation of the Programme

4.1 An evaluation of the programme was carried out in December 2004.

4.2 93% of participants thought the programme was excellent or good and 87% rated their chances of getting a job after the programme as good to excellent. All found the programme to be relevant and in accordance with their expectations.

4.3 The responses were extremely positive to all areas evaluated with participants indicating that they were both enjoying and benefiting from the programme.

5 Rollout 2005 – 2006 (phase 2)

5.1 In order to provide a full range of opportunities to as large a number of pupils as possible it is proposed that the Vocational Development Programme (mainstream) be expanded to include all schools in South Lanarkshire Council.

5.2 This will give a total of approximately 460 S3 pupils starting on the programme in 2005 – 2006 more than doubling the previous intake.

5.3 The Mainstream Programme will include the additional occupational areas of early years care, manufacturing and administration.

5.4 The approximate numbers for year 2005 – 2006 for each option would be as follows:-

- 100 Construction
- 100 Hospitality

- 65 social care / early years
- 65 manufacturing
- 65 administration
- 65 finance and customer services

- 5.5 It is further proposed that the special needs programme is expanded to include some young people with emotional behavioural difficulties. The programme will be individually tailored to fit the pupil's vocational profile. This widens the inclusiveness aspect of the programme.
- 5.6 There will be 46 young people on the special needs programme.
- 5.7 There will be 250 young people on the December leavers programme.
- 5.8 One of the aims of the Vocational Development Programme is to help young people secure training or employment in their chosen occupation.
- 5.9 Where there are training programmes within the Council it is proposed that young people on the vocational development programme are invited to apply and that places are "ring fenced" for them.
- 5.10 Partnerships with the private sector will be involved in providing placement opportunities for young people in all areas. Initial work to establish this relationship with the private sector has been undertaken.
- 5.11 All additional occupational areas are based on labour market information which indicates a requirement for jobs in these sectors, within the Lanarkshire area.

6 European Social Fund Projects

- 6.1 Funding has been secured through Europe for two projects.
- 6.2 The first project is to assist with vocational development in Special Needs Schools and further develop the work currently being carried out by the Vocational Development Programme.
- 6.3 The second project is to provide vocational, educational and personal support for 50 disengaged young people in the rural area. This is being run in partnership with Education and Integrated Children's Services and is based on a model successfully piloted in Cathkin High School.

7 Employee Implications

- 7.1 It is proposed that a temporary Co-ordinator graded SCP 46 – 57 (£19,161 - £22,574) be employed to assist with the Vocational Development Programme, funded through City Visions, initially for one year.
- 7.2 It is proposed that a temporary Co-ordinator graded SCP 46 – 57 (£19,161 - £22,574) be employed to assist with the special needs programme funded through the European Social Fund, initially for one year.
- 7.3 It is proposed that two temporary Co-ordinators graded SCP 46 – 57 (£19,161 - £22,574) be employed to support the rural project for disengaged young people funded through the European Social Fund for two years.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Funding of £1.3 million for the Vocational Development Programme has been secured through the City Growth Fund via City Visions.
- 8.2 Funding for the special needs Co-ordinator (£19,161 - £22,574) has been secured through the European Social Fund.
- 8.3 Funding for the two rural project Co-ordinators (£19,161 - £22,574) has been secured through the European Social Fund.

9 Other Implications

- 9.1 To support the vocational strand of the programme Resources will be asked to provide placements for some trainees.

10 Consultation

- 10.1 Consultation with the Vocational Development Steering Group will continue on a quarterly basis.

Alan Cuthbertson

Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

7 April 2005

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Creating Successful Communities
- ◆ Learning in the Community
- ◆ Supporting our Communities
- ◆ Modernising Services
- ◆ Resource Management

Previous References

Employee Issues Forum June 2004

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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