

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Adult and Children's Services Committee

19 February 2014

Agenda Item	23.
Report No	ACS/37/14

Duncraig Castle Educational Trust Scheme 1999

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

SUMMARY

This report recommends the approval of an amendment to the Duncraig Educational Trust Scheme Plan to change the minimum qualifying age for sports awards from 16 to 14.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is the governing body of the Duncraig Castle Educational Trust Scheme which came into operation in 1999.
- 1.2 Following the sale of Duncraig Castle and its assets, on 6 March 2008 the Council in terms of the Scheme formally approved a Plan of Scholarships, Grants and Assistance which set the criteria for awards from the trust. The criteria included establishing a qualifying age limit of 16 – 25 and the following categories of grants:-
 - Scholarships and Grants for former pupils in arts, language and heritage, environment and science
 - Scholarships, Grants or Assistance to individuals participating in sporting events at national and international level or for assistance with costs of attendance at specialist sports coaching.
- 1.3 At a meeting to review the criteria for the Trust in February 2013 members of the sub-committee agreed to recommend to the Adult and Children's Services Committee (ACS) that the minimum age to qualify for financial assistance in the sports category should be reduced from 16 to 14. It was felt that in some sports such as swimming and gymnastics intensive training was required from a younger age. No changes were proposed in relation to the minimum qualifying age for the arts etc category as funding related to post-school accredited specialist training and courses.
- 1.4 The ACS Committee approved the recommendation at its meeting on 20 March 2013.
- 1.5 In terms of the Scheme any proposed amendment to the 2008 approved Plan needs to be approved formally by the Highland Council and therefore Members are invited to recommend to the Highland Council the amended Plan, as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. **IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 There are no other resource, legal, equalities, climate change or risk implications arising from the content of this report.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree to recommend to the Highland Council a proposal that the approved Duncraig Educational Trust Scheme Plan be amended to change the minimum qualifying age for Scholarships, Grants or Assistance to individuals participating in sporting events at national and international level and/or for assistance with costs of attendance at specialist sports coaching from 16 to 14.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 22 January 2014

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A Plan of Scholarships & Grants (Section 16 (i)) – 65% of total**(1) Scholarships and Grants Allocated to Former Pupils of Highland Council Secondary Schools**

<u>Number of Scholarships/Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Persons to Recommend Award</u>
Such number of awards (each of not more than the maximum amount) as shall in total equal 65% of the free income of the trust in each financial year in the categories of arts, language and heritage, environment and science.	Max award £1k Max 75% eligible costs	Director of Education, Culture & Sport

(2) Scholarships and Grants Allocated to Former Pupils from Schools Outwith Highland Council area – 5% of total

<u>Number of Scholarships/Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Persons to Recommend Award</u>
Such number of awards (each of not more than the maximum amount) as shall in total equal 5% of the free income of the trust in each financial year in the categories of arts, language and heritage, environment and science	Max award £1k Max 75% eligible costs	Director of Education, Culture & Sport

B Plan of other Scholarships, Grants or Assistance to Individuals (Section 16 (ii)) – 30% of total

<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Such number of awards (each of not more than the maximum amount) as shall in total equal 30% of the free income of the trust in each financial year.	Max award £1k Max 75% eligible costs	Participation in sporting events at national and international level Assistance with costs of attendance at specialist sports coaching

Criteria to be considered by Persons Recommending Award of Scholarships, Grants or Assistance

School Attended: Highland Council secondary school or other secondary school

Maximum age at commencement of course: 25

Place of Residence: Not applicable

Type of College, other institution or training centre attended: specialist institutions, university

Type of Course: Accredited specialist courses and courses of further and higher education in arts, language and heritage, science and environment within and outwith the UK

Other Criteria:

- The minimum age to qualify for assistance will be 16 for A category awards: **Plan of Scholarships & Grants (1) and (2)**
- The minimum age to qualify for assistance will be 14 for B category awards: **Plan of other Scholarships, Grants or Assistance to Individuals**
- Applications for scholarships and grants for former pupils from schools outwith the Highland Council area will be required to satisfy the general requirement of the Trust of being from the Highlands & Islands or of Highland descent
- For assistance with courses, priority will be given to those which lead to a first post-school qualification
- Attainment, merit and promise of individual applicant
- References including references from head teachers.
- Financial circumstances including availability of funding from other sources such as grants, bursaries, scholarships, schemes run by governing bodies of sport etc
- Evidence of selection by a competitive and recognised process for participation in sporting events at national and international level or for assistance with costs of attendance at specialist sports coaching.
- Scholarships, grants and assistance will be awarded for one year in the first instance.
- Consideration may be given to providing assistance for more than one year but, in these cases, the following additional criteria will be applied
 - The funding will be available for a maximum of 4 years or for the duration of the course or training programme whichever is the shorter period of time
 - The funding will normally be agreed on a reducing scale from year to year.
 - The funding will depend on the provision of suitable evidence of satisfactory progress and attainment each year
 - The Council will reserve the right to withdraw scholarship, grant or assistance if the recipient of this funding fails to make reasonable progress or is guilty of serious misconduct. In such circumstances, the Council's decision will be final.

C Plan of Payment to Providers of Education of Training (Section 16 (iii))

<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
None	0	NA

The Council will apply as nearly as possible the whole of the free income of the Trust for the purposes detailed in this Plan each year.

In circumstances where funds indicated under either heading A or heading B of the Plan are not fully utilised in a given financial year, the Council will use unallocated balances to support eligible applications under the other heading.

In circumstances where the total funds are not fully utilised in a given financial year, the Council will carry the balances forward to the following financial year