

**Educational Trust Fund – Supporting individual young people 16-25 years old****Report by Mary Smith, Director Education, Communities and Economy****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to approve a revised process and criteria for the disbursement of a Historical Educational Trust Fund.

**2 Background**

**2.1** There is a residual amount of £9,700 available through the Educational Trust Fund. The Trust was inaugurated in 1962 and updated in 1991. Some of the trust income relates to a former school at Toxside. This money was used in the past to provide young people in specific geographical areas supplementary bursaries for those engaged in higher education or for those undertaking a course of instruction whilst serving trade apprenticeships; student apprentices; educational excursions; provision of special equipment and promoting education in the visual arts, music and drama, all subject to satisfactory performance. The last award from this fund was believed to have been made in 1996. However a report to the General Purposes Committee in May 2013 sought and was given governance to alter the terms of the Midlothian Educational Trust Fund.

**2.2 Revised Operation of Grant Fund**

In line with the Scottish Government's Post-16 Transitions Policy which states that every young person is entitled to support in moving into a positive and sustained destination on leaving school, we recommend the monies be used to address barriers young people may face when intending to enter;

- Higher education
- Further education
- Training
- Activity agreements
- Volunteering
- Modern or trade apprenticeships
- Any other positive destination

**2.3 The specific geographical areas to be covered by the Fund were set out previously and these are:**

- Borthwick
- Cranston
- Dalkeith

- Fala
- Gorebridge
- Loanhead
- Newtongrange
- Temple

### **2.3.1 The purpose of the grant is to provide support with;**

- the provision of special equipment including equipment, tools, fees and books
- educational excursions
- professional child care costs to allow participation in education, training, volunteering, apprenticeships, activity agreements and other positive destinations
- Initial travel costs

The grant need not be used specifically for these purposes. All applications will be considered on an individual basis.

### **2.3.2 Applications will only be accepted from individuals and not from:**

- Organisations (local authorities, community councils, police services, NHS, schools, etc)
- Private businesses

### **2.3.3 Applications should support young people to:**

- Increase their employability prospects
- Increase confidence in relation to their next steps along the employability pipeline
- Increase knowledge and skills
- Address social inclusion and equal opportunities
- Overcome specific barriers especially for those experiencing disadvantage

**Funding is not available for social or leisure activities.**

### **2.3.4 Applications for this fund will open early autumn 2015**

Lifelong Learning and Employability will promote, operate and monitor the fund. Applications will be considered on a two monthly basis from this date until the funds are exhausted. The fund will then be closed and any applications received after this date will be notified.

The applications will be assessed by a group of officers from Midlothian Council and local community for example community councillors or representatives from Neighbourhood Planning Groups. Notification of the outcome of the application will be sent within two months of receipt. The maximum grant from this fund will be **£500**.

### **2.3.5 Evaluation**

All individuals receiving funding will be expected to complete an evaluation form approximately 3 months after receipt of the grant. Recipients will be asked to provide copies of all receipts/invoices for expenditure related to the grant.

## **3 Report Implications**

### **3.1 Resource**

The intention is to operate the fund until the allocation is spent when the fund will permanently close.

### **3.2 Risk**

Some successful applicants may not adhere to follow up procedures however; this will be actively managed by Lifelong learning and Employability Service but still poses a slight risk.

### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Post 16 Transitions Policy.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

This fund will support young people to take the next steps in their career, training or work pathway thus supporting positive destinations.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

This fund will support young people to take their first steps or sustain their chosen pathway.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Focus groups have taken place with young people over the design of the forms. Community group members will be recruited to jointly agree and allocate funding.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

The approach undertaken will continue to target and priorities those at risk of not achieving a positive destination from identified equalities groups and ensure individual needs are proactively taken into account.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

This fund is not sustainable and will close once the amount of funding is exhausted.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

None

## **4 Summary**

This report sets out a process for operating the Midlothian Educational Trust Fund and the application forms and criteria are attached as Appendix A and B.

## **5 Recommendations**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- Approve the dissemination of the availability of this fund through Midlothian Council networks.
- Approve the re-launch of the Midlothian Educational Fund using the revised criteria and application form.

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**Report Contact:**

Name Annette Lang  
[annette.lang@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:annette.lang@midlothian.gov.uk)