

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 6 October 2015

Referral to Education, Children and Families Committee of the 'Save the Adult Learning' Petition

Item number 8.7.2
Report number
Executive/routine
Wards

Executive summary

The 'Save the Adult Learning' Petition was submitted to the Petitions Committee on 3 September 2015. The Petition called for the provision of a dedicated Community Learning and Development worker for the Project. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Education, Children and Families Committee with the recommendation that the City of Edinburgh Council fund 50% of the cost of employing a Development Officer to support the Adult Learning Project Association.

This Report outlines the support already in place from Community Learning and Development for the Adult Learning Project Association. The report explains why the support currently on offer is at the maximum level currently possible for the CLD service. The recommendation of the Report is that Committee agree to continue support at the current level.

Links

Coalition pledges [P27](#)
Council outcomes [CO25, CO26, CO27](#)
Single Outcome Agreement [SO2](#)

Referral to Education, Children and Families Committee of the 'Save the Adult Learning' Petition

Recommendations

- 1.1 Education, Children and Families Committee agree to continue support at the current level within available resources.

Background

- 2.1 The Adult Learning Project (ALP) was established in 1979, managed by Community Education, and funded through Urban Aid for three years. As a result of ALP's success, funding via Urban Aid was extended for a further three years. At the end of ALP Urban Aid funding the project was mainstreamed by Lothian Regional Council, and subsequently by the City of Edinburgh Council. ALP staff became CLD staff. The Project was initially based in, and focussed on the communities of Gorgie and Dalry. At the beginning the Project had three professional members of staff and a clerical assistant.
- 2.2 The staff supported users to create a voluntary organisation called ALP Association, this is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status circa 1982. The ALP Association membership and Board are made up of ALP students and those interested in education. The ALP Association is independent from the Council. The staff were still managed and funded by the Council. For the last 10 years or so ALP and ALP Association have been based at Tollcross Community Centre and continues to deliver a range of adult education courses. The staffing support for the association has steadily reduced since 2000.
- 2.3 Since 2011 ALP Association has been supported by CLD staff as part of their broader CLD remit. This arrangement continues at a reduced level reflecting the reduction in CLD staffing as of 1 April 2015.

Main report

- 3.1 The Adult Learning Project Association continues to be supported by CLD to deliver a range of adult learning activity in the Tollcross area. The Adult Learning activities are funded and delivered by CLD. Not all of what is delivered contributes to Council priorities as described in Children and Families service plan.
- 3.2 Despite the reduction in CLD worker posts which included support to the Association CLD took the decision to continue to support and resource the

Association. The support is included in the remit for the CLD worker based in Tollcross Community Centre.

- 3.3 This support package currently includes:
- 3.3.1 Free office and meeting space at Tollcross Community Centre in one general purpose room which is prioritised for ALP Association. This is a premium city centre space.
 - 3.3.2 Utility bills associated with the Associations use of Tollcross Community Centre are also paid for by CLD.
 - 3.3.3 In this financial year (2015/16) CLD has provided £7580 to pay for tutors to deliver the following activity: Aye Right; Democracy Group; Glory and Dismay; Local Economy Group.
 - 3.3.4 The CLD Worker based in Tollcross Community Centre currently provides support to the Association. The support varies and is dependent on other service priorities.
 - 3.3.5 CLD arranged for ALP Association to meet with the External Funding Officer in Children & Families. The External Funding Officer and SCLDW suggested a range of possibilities for funding which included applying for a Council Revenue Grant. To the best of our knowledge the Association has not pursued any of the suggested options.
 - 3.3.6 In November 2014 CLD provided additional funding to the Association to provide support because of a long term staff sickness.
- 3.4 The level and type of support indicated above from CLD for a voluntary organisation of this type is unique.
- 3.5 CLD staffing resource has been reduced by 20% over the last 2 financial years (29 Posts deleted). Further reductions are anticipated. All CLD service delivery and support provided to Community Centres and other agencies will need to be reprioritised and brought in line with resources available and the implementation of new locality teams. The current level of support provided to ALP Association and others cannot be guaranteed beyond 2015/16.
- 3.6 At the Petitions committee reference was made to a Youth Worker post in the Morningside and surrounding area. (3M's). The post was created to meet an identified need. The remit of this post has changed to reflect new service priorities.

Measures of success

- 4.1 There is a clear understanding of the pressure on CLD budgets which gives a context in which to discuss the ALP Association Petition request and the associated recommendation from the Petitions Committee.

Financial impact

- 5.1 Appointing a CLD worker 0.5 FTE would cost £20,000 per annum. The cost for this non- priority post would be unjustified and unsustainable in the current financial climate. CLD's current investment in the Association (£7,580 tutor costs, staff time, free accommodation and utility costs) is circa £20,000.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The cost of a 0.5 FTE post would create further budget pressures for CLD service in an already challenging budget context.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Similar voluntary organisations do not receive the requested level of support.

Sustainability impact

Consultation and engagement

Background reading/external references

[Report to Petitions Committee 3 September 2015](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	P27 - Seek to work in full partnership with Council staff and their representatives.
Council outcomes	CO25 - The Council has efficient and effective services that deliver on objectives. CO26 - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives. CO27 - The Council supports, invests in and develops our people.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
Appendices	