

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
20 AUGUST 2008**

SUBJECT: EDUCATION PROVISION FOR GYPSY/TRAVELLER PUPILS

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval for a revision to existing arrangements for Gypsy/Traveller pupils and the continuation of the service level agreement between the Council and the Gypsy Traveller Education and Information Project (North East), (GTEIP).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the appointment of a specialist Gypsy and Traveller Teacher (GATT) to replace existing arrangements.**
- 2.2 It is further recommended that a new service level agreement (SLA) is implemented with GTEIP.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Moray Council has responded to the needs of the school aged travelling community through a fixed allocation of 5 hours of auxiliary time per week per child to the receiving school.
- 3.2 This allocation is designed to assist the school compensate for gaps in the child's learning but is based on the ability of the auxiliary to assimilate and support the teaching that is offered by the class teacher.
- 3.3 While this approach does offer some support to the individual pupil, it offers little or no support to the class teacher on deciding how best to address the needs of the child.
- 3.4 Tracking and recording the progress of Gypsy/Traveller children is difficult for schools to coordinate, with time wasted establishing needs or going over already mastered work by receiving schools .
- 3.5 The current service level agreement (SLA) with GTEIP, 30/11/05 to 30/11/08, is about to expire.
- 3.6 GTEIP has requested a new SLA for the period 01/04/08 to 31/03/11 amounting to £10,000 per year as part of a total of £70,000 to be raised in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and NHS

Grampian. Owing to the overlap in the SLAs, Moray Council's contribution for 2008/09 would be £5,000 and then £10,000 thereafter.

- 3.7 Moray Council Officers in Housing, Social Work and Education working in partnership are satisfied that GTEIP overtook all outcomes and targets set out in the previous SLA and that the work of GTEIP should be continued.
- 3.8 GTEIP have secured additional funding to support two Project Workers to deliver basic numeracy and literacy outwith the school environment to youngsters.
- 3.9 The appointment of the GATT will provide links to GTEIP, out of school provision and coordinate in-school provision in line with statutory requirements.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

This report relates to Activity 1 of Dimension 1 and Activity 4 of Dimension 2 of the Educational Services Improvement Plan 2005 – 2008, namely '*to support establishments in improving practice in Learning and Teaching*' and '*continue to address issues of underachievement in lowest attaining 20%*'.

(b) Policy and Legal

The revised approach will encompass relevant parts of the following legislation:

- Additional Support for Learning Act (Scotland) 2004
- Race relations legislation
- Human Rights legislation
- The Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee 2001 Report (inquiry into Gypsy Travellers and Public Sector Policy)
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The cost for the GATT (salary costs of £39,800, including on costs, plus travel and subsistence budget of £2,500) and the SLA (08/09 @ £5,000, thereafter £10,000 p.a.) can be met from the funding currently used for meeting the needs of Gypsy/Traveller pupils.

(d) Consultations

1. Senior Officers within Educational Services have been consulted and support the recommendations.
2. Head Teachers and LNCT Joint Secretary (Teachers' Side) have been consulted and almost all support the recommendations.
3. Senior Officers within partner providers (Social Work and Housing) have been consulted and support the recommendations.
4. Moray Council legal department have been consulted in terms of the SLA and have indicated that it meets legislative requirements.
5. Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, has also been consulted and agrees the relevant sections.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the appointment of a specialist Gypsy and Traveller Teacher (GATT) to replace existing arrangements and agrees that a new service level agreement (SLA) is implemented with GTEIP.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/
20 August 2008/Education Provision for Gypsy/Traveller Pupils