

Report Title: **Learner Support Fund (LSF) Policy**

Report of: **Sharon Shoesmith, Director, Children and Young People's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

1. Purpose

1.1 All providers of LSF must have a written policy on how the fund is allocated, including assessing learners' income and a procedure for learners to appeal if they are refused funding. These policies must be made widely available and must apply principles of equality and diversity.

1.2 Executive to agree Haringey's LSF policy.

2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 I support the proposal to give the scheme wider publicity – timely given the opening of the new 6FC.

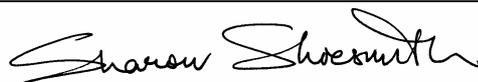
2.2 The LSF policy will provide additional financial support for post 16 students from across Haringey so that they can continue their studies, thus improving their life chances.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Executive approves the LSF policy as set out in Appendix 1.

3.2 That Executive delegate powers to the Director of the Children and Young People's Service in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People's Service to agree this policy in future years.

Report Authorised by:



Sharon Shoesmith
Director
The Children and Young People's Service

Contact Officer: **Norma Downer-Powell, Head of Administration**

4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 The Director of Finance was consulted in the preparation of this report and comments that the LSF is 100% grant funded and therefore has no financial implications for the authority.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and has no specific comment other than that the Guidance from the Learning and Skills Council referred to at paragraph 6.1 of the report draws providers' attention to the need to have robust systems in place to minimise the risk of fraud.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Learning Skills Council, Learner Support Fund: Funding Guidance for 2006/07

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The LSC gives Haringey a LSF of £10,660, of this 5% (£533) can be applied to offset administrative costs leaving **£10,127** to be allocated to those who meet the criteria and apply on a first come first served basis.

7.2 In the last academic year of the 36 applications received, we approved 27 (£7,337). There are still two pending. The highest payment was £400.00 and the lowest was £60.00, with an average of £253.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 Where applicants have not met the criteria, this may lead to appeals.

8.2 To minimise the risk of fraud applicants must provide their EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) for the year in which they are applying. Their FSM (Free School Meal) authorisation letter is also required. These two documents carries proof of address as applicants must be resident in Haringey. Applicants are also asked to provide proof of purchase.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 Approval of applications will be on a first come first served basis. As the funds are limited, only those applications who meet the criteria, i.e. those getting EMA, FSM, living in the borough, have a medical or learning difficulty will be considered.

10. Consultation

10.1 Due to the small amount of funds available, no formal consultation has taken place.

11. Background

11.1 LSF helps learners aged 16 and above with the costs associated with learning, in particular where there are hardship and or childcare needs.

12. Conclusion

12.1 This is the first time in a number of years that this policy has been reviewed. It is intended to publicise this on the web and to all Haringey secondary schools. This may well increase the take up on last year.

13. Use of Appendices:

1. Policy on providing LSF (16-19* Year Olds) for 2006/7 Academic Year
2. Application Form for LSF 2006/7 – form LSF1