

**Haringey** Council

## REPORT

Agenda item:

[No.]

Lead Member (Delegated Authority)

On 26 February 2008

Report Title: **Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards**

Report of: **Sharon Shoemith, Director – The Children and Young People’s Service**

Report for: **Key Decision**

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### 1. Purpose

1.1 All Local Authorities (LA) are required to make a determination each year whether to exercise powers to make Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards. This award is usually made to students who are taking a second degree or going on to other HE (Higher Education) and FE (Further Education) courses. These are individuals of post compulsory school age.

1.2 Executive to agree that no Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards will be given in 2008/09 financial year.

### 2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 I support the LA’s determination not to take up the power to grant Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards in 2008/09 financial year.

### 3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Lead Member approves the LA’s determination not to take up the power to grant Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards in 2008/09 financial year. The Council’s Statement to be published on the Council’s website and communicated through CONEL, HALS and the Sixth Form Centre, is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Executive to agree Haringey’s Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards statement for 2008/09 financial year.

Report Authorised by: **Sharon Shoemith, Director – The Children and Young People’s Service**

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

#### **4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

The Local Education Authority ( Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999  
( S.I.1999/229)

#### **5. Strategic Implications**

5.1 The policy, drawn up in 1999, stated that it was the Council's general policy not to offer any new discretionary awards in respect of both the cost of fees and maintenance grants. Potential students were eligible to apply if there were exceptional circumstances. The policy followed the Mandatory award Regulations for ordinary residence in the UK and the grant and fee rates (the law).

5.2 A budget has not been allocated for Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards.

5.3 Amounts awarded in the past ranged from approximately £1,200 - £1,300 per student per year. In any one year there were only 2 – 3 students who applied. Awards were given by application and consideration would be given to applicants' financial background, depending on the income of the household and the extent to which the student could secure funding from other sources.

5.4 The discretionary awards system was established to assist students with gaining second degrees, for which little or no other funding was available. That situation has now changed and there are a range of other funding that students may access – see **Appendix 2**.

5.5 No new Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards have been offered since 1998/99 financial year.

5.6 The LA is required to publish the decision as widely as possible. With the agreement of the Executive, Appendix 1 gives the statement that would be used for this purpose.

5.7 This will be published on the web and information sent to local colleges, e.g. CONEL. Information will also go to HALS and the Sixth Form Centres.

#### **6. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

6.1 There are a range of other funding available, for example, for HE (Higher Education) and FE (Further Education) courses;

6.2 Access to Learning fund, available through Colleges and funded by the LSC (Learning & Skills Council).

6.3 EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) for students aged 16 – 19 from low income families.

6.4 Post 16 Transport Funds – for exceptional transport costs – administered by the LA.

- 6.5 Learner Support Fund (LSF) – to assist students from low income families with purchasing special equipment, books/materials and travel– administered by the LA.
- 6.6 Non-designated courses for students aged 18 plus. Career Development Loans are available which are funded in partnership with the Learning and Skills council and three high street banks. Students studying law can apply to the Law Society for a bursary or sponsorship.
- 6.7 Designated courses – where students have previously studied Higher Education and receive financial support, loans and grants are available for eligible students from the Student Loan Company. Students will start to repay the loan after they have left Higher Education and earning more than 15K per year.
- 6.8 A desk survey of other LAs, (Enfield, Barnet, Camden, Islington, Hackney and Kensington and Chelsea) has shown they are not taking up their power to grant Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards.
- 6.9 **Appendix 2** indicates other funding that is available and how they may be accessed.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.

## **8. Chief Financial Officer Comments.**

8.1 The Chief Financial Officer agrees that there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **9. Legal Implications**

9.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. As the report makes clear, the statutory framework for this matter is that of the provisions of the Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999. An authority should determine whether it wishes to exercise the power given by the 1999 Regulations in any particular year within the 12 month period before the start of the relevant financial year. The matters referred to in the report as reasons for the Council not to exercise this power in 2008/09 are relevant ones for consideration. The Council is under a duty to take reasonable steps to bring the policy it has determined to the attention of those persons it is likely to affect.

## **10. Equalities Implications**

10.1 As the Post Compulsory Discretionary Award is no longer be available, necessitous families may access funding from a range of other sources. **Appendix 2** gives details.

10.2 Equalities recommend that as the Council will no longer offer this fund access to other funding sources is effectively publicised, and that all six equalities strands are taken into consideration when doing so, particular attention should be paid to deprived wards in the borough.

## **11. Consultation**

11.1 No formal consultation has taken place, but the fact that no requests have been made since 1999 coupled with the fact that other LAs are not awarding Post Compulsory Discretionary funds are good indicators.

## **12. Background**

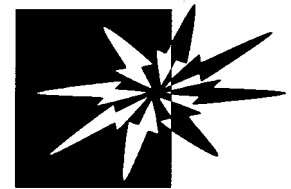
12.1 The Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards is for students who are taking second degrees or pursuing other HE and FE courses. Given the financial situation and the range of other funding available, students who are taking second degrees are not being disenfranchised in anyway.

## **13. Conclusion**

13.1 The Council published a statement in 2007 for 2007/08 academic year. This report seeks agreement to publish the Council's statement for 2008/09 academic year.

## **14. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

- a. **Appendix 1** – Council's Statement – Our intention not to grant Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards.
- b. **Appendix 2** – Details of the range of funding available.



**HARINGEY COUNCIL LOCAL AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT**  
**POST COMPULSORY DISCRETIONARY AWARDS 2008/09**

**Any person over compulsory school age should note the following Policy Statement which relates to the 2008/2009 financial year.**

**POLICY STATEMENT: 2008/2009 Financial Year**

**Haringey Local Authority has determined not to take up the power to grant Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards in the 2008/2009 financial year.**

**Notes:**

- i) The Local Authority is required each year, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Discretionary Awards) Regulations 1999, to determine whether the power to offer Discretionary Awards shall apply to the authority.**
- ii) The Local Authority has decided not to take up the power for the 2008/2009 financial year; this Policy Statement is issued to bring the Council's decision to the attention of those persons likely to be affected by it.**
- iii) This decision will affect students studying courses in the 2008/2009 academic year who do not qualify for funding considerations under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2008.**

Type of Award	Type of Student	Type of Course	Fee Element	Maintenance	Other funding
<b>Adult Bursaries</b>	Students aged 19 to 21 attending FE Courses.	GCSE, GCE "A" Level, BTEC National and other general education courses.	Payment of tuition fees at current maintained sector Further Education rates.	None	Learner Support Funds. Educational trusts & Charities Dance & Drama Awards, Post 16 Transport Fund, Hardship & Access Funds
<b>Non – designated Major Awards</b>	Students aged 18 plus attending further and higher education courses.	Courses at advanced further or higher level which are not designated courses.  One year Post graduate diploma or professional courses for which no central government bursaries are available.	Payment of tuition fees at current maintained sector Further education and Higher Education rates (may be subject to a means test).	Means tested (determined by mandatory awards regulations)  No maintenance element available for solicitors or bar finals courses	A Career Development Loan, Law Society Sponsorship for law courses.  Charities and Trusts. Disabled Student Allowance for Masters Degrees.
<b>Designated Major Awards</b>	Students who do not meet the person eligibility criteria for a mandatory awards.	Courses designated by the Secretary of State for Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations	As determined by mandatory awards regulations (may be subject to a means test).	Means tested (determined by mandatory awards regulations)	A Career Development Loan.

