

Board of Management

Students, Staff & Equalities Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 2 February 2022
Paper No.	SSEC2-I
Agenda Item	6.1
Subject of Paper	Audited Student Funding Support AY 2020/21
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Gillian Plunkett Student Experience Director
Date of production	12 November 2021
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

The BoM Students, Staff and Equalities Committee is asked to note this paper.

2. Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the audited student support funds expenditure for AY 2020/21.

3. Consultation

Not Applicable

4. Key Insights

4.1 A key strategic priority for the College is **Strategic Priority 2 - To enable individuals to excel and realise their full potential** and in order to achieve this students are provided with a range of information, advice and support, including financial support.

4.2 Student support funds are governed by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) Policy and Guidance. This Policy and Guidance outlines student eligibility (including residency eligibility), assessment processes, and appropriate use of funds, management and audit requirements.

Links to the Policy and Guidance documents for 2020/21 are provided below.

[National Policy for Further Education Bursaries](#)

[National Policy: Further Education Discretionary Fund](#)

[National Policy: Childcare Funds for College Students](#)

[Higher Education Discretionary Funds Guidance](#)

4.3 To provide students with financial support the College receives an annual support fund allocation which is managed through the Student Experience Directorate.

4.4 Student support funds are subject to an annual audit with the final audit certificate and related data returned to the SFC for analysis related to a range of social and economic indicators.

5. Student Support Fund Expenditure 2020/21

5.1 Expenditure on student support funds at City of Glasgow College for AY2020/21 was £12.9 million (26% increase on the previous year). Table 1 below provides information on expenditure by funding type.

Table 1 – Student Support Fund Expenditure 2020/21*

Fund Type	Total Expenditure per Fund	No. of Students Supported	Average Annual Payment	Average Weekly payment
Further Education Bursary Fund	£8,981,879	2,846	£3156	£75
Further Education Childcare Fund	£336,647	77	£4372	£118
Higher Education Childcare Fund	£374,334	86	£4353	£118
Further Education Hardship Fund	£1,500,192	2,563	£565	n/a
Further Education Winter COVID Fund	£361,523	805	£415	n/a
Higher Education Hardship Fund	£660,710	470	£1,406	n/a
Higher Education Winter COVID Fund	£746,912	786	£1,000	n/a
Total Expenditure	£12,962,197*	£7,125	n/a	n/a

*Externally Audited October 2021

5.2 Further Education (FE) Bursaries

Table 1 shows that 69% of student support funds are spent on Further Education (FE) Bursaries.

Although most students may be eligible to receive a FE Bursary (eligibility includes residency), not all students will do so as FE Bursaries are means tested against parental income and will vary from a maximum of approx. £4,559 p.a. to £0. This contrasts dramatically with Higher Education (HE) students who, if eligible, will receive a £4,750 loan as a minimum regardless of parental income, rising to £7,750.

Table 1 shows that the average weekly FE Bursary provided to students at City of Glasgow College is £75 per week while the average weekly income HE

students can expect via their student bursary/loan is £100 to £185. It goes without saying that most students struggle with money, however FE students continue to be worse off than their counterparts on HE courses.

The college also supports 489 students through an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and for 2020/21 session the total amount paid to students was £427,050. EMA is paid to under 18s on FE courses where household income is below £24,421, these students receive £30 per week to help with living costs.

5.3 Further Education and Higher Education Discretionary Childcare Fund

Combined expenditure on childcare for FE and HE groups was £710,981 with 64% of funding supporting students who are also lone parents. Glasgow City has the highest rate of lone parents of all 32 Scottish local authorities with 4 in 10 families with children being lone parent families, and wide neighbourhood differences across the city.

With lone parent figures in Scotland expected to rise over the next 25 years lone parents continue to be a priority group. ([Understanding Glasgow](#), Glasgow Indicators Project). Lone parents are also the guardians of the next generation, and the Scottish Government has recognised the importance of Childcare and Early Years Strategies in both providing quality childcare in Scotland and providing opportunities for lone parents to train and work in this area

5.4 Further Education and Higher Education Discretionary Hardship Fund

Combined expenditure on hardship payments for FE and HE groups was £1,453,909. The number of students supported from the FE Fund (2563) is higher than the HE Fund (470). This reflects the higher number of FE students in hardship.

5.5 Other Funds

In addition to the above the College has also sourced three additional support funds for Maritime students; John Mather Trust totalling £8000, Salvesen Trust totalling £20,000 and Navigation Fund totalling £20,000. These funds primarily target Cadets who have no access to Bursary/SAAS funding.

6. Annual Increase in Support Funds

Annual expenditure on student support continues to increase, last year seen a 26% increase. This can be attributed to extra funding from SFC to assist college's during the COVID pandemic and the widening access and inclusion initiatives such as targeting those from SIMD10 and care experienced students.

7. Impact and Implications

Current projections indicate that the college will meet its student support obligations for 2021/22 within budget.