

Board of Management

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 27 February 2024
Paper No.	LTSEC3-D
Agenda Item	4.4
Subject of Paper	Audited Student Funding Support AY 2022/23
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Brian Deeley Head of Student Recruitment and Funding
Date of production	09 December 2023
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

The Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee is asked to note this paper.

2. Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the audited student support funds expenditure for AY 2022/23.

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 2022/23 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 Finance and 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 2022/23

5.1 Expenditure on student support funds at City of Glasgow College for AY2022/23 was £11.5 million. This was a decrease of 11% from previous year following the discontinuation of additional SFC Covid support funds. Table 1 below provides information on expenditure by funding type.

Table 1 – Student Support Fund Expenditure 2022/23*

Fund Type	Total Expenditure per Fund	No. of Students Supported	Average Annual Payment	Average Weekly payment
Further Education Bursary Fund	£7,065,972	2,378	£2,971	£71
Further Education Childcare Fund	£342,858	86	£3,987	£95
Higher Education Childcare Fund	£275,838	59	£4,675	£111
Further Education Hardship Fund	£3,089,752	3,030	£1,020	£24
FE International Emergency Fund	£4,019	2	£2,010	£48
HE International Emergency Fund	£1,000	1	£1,000	£24
Higher Education Hardship Fund	£757,643	421	£1,800	£43
Total Expenditure	£11,537,082	5,977	£1,930	£46

*Externally Audited October 2023

5.2 Further Education (FE) Bursaries

Table 1 shows that 61% 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. £4,859 p.a. to £0. This contrasts dramatically with Higher Education (HE) students who, if eligible, will receive a £5,100 loan as a minimum regardless of parental income, rising to £8,100.

Table 1 shows that the average weekly FE Bursary provided to students at City of Glasgow College is £71 per week while the average weekly income HE students can expect via their student bursary/loan is £100 to £192. 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 491 students through an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and for 2022/23 session the total amount paid to students was

£383,420. 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 £618,696 with 40% 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 £3,847,395. The number of students supported from the FE Fund (2378) is higher than the HE Fund (421). This reflects both, the higher number of FE students in hardship and the amount of money we receive in funding is more for FE than HE, with FE funding increasing through Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis.

The college can vire money over the FE funds and over the last few years we have utilised FE funding and used additional money to support students, in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds e.g. additional support for estranged student and students from low income households as well as additional payments to support our FE students in cost of living crisis.

5.5 Other Funds

In addition to the above the College has also sourced three additional support funds. The John Mather Trust, totalling £12,000 and the Salvesen Memorial Trust, totalling £29,500 are primarily for Maritime Cadets who have no access to Bursary/SAAS funding. The Nairn Trust provides five bursaries of £4,000 for Higher Education students from vulnerable backgrounds.

6. Annual expenditure in Support Funds

Annual expenditure on student support has decreased by 11% in 2022-23 due to the discontinuation of additional SFC Covid monies. Support funds for FE students remains high and the annual SFC in-year redistribution exercise provides college's with opportunity to claim additional or relinquish unused student support funds.

The annual Higher Education Discretionary Fund budget returned to normal levels in 2022/23 as additional COVID funds were not continued. A new International Emergency Fund provided a budget of £29,653 for individual from places of conflict, however, the terms for distribution were difficult for students to meet and most of the budget was vired into the main HE Discretionary Fund.

7. Impact and Implications

Current projections indicate that the college will meet its student support obligations for 2023/24 with support funds within budget.