Summary proposals for funding from Guildry and Mortifications Fund Year to 31st March 2024

To: Trustees, Guildry & Mortification Fund

From: Lord Dean of Guild

Date: 29th February 2024

Until recently the approaches made to us for funding were from bone fide charities and causes but not in keeping with our criteria, therefore we approached ACVO as the umbrella body to facilitate engagement with charities and organisations working with young people whose financial circumstances were inhibiting or prohibiting their educational or vocational progress. One submission was received but was only received 29th February, which meant it could not be issued with meeting papers.

To ensure that we could support as per Trust Deed, the Lord Dean also spoke with Interim Director Children & Families to make an approach to the three secondary schools most likely to have pupils in the categories we aim at, namely St Machars Academy, Northfield Academy and Lochside Academy. Due to time constraints what was submitted was a generic statement of the barriers which some young people are facing but does serve as a guide for future funding awards:_

"Many young people discount further and Higher Education due to their families financial situation. Those who do proceed, tend to do a two plus two course at NESCOL, and then proceed to a local University. They choose from a restricted list of courses and very rarely choose longer than standard courses such as Architecture, Medicine or Dentistry.

Colleague also flagged that we have a fairly high number of young people who have recently arrived in Scotland and are not eligible for funded courses due to the families visa status.

Most prevalent barriers to accessing Higher Education are:

- Family finances
- IT, many courses specifically say that young people will require a laptop
- University accommodation/bills/food
- Cost of textbooks/materials required for courses

Some additional risks to accessing Higher Education were identified including:

- Those living in single parent households.
- Those who have experienced care.

Each of the three secondary schools asked, said that around 25 young people are in this position, I think you could conservatively estimate 100 young people across the city."

To deliver as per the needs and numbers is not possible in a timescale to effect from the Fund in year ending 31st March 2024, therefore the following is a proposal which can be implemented in the timescale and makes a start to meeting the needs and also the objectives of the Burgesses of Guild to assist with support for young people whose financial circumstances are a barrier to their educational aims and fulfilling their potential

PROPOSAL A

Funding for purchase of six laptops which could be purchased through ACC Procurement. The named schools would select pupils who could potentially receive these to aid with their work towards University and/or Further Education College. In addition we would propose making a cash award of £1000 each before commencing the course of their choice for other sundry costs associated with embarking on their studies. The monetary award would potentially come from funds for year to 31st March 2025 and would necessitate returning to a future GMF Committee.

Cost:-

6 x laptops @ £700 approx. £4200 (two per school)

PROPOSAL B

Aberdeen Foyer is currently supporting a number of people in Aberdeen City who are seeking employment but require additional training and a vocational qualification or certification to secure employment. The cost of certification is beyond the means of the people concerned and can only be achieved when funding is provided. Most of the candidates requiring support from Gulidry & Mortification funds via Aberdeen Foyer have already secured offers of employment or work experience leading to employment but this is dependent upon certification. All monitoring of the training and work towards certification will be monitored by Aberdeen Foyer. Submission from Aberdeen Foyer attached Appendix 1

Cost:

1 tr	aining course fee@ 300	300
	8	£1550

Proposal A + Proposal B £5750 from year to 31st March 2024

Both of these proposals would meet with the aims and objectives of dealing with poverty and homelessness in the city.

Request that Trustees approve expenditure of £5750 from Guildry & Mortification Fund in year to 31st march 2024.