

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.

