

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

GRANTS FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT AND TRAINING (GEST)

OVERVIEW OF 2003/4 PROGRAMME

Activity Area 1: Raising Standards (£8.1m)

This Activity Area has been restructured and streamlined for 2003/4 to fund in-service training and provision of materials to support cross-cutting themes in the Broader Curriculum as well as specific National Curriculum Subjects. Its aim is to improve standards of attainment in key areas including modern foreign languages, science, maths, key skills, personal and social education (including race-related issues) and sustainable development. It also covers training and other support for the delivery of vocational, careers and work-related education and for the implementation of post-16 qualifications

Activity Area 2: Planning for Success (£5.4m)

Support for measures to improve school management, innovative school improvement action and the reduction of bureaucratic burdens on teachers. Includes the School Improvement Fund and the Classroom Support Fund as well as training for senior school staff and governors. Funding is mainly targeted at improving attainment in low and under-performing schools and there is a strong emphasis on improving continuity across key stages especially the transition from primary to secondary. Training for senior school staff and governors is focused on setting and monitoring targets and the preparation of School Development Plans, with training also available for school governors to review the performance of teachers and to help them develop management and leadership skills.

Activity Area 3: Early Years Learning (£1.05m)

LEAs' Early Years Development and Childcare plans are expected to set out arrangements for coordinated provision for the under 5s in the State, voluntary and private sectors. Funding

being provided through the GEST programme under this Activity is intended to complement the extension of childcare under the National Childcare Strategy for Wales by improving quality assurance measures, assisting with the joint planning of childcare and early learning and coordination of provision, and providing appropriate training to develop the skills of staff working with children aged under 5.

Activity Area 4: Literacy and Numeracy (£4.9m)

Raising standards for literacy and numeracy is at the heart of the programme for improving education standards in Wales. Funding provided through this Activity Area in the GEST programme is intended to support LEA's approved literacy and numeracy strategies; to support the Family Literacy and Numeracy programme being taken forward in partnership with the Basic Skills Agency; to provide funding for summer schools in literacy and numeracy; and (through ringfenced arrangements) to help local library authorities develop services and projects which support LEA literacy strategies. Particular focus is given to improving standards at Key Stage 3 for 2003/4

Activity Area 5: Pupil and Youth Support (£10.4m)

This Activity Area combines those elements of the GEST programme which are most focused on addressing the needs of socially disadvantaged programme. It provides support for a range of measures which are aimed at encouraging disaffected young people to remain in or return to learning (in association with the Youth Access initiative); at improving school attendance through community as well as school-based action; at improving educational attainment for minority ethnic pupils and looked-after children; and at improving teachers' awareness of and competence in responding to child protection issues.

Activity Area 6: Special Educational Needs (£3.9m)

Activity 6 aims to develop staff expertise and provision for pupils with special educational needs in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice for Wales, the SEN and Disability Act 2001. Funding is provided to support training for teachers and learning support assistants working with pupils with special needs and for Welsh-speaking SEN specialists. LEAs may also use their allocations to support the development of effective SEN policies in schools; for the development of independent parental support and local conciliation services; and to help with the purchase, production and dissemination of Welsh medium assessment and teaching

materials. The activity area also provides support for the Multi-Sensory Impaired Advisory Scheme.

Activity Area 7: Welsh (£4.0m)

This Activity Area supports training and other measures aimed at supporting teachers who wish to transfer to Welsh-medium education as well as assisting with the implementation and development of Welsh as a First and Second Language within the National Curriculum. Resources will be focused, in particular, on ensuring a continuity of progression across key stages 2 and 3 and supporting the effective implementation of the statutory requirement for Welsh at key stage 4. Support is also available for the production of teaching and learning materials for use in schools; to support inter-authority training activities; and for the training of subject co-ordinators (including those operating across more than one school).

Activity Area 8: Out of Hours Prospectus (£3.5m)

This activity complements the lottery-funded provision for out of hours activities by providing training for teachers and out of hours learning co-ordinators to improve the quality and encourage the development of out of hours learning activities. It also provides continued funding for the Music Development Fund which aims to enhance opportunities for young people to take part in music activities. Funding is held centrally by LEAs and may be used to support music tuition, youth orchestras, choirs and bands and the provision of musical instruments. Future arrangements for the Music Development Fund (including the possibility of extending the Fund to cover other arts activities) will be reviewed in 2002/3.

Activity Area 9: Information and Communication Technology (£8.1m)

This Activity Area supports the provision of LEA intranets and ICT facilities in schools which support their ICT development plans. It enables local education authorities to provide basic ICT skills and other ICT training for teachers and other school staff - this should complement but not duplicate the lottery-funded training on the use of ICT in the classroom which is being organised by the New Opportunities Fund. It also provides support for joint projects by local authorities which are aimed at identifying and disseminating best practice in the use of ICT in schools; for the development of online teaching and learning resources; and for one technical support post and one advisory post per LEA to support delivery of the Broadband network for lifelong learning.

Activity Area 10: Professional Development (£7.0m)

Supports professional development and training for school teachers, heads and governors with an increased focus on accredited training programmes, induction for Newly Qualified Teachers and the implementation of the new school performance management arrangements. This Activity Area provides resources to LEAs to support the National Headship Development Programme covering management and leadership training for aspiring heads; induction and mentoring for newly appointed heads; and continuing development for heads who have been in post for three years or more. It also provides resources to support induction arrangements for newly qualified teachers; to assist advanced skills teachers; and to fund individually tailored training for teachers following the graduate or registered teachers programmes.