

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator	Fiona Brown
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Document Title	School Clothing Grants

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Fiona Robertson
Designation	Head of Education
Date	27/05/19

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**REPORT TO:** Members Library Service

**DATE:**

**BY:** Head of Education

**SUBJECT:** School Clothing Grants

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the updated eligibility criteria for school clothing grants applied by East Lothian Council bringing this in line with our neighbouring authorities.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the change of eligibility criteria to now include families in receipt of Universal Credit with monthly take home pay less than £610, Child Tax Credit with an annual income less than £16,105 and Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an annual income less than £6,900 To include all eligible S5 and S6 pupils in receipt of an Education Maintenance Allowance.
- 2.2 To note that the clothing grant increased to £100 per pupil from 1 July 2018 for all eligible primary and secondary pupils.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council's Education Service has the power to determine the criteria for eligibility and the level of grant awarded to those applying for a school clothing grant. For academic year 2018/19 the Scottish Government has introduced a minimum level of £100. All Local Authorities must now grant the minimum of £100.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government has allocated additional funding to local authorities to enable them to meet the increases to the minimum clothing grant level. East Lothian Council has been allocated £98,000.

- 3.3 The Scottish Government has not introduced criteria for eligibility and this continues to be determined at Local Authority Level.
- 3.4 East Lothian Education Service has completed a bench marking exercise with our neighbouring authorities and found that their criteria now matches the eligibility for Free School Meals.
- 3.5 The current criteria operated by East Lothian allocates clothing grants to families in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (income related) or Universal Credit with £0 take home pay from employment.
- 3.6 The current criteria and proposed criteria continues to allow Education to grant discretionary awards where parents are not in receipt of any of the recognised benefits but are experiencing severe financial hardship. Those applications will continue to be assessed on a case by case basis.
- 3.7 In financial year 2018/19 1400 pupils attending primary and secondary schools were granted a free school meal. Not all applicants would have been eligible for a clothing grant. Taking account of the positive migration into East Lothian and families who have chosen not to apply for a free school meal, we would anticipate the number of children and young people eligible for a clothing grant to increase.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy..

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – The increase to £100 per pupil and change of criteria to include more families will be met within the existing budget.
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other - Parents/carers will be notified of the changes to eligibility criteria through the Council's normal media procedures.

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

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