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CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject: Criteria for Trust Fund Awards	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☒ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☐
Prepared by: C Nairn and H Anderson	**Date:** 15 May 2017

Purpose:
To provide a response to the Student Association request to disburse Trust Funds and a proposal from the College to disburse funds through an Aspire Scheme

Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.

Executive Summary:

The first paper provides a response to the paper tabled at CQC on 9th March containing a request from the Student Association to disburse Trust funds.

The Aspire Scheme deals with the 4th bullet point from the Student Association submission. The remit of the Student Association is to represent the student voice and create a college community but the remit of the college is to provide the learning opportunities for students. It is important, therefore, that the college disburses any funds and not the Student Association.

The College would like to operate this scheme using funds from the Trust Fund and other funding it receives, for example, from the SRU.

The request from this committee would be to provide £3,000 per year for the next 3 years to enable the college to operate the Aspire Scheme.

Recommendation:
The committee provides the funding from the Trusts to support the Aspire Scheme.

Previous Committee Approvals:

For publication ☐	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

In response to the paper tabled at the CQC on 9th March (attached) containing a request by the Student Association to disburse Trust funds to help support students this is the position in relation to the funding currently made available via the Scottish Funding Council through the student bursary fund for maintenance, childcare and hardship.

- Provision of study items not covered by student bursaries. This could be books, tools or equipment.

All essential items for each course, along with any assessed learning support items/equipment are covered by the student bursary and this is paid either directly to the College or to the student depending on the current faculty arrangement.
All other items are deemed as 'a nice to have' rather than essential to the student for participation or achievement on the programme of study.
Eligibility to receive this support is determined through the national policy criteria for disbursement of student funds which sets the level of household income above which a student is deemed as not eligible for this support. In these situations, study costs/equipment is then expected to be supported by parent/guardian.

- Use the funds in small amounts to help students that have exhausted all other options available to them already. (Ranging from £5 - £25)

As per the national policy criteria above, parentally supported students where household income is above the eligibility level, the expectation is that they will be supported. Scottish law legislates parental responsibility in terms of support up to the age of 25.
This is an area where by exceptional circumstances could be considered on individual merit, however the College's current internal hardship fund is in place and does make small loan payments to students in similar circumstances to what is being suggested.

- Allocate funds for students that struggle with hardship and homelessness. This would include grants for energy, travel or rent. (£25+)

College internal hardship fund exists and is currently utilised for these types of situation. For eligible bursary funded students, access to the discretionary fund is also available and disbursed on identified need.

- Events or activities where students compete for Borders College. Funds to subsidise the cost of competing in external competitions (E.G. Sport, design, business etc.)

This is the area whereby the most impact could be gained by making additional support available. Propose that support via the Trust fund is considered for events, initiatives or opportunities which would further student learning, success or achievement beyond what is currently available to them within their current course, learning structure or environment.
This could include support for students who have the opportunity to represent their college or country through sporting selections and events.
Another important area for consideration would be support to enable specific work experience opportunities or placements above those currently embedded within their programmes, or participation in voluntary initiatives, whereby skills and knowledge along with career opportunities or aspirations can be significantly enhanced by undertaking these opportunities.

Application to the Trust for support by these means would be merit based. Considered by a panel agreed through CQC to include a student member.

Trust Ideas

We wanted to use the trust funds to help the students while at College, through the time they study, not after they have completed their course. We also decided that the funds should benefit more students than just individuals if possible.

It was put forward that the Students' Association would decide at their discretion on what to use these funds for. There would also be a report submitted to CQC detailing the SA's feedback as to the allocation of these funds

- Provision of study items not covered by student bursaries. This could be books, tools or equipment.
- Use the funds in small amounts to help students that have exhausted all other options available to them already. (Ranging from £5 - £25)
- Allocate funds for students that struggle with hardship and homelessness. This would include grants for energy, travel or rent. (£25+)
- Events or activities where students compete for Borders College. Funds to subsidise the cost of competing in external competitions (E.G. Sport, design, business etc.)

ASPIRE SCHEME

1.1 The purpose of the Aspire Scheme is to provide students with additional support for events, initiatives or opportunities which would further student learning, success or achievement beyond what is currently available to them within their course content or learning environment.

1.2 It will enable them to succeed on their course and continue to progress in the area they have aspirations to develop themselves.

1.3 It will enable the college to identify students with exceptional talent and will provide the additional tuition or mentoring that will enable them to excel and reach their full potential.

1.4 The main sources of funding will be the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) and the Trust Funds disbursed through Curriculum and Quality Committee. The college will also seek additional funding from other sources.

1.5 The students will complete an application form which will be endorsed by the Head of Faculty and will submit this to SMT for approval. The application will include specific learning aims and targets which will be monitored by the Head of Faculty.

1.6 The number of successful applications will depend on the level of funding required for those applications each academic year.

1.7 The college will promote this scheme to prospective students and parents. It will also produce a publication of the successful applicants and their achievements through the use of this scheme.

1.8 The students who are be eligible for this scheme will:

- Have potential to compete for their sport
- Have potential to compete in competition for their skill e.g. worldskills
- Have potential to develop an outstanding portfolio
- Have potential to learn new skills through an exchange programme

1.9 The type of support this scheme will source or fund include:

- Cost of travel to events
- Cost of additional physical resource
- Cost of additional study skill support
- External/Internal mentor support (either funded or voluntary)

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