

## Board of Management

### Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 25 February 2025
Paper No.	LTSEC3-H
Agenda Item	5.2
Subject of Paper	Audited Student Funding Support AY 2023/24
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Brian Deeley, Head of Student Recruitment and Funding
Date of production	10 December 2024
Action	For Noting

#### 1. Recommendations

The Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee is asked to note this paper.

#### 2. Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the audited student support funds expenditure for AY 2023/24.

#### 3. Consultation

Not Applicable

## 4. Key Insights

4.1 A key strategic priority for the College is **Strategic Priority 2 - To enable individuals to excel and realise their full potential** and in order to achieve this students are provided with a range of information, advice and support, including financial support.

4.2 Student support funds are governed by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) Policy and Guidance. This Policy and Guidance outlines student eligibility (including residency eligibility), assessment processes, and appropriate use of funds, management and audit requirements.

Links to the Policy and Guidance documents for 2023/24 are provided below.

[National Policy for Further Education Bursaries](#)

[National Policy: Further Education Discretionary Fund](#)

[National Policy: Childcare Funds for College Students](#)

[Higher Education Discretionary Funds Guidance](#)

4.3 To provide students with financial support the College receives an annual support fund allocation which is managed through the Finance and the Student Experience Directorate.

4.4 Student support funds are subject to an annual audit with the final audit certificate and related data returned to the SFC for analysis related to a range of social and economic indicators.

## 5. Student Support Fund Expenditure 2023/24

5.1 Expenditure on student support funds at City of Glasgow College for AY2023/24 was £10.5 million. This was a decrease of 9% from previous year. Table 1 below provides information on expenditure by funding type.

**Table 1 – Student Support Fund Expenditure 2023/24\***

Fund Type	Total Expenditure per Fund	No. of Students Supported	Average Annual Payment	Average Weekly payment
Further Education Bursary Fund	£6,167,262	2,093	£2,947	£70.16
Further Education Childcare Fund	£324,662	82	£3,959	£107.01
Higher Education Childcare Fund	£229,975	59	£3,898	£105
Further Education Discretionary Fund	£3,320,252	2,785	£1,192	£28.39
Higher Education Discretionary Fund	£465,645	570	£817	£19.45
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£10,507,796</b>	<b>£5,589</b>	<b>£12,813</b>	<b>£330</b>

\* Audited October 2024

## 5.2 Further Education (FE) Bursaries

The SFC allocation for student support for 2023/24 was £10,161,000, this allocation is for Bursary, FE and HE Childcare and FE Discretionary Funds.

SAAS provide us with funding for the HE Discretionary Funds and our allocation from SAAS for 2023/24 was £501,578. This included

Table 1 shows just over £10.5m was spent in total on supporting students. This equates to 99% of the FE allocation and 91% of the HE allocation.

Table 1 shows that 59% of student support funds are spent on Further Education (FE) Bursaries. Although most students may be eligible to receive a FE Bursary (eligibility includes residency), not all students will do so as FE Bursaries are means tested against parental income and will vary from a maximum of approx. £4,859 p.a. to £0. This contrasts dramatically with Higher Education (HE) students who, if eligible, will receive a £8,400 Student Loan as a minimum regardless of parental income, rising to £9,400 Loan and a further £2,000 Bursary (total £11,400).

Table 1 shows that the average weekly FE Bursary provided to students at City of Glasgow College is £70 per week while the average weekly income HE students can expect via their Bursary/Student Loan is £160 to £220. This illustrates that FE students continue to be financially worse off than their counterparts on HE courses.

The college also supports 475 students through an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA). EMA is paid to under 18s on FE courses where household income

is below £24,421. These students receive £30 per week to help with living costs. The total amount paid to students in 2023/24 was £419,010. The College also supports these students with a weekly top-up of £50 from the FE Discretionary Fund to bring parity with the Bursary Maintenance rate.

The College uses FE Discretionary Funds to support estranged students who have no financial support from family members with an additional £100 per week. This provides parity of income with Care Experienced students (Care Experienced Bursary is £9,000) for a group who are vulnerable and have little to no external financial support.

FE students living in the college Student Accommodation who are supported with Accommodation payments from the FE Bursary do not receive a regular Bursary. This group is entitled to a small personal allowance of £36 per week. We provide this group with an additional £50 per week from FE Discretionary Funds to help with weekly living costs.

You can see that we use the FE Discretionary Funds proactively to provide parity of funding to a range of vulnerable groups, removing financial barriers for these groups. These students can also apply for additional funding via the FE Discretionary Funds.

### **5.3 Further Education and Higher Education Discretionary Childcare Fund**

Combined expenditure on childcare for FE and HE groups was £554,637 with 40% of funding supporting students who are also lone parents. Glasgow City has the highest rate of lone parents of all 32 Scottish local authorities with 4 in 10 families with children being lone parent families, and wide neighbourhood differences across the city.

With lone parent figures in Scotland expected to rise over the next 25 years lone parents continue to be a priority group. ([Understanding Glasgow](#), Glasgow Indicators Project). Lone parents are also the guardians of the next generation, and the Scottish Government has recognised the importance of Childcare and Early Years Strategies in both providing quality childcare in Scotland and providing opportunities for lone parents to train and work in this area.

## **5.4 Further Education and Higher Education Discretionary Fund**

Combined expenditure of discretionary payments for FE and HE groups was £3,785,897. The number of students supported from the FE Fund – 2785, for HE Fund - 570. This reflects both, the higher number of FE students in hardship and the amount of money we receive in funding is more for FE than HE..

The college can vire money over the FE funds and over the last few years we have utilised FE funding and used additional money to support students, in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds e.g. additional support for estranged student and students from low income households as well as additional payments to support our FE students in cost of living crisis.

## **5.5 Trust Funds**

In addition to the above the College has also sourced three additional support funds. We have been awarded funding from The John Mather Trust (JMT) and the Theodore Salvesen Memorial Trust (TSMT). These funds are targeted at Maritime Cadets who have no access to Bursary/SAAS funding.

The Nairn Trust provides Bursaries of £4,000 for Higher Education students who are under 25, live within the Glasgow area and are care experienced.

Table 2 shows the 2023/24 budget, amount spent and number of students supported. During the year, the full budget was awarded to applicants; however, the Nairn Trust was underspent by £2,000 with one student withdrawing mid-year. This has been carried forward into £2024/25.

All cadets completed their studies in 2023/24, with students either graduating or moving on to SAAS funded levels. 9 students supported from the Nairn Trust completed the academic year. 3 students have continued their studies at City and have been awarded continued funding for 2024/25.

**Table 2 – Trust Funds**

Fund	Budget	Total Awarded	No. of students supported
John Mather Trust	£12,000	£12,000	12
Theodore Salvesen Memorial Trust	£32,250	£32,250	26
Nairn Trust	£40,000	£38,000	10
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£84,250</b>	<b>£82,250</b>	

## 5.6 KPI's

Student support alone is not the sole reason for these KPI's as the other factors, within the college and external to the college, will contribute and influence students on whether they stay remain on their course or whether they have a positive outcome.

Table 3 below shows KPI's for student support fund in comparison against college FE totals:

2022/23	CS	PS	WD
College FE Total	53%	17%	30%
Bursary	54%	16%	25%
FEDF	62%	16%	17%
Care Experienced	40%	24%	36%
<b>2023/24</b>			
College FE Total	54%	15%	29%
Bursary	57%	16%	24%
FEDF	63%	17%	16%
Care Experienced	35%	21%	43%

Summary both Bursary and FEDF funded students have a higher percentage of complete success than college FE totals in both 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Care Experienced student outcomes are substantially lower in complete success but higher in partial success. This group also has higher rates of withdrawal compared to College FE withdrawal rates. The success rate for this group is below the sector average and the support services are working with the

curriculum teams to identify appropriate interventions. Industrial action also exacerbated the issue in 2023/24.

Table 3 below shows the percentage student support budget spent over the last 4 years compared to other regional college's. City of Glasgow College for over 3 years has spent 99% of its student support budget, using the money we receive efficiently whilst remaining within budget. For 2020/21 the college spent 97% of its budget and this can be explained by additional monies provided by SFC in YPG/NTTF during COVID that only became available from January 2021.

	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
City	97%	99%	99%	99%
Clyde	69%	82%	96%	97%
Kelvin	72%	86%	91%	100%

## 6. Annual expenditure in Support Funds

Annual expenditure on student support decreased by 9% in 2023/24, this was in line with credit reductions. However, although Bursary rates have not increased, the discretionary funding the college spends to support FE students remains high and the annual SFC in-year redistribution exercise provides college's with opportunity to claim additional or relinquish unused student support funds.

The annual Higher Education Discretionary Fund budget returned to normal levels in 2023/24 as additional COVID funds were dis-continued

## 7. Impact and Implications

Our application to SFC for In Year Redistribution for an additional £250k in 2024 was approved and current projections indicate that the college will meet its student support obligations for 2024/25 and will spend within the budget.