

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (ACTING AS TRUSTEES TO THE
POCKLINGTON APPRENTICESHIP TRUST)**

DATE: 23 JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR FAMILY SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Trustees will recall that this Trust, which is administered by the Council, can make grants in any one or more of the following ways for the advancement in life of children and young people born within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (or whose parent or parents have been resident within the Borough for not less than 10 years) and who are in need of financial assistance or those who may be fatherless or orphaned, and the advancement in life of those children and young people who are in the care of or under the supervision of the Royal Borough:

- (i) the payment of fees and expenses in apprenticing boys or girls to a useful trade or occupation;
- (ii) the award of scholarships, bursaries or maintenance allowances tenable at any university or other place of learning approved by the Trustees;
- (iii) the provision of financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments or books to enable boys or girls on leaving school, university, or any other education establishment to prepare for, or to assist their entry into, a profession, trade or calling;
- (iv) the award of scholarships or maintenance allowances to enable boys or girls to travel abroad to pursue their education;
- (v) the provision of financial assistance to enable boys or girls to study music or other art;
- (vi) otherwise promoting the education (including social and physical training) of boys or girls.

The financial assistance may be provided to young people under the

age of 21 years or with discretion of the Trustees, up to the age of 24 years.

- 1.2 The Trustees are asked to note that for all applications, we have asked the council's Corporate Investigation Group to verify the details of each application to prevent and detect fraud. The Corporate Investigation Group has agreed to verify residency status, income and undertake basic identification checks, in line with the Pocklington Apprenticeship Trust criteria. Only applicants that have been verified by the council's Corporate Investigation Group will be included in future reports to the Administration Committee.
- 1.3 Trustees are asked to note that additional measures have been introduced for monitoring released funds, to ensure awards are spent in accordance with the objects of the Trust.
- 1.4 Trustees are asked to note that there has been a minor amendment to the introduction, which provides greater clarity around the objects of the Trust. This will also be reflected in the supporting guidance which is shared publicly.

2. APPLICATION FOR GRANT

- 2.1 Trustees are asked to note that an applicant from the December 2013 Administration Committee meeting, who successfully applied for funding to assist with training to become a Police Officer, decided to not pursue this option and funding was withheld.

We have received 4 applications for grants.

- 2.2 Applicant A - The 22 year old applicant is a Looked After Child and has been known and supported by the Royal Borough since April 2007. The applicant was classified as an unaccompanied minor following arrival to the UK and is currently supported under the Leaving Care Act 2000 as a Former Relevant Care Leaver.

The applicant is unable to pay university tuition fees and funding is being sought in the way of a grant from the Trust to contribute towards these fees, enabling continuation to the final year of study. Trustees are asked to note that the applicant also made a successful application to the Pocklington Trust, for £3000, in May 2013 to assist with paying the costs of second year tuition fees.

The applicant continues to receive financial support through a specific bursary from Children's Services for Looked After Children. This has covered sustenance, accommodation and some travel costs. Without this support, the applicant would be destitute.

In the second year of study, the applicant has passed every module but the full year results have not yet been released by the university. This is not expected to halt the progression of the applicant to undertake the final year of study.

The applicant is asking for help to pay the costs of the following:

£3000 towards paying university fees.

Total: £3000

- 2.3 Applicant B - The 19 year old applicant is a Looked After Child and has been known and supported by the Royal Borough since July 2008. The applicant was classified as an unaccompanied minor following arrival to the UK and is currently supported under the Leaving Care Act 2000 as a Former Relevant Care Leaver.

The applicant has been offered a conditional place at Cambridge University to study Architecture and is on course to achieve the required grades. There is also a secondary option and commitment from another London based university, where the applicant has already amassed enough UCAS points to claim a place.

The applicant is not entitled to a Student Loan, due to the slow process of the 'Application to Remain' by the Home Office and therefore is unable to pay tuition fees. Funding is being sought in the way of a grant from the Trust to contribute towards these fees. An award of £3000 from a Scholarship Trust has already been granted, which will be paid directly to the university.

The applicant has had a very difficult start to life but has taken every opportunity to advance. The applicant's teacher states;

'The applicant is a very talented person and it has been a lonely struggle achieving all goals whilst living in hostel accommodation since the age of 16.

The applicant has a great intellectual curiosity and spends much time reading a wide range of literature on philosophy and astronomy. The applicant is like a sponge and devours information and thrives on long and intricate conversations around these interests!

The applicant is a moral and upstanding young person who will be a positive addition to the university community.'

The applicant is asking for help to pay the costs of the following:

£3000 towards paying university fees.

Total: £3000

2.4 Applicant C - The 21 year old applicant is a Looked After Child has been supported by the Royal Borough since September 2007. The applicant has a place at a London university to study Computer Science. The applicant has sought financial aid from the TIKO Foundation and they are paying the tuition fees and term-time accommodation costs.

Trustees are asked to note that this application was accepted in September 2013 and the full award was granted. The applicant lost the right to study under the 'home' status and this resulted in the award not being released, as agreed by Children's Services with the applicant.

Due to the applicant's immigration status, the applicant is unable to claim the Student Loan or the Care Leaver Maintenance Grant and funding is being sought in the way of a grant from the Trust to contribute towards non-term time accommodation, books and IT, sustenance, travel and other living expenses.

Due to the immigration status, the applicant is unable to work for payment, so is unable to supplement any financial support given with self-generated income. The Royal Borough provides each Looked After Child who attends Higher Education, a bursary of £6,000. The applicant's accommodation costs are £2,000 for out of term-time, leaving only £4,000 for living expenses. Whilst it is possible to survive on this amount, the applicant also requires specialised IT equipment, which will have a higher upfront cost.

The applicant has also been identified as an exceptional student. The applicant's sixth-form tutor has stated;

'The applicant is an extraordinary student with a massive talent for engineering. The Extended Project (for A-Level) was exhibited to Imperial College as an example that would be of the standard of an undergraduate.'

The project was completed in the applicant's own time, using only self-taught skills. The applicant has also carried out work experience for the Royal Borough's Virtual School, handling an IT project and was successful in producing the required outcome.

Support from the Trust would allow the applicant to focus on studies and work towards achieving a good first degree.

The applicant has indicated that they would be willing to gain further work experience by working for the Royal Borough, to assist with future career prospects.

The applicant is asking for help to pay the costs of the following:

£3000 for maintenance at university (accommodation, books, sustenance, travel and other living expenses).

Total: £3000

- 2.5 Applicant D - The 19 year old applicant is a Looked After Child and has been supported by the Royal Borough since May 2010. The applicant has recently completed the first year at university studying Business Management.

The applicant's tuition fees are being paid for by the Helena Kennedy Foundation, following a successful application but a condition of this grant is that the maintenance is provided by the Royal Borough.

The applicant is currently in the process of applying for further Discretionary Leave to Remain, which is currently with the Home Office. The result of this is that the applicant is unable to claim the student loan or the Care Leaver Maintenance Grant and funding is being sought in the way of a grant from the Trust to contribute towards accommodation, books, sustenance, travel and other living expenses.

Trustees are asked to note that the applicant also made a successful application to the Pocklington Trust, for £3000, in September 2013.

The Royal Borough provides each Looked After Child who attends Higher Education, a bursary of £6,000. The applicant's accommodation costs are £4,700 for the 3 academic terms, leaving only £1,300 for living expenses. It would not be possible to survive on this amount. Additionally, there are other costs for the applicant; accommodation during the holiday periods and travel to and from London will also need financial support.

The grant will enable the applicant to focus on studies and work towards achieving a good first degree. The applicant is also supported by the university to take a vocational 'sandwich year' to gain work experience, leading to the degree being completed in June 2017.

The applicant has been pro-active in seeking part-time employment to assist with the contribution of living costs but has been unable to take up a position due to the potential risks with the 'Right to Remain' situation being unresolved.

The applicant is asking for help to pay the costs of the following:

£3000 for maintenance at university (accommodation, books, sustenance, travel and other living expenses).

Total: £3000

3. POCKLINGTON APPRENTICESHIP TRUST

As at April 2014, the figures for Pocklington accounts were:-

Pocklington Apprenticeship Trust Reserve
Balance as at April 2014 - **£69,858.31**

COIF (Common Investment Fund) units
Balance as at April 2014 - **£152,479.28**

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Trustees are asked to consider the grants requested:

- a) Applicant A is paid **£3000** towards the cost of paying for university tuition fees. This grant should be paid in one instalment.
- b) Applicant A is paid **£3000** towards the cost of paying for university tuition fees. This grant should be paid in one instalment.
- c) Applicant C is paid **£3000** towards the cost of paying for living and study expenses at university. This grant should be paid in one instalment.
- d) Applicant D is paid **£3000** towards the cost of paying for living and study expenses at university. This grant should be paid in one instalment.

**CLARE CHAMBERLAIN
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