

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10th MARCH 2008

REPORT ON: PROPOSED GRANT AID TO PLAYGROUPS AND PARENT TODDLER GROUPS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 120 - 2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report seeks approval to award grants to local Playgroups and Parent Toddler Groups to assist them in developing high quality play experiences for young children in local communities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the proposals contained within this report and approve the award of grants totalling £2,400 to Playgroups and Parent Toddler Groups, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £2,400 which will be met from Scottish Government funding made available to the Local Authority through Early Years and Childcare Strategy funding.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Playgroups and Parent Toddler Groups offer parents and their young children opportunities to play, learn and make new friends in their local community, usually on weekdays. Playgroups and Parent Toddler Groups are usually operated by parent-led Committees.

4.2 For groups to be sustainable and financially viable, parents pay an annual membership fee and an additional fee for each session their child attends. Organised fund raising events are also necessary for groups to remain in operation and to assist with significant costs, such as rent.

4.3 This proposal will result in increased access to play opportunities for young children within their communities. Play is an essential element for a child's healthy development. This funding will also enable Voluntary sector groups to contribute more effectively in delivering quality play sessions.

- 4.4 These proposals have been developed in partnership with members of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Partnership and with parent members of Playgroups and Parent Toddler groups.
- 4.5 The award of these grants will allow Playgroups and Parent Toddler groups to choose from a range of equipment designed to promote early learning and development for children aged from Birth to 5 years.
- 4.6 Applications for grants were made in consultation with the Scottish Pre– School Playgroups Association (SPPA) Worker who supports Playgroups, Parent Toddler groups and their Committees and with the Childcare Development Officer (Early Years) who also provides support. The SPPA Worker and the Childcare Development Officer visit groups on a regular basis to promote quality improvement, to encourage inclusive approaches and to monitor provision.
- 4.7 The SPPA Worker and the Childcare Development Officer attend Early Years and Childcare Partnership meetings to inform and update the membership about Playgroups and Parent Toddler groups.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality of Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 This proposal will enhance choice and diversity in Early Years provision. It will contribute to improving links with parents and to strengthening partnerships across the Public and Voluntary sectors.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None.

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

8th February 2008

APPENDIX 1

This table outlines proposals for making grant awards to registered Playgroups and Parent Toddler Groups.

| Group | Details of Application | Recommendation |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Barnhill St Margaret's Playgroup | Range of small world resources Range of books | £100 |
| Boomerang Parent Toddler Group | Large Physical Play resources | £100 |
| Chalmers Ardler Toddler Group | Range of play equipment and arts and crafts materials | £100 |
| Craigiebank Toddler Group | Range of play equipment | £100 |
| Douglas Church Toddler Group | Equipment to improve play experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| East Church Toddler Group | Range of art and craft materials | £100 |
| Fintry Playgroup | Sand and Water tray | £100 |
| Fintry Leaping Frogs Toddler Group | Equipment to improve play experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| Hilltown Parent Toddler Group | Range of Physical Play resources | £100 |
| Little Lodgers Playgroup | ICT equipment | £100 |
| Lochee West Parent Toddler Group | Range of equipment to support babies within the group | £100 |
| Mill of Mains Parent Toddler Group | Equipment to improve experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| Playtime Parent and Toddler Group | Equipment to improve play experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| St Aidens Parent Toddler | Range of Physical Play resources Art and Craft materials | £100 |
| St Andrews Toddler Group | Improvements to children's snack area | £100 |
| St James Toddler Group | Range of play equipment for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| St Mary's Toddler Group | Range of puzzles and books | £100 |
| Stay and Play Toddler Group | Equipment to improve play experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| Stobswell Toddlers | Art and craft items. Large physical play equipment | £100 |
| The Toddlers | Equipment to improve play experiences for children under 3 years. | £100 |
| Toddle Tots | Playmats to improve safety within the Physical area. | £100 |
| Trinity Toddler Group | Range of Play equipment | £100 |
| Toddlers and Co | Range of musical instruments Selection of books | £100 |
| Under 12's Toddler Group | Range of Physical play resources | £100 |
| | | £2,400 |