

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10th MARCH 2008

REPORT ON: EARLY YEARS, CHILDCARE & PLAY CAPITAL FUND 2007-08

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 121 - 2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks to inform the Education Committee of the capital allocation from The Early Years, Childcare & Play Capital Fund which was established by the Scottish Government for 2007-08. It seeks approval from the Education Committee to allocate this funding to support projects in the Voluntary sector.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is requested to approve the projects recommended by the Director of Education pertaining to the allocation of funding of £44,000 to the Voluntary Sector. Approval is also sought for the purchase of equipment totalling £15,000 to create a Resource Library of quality play materials and equipment for the use of Voluntary sector groups.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The proposed expenditure is £59,000 of revenue in respect of the projects identified in Appendices 1 and 2, which will be met from the Early Years, Childcare and Play Capital Fund 2007-08.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 This proposal, which reflects guidelines laid down by the Scottish Government, will enhance the quality of play experiences and offer choice and diversity in early years and childcare provision. It will also improve links with parents and strengthen partnerships with the Voluntary sector.

4.2 The Scottish Government announced a new Early Years, Childcare & Play Capital Fund for the current financial year, from which the specific allocation to Dundee City Council was £221,000. Ministers had set a target of at least 20% of this funding to be used in the voluntary & community sectors.

4.3 Reference is made to Article V of the meeting of this Committee of 27 August 2007 which outlined an allocation of £44,000 to the voluntary sector and identified an additional funding of £15,000 for the creation of a Voluntary sector Resource Library.

- 4.4 The Scottish Government set five priorities for the use of this funding, as follows:
- (i) Refurbishing or upgrading Early Years facilities to create a better environment for staff and children and to develop closer links with parents.
 - (ii) Creating, extending or refurbishing Early Years facilities to deliver more integrated service working.
 - (iii) Improving facilities for Out of School care.
 - (iv) Creating, refurbishing or upgrading play spaces, equipment and facilities for children, both within Early Years centres and in the wider community.
 - (v) Adapting and purchasing equipment to improve access to play for children with Additional Support Needs in Early Years and Out of School care centres.

Proposed allocation to Voluntary Sector

- 4.5 An independent panel of representatives from across the Voluntary sector were brought together to review bids received and were instrumental in agreeing the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1. The proposed expenditure identifies the various projects to be funded from this allocation (see Appendix 1)
- 4.6 Items outlined in Appendix 1 will enable a range of voluntary providers and community groups to access funding to improve their provision. It will also enable Voluntary section and community groups to identify capital work that will enhance services they offer.
- 4.7 The Childcare Development Officer for the voluntary sector will support all relevant groups and will monitor the development of services and benefits derived from this funding.

Voluntary Sector Resource Library

- 4.8 An independent steering group was formed to agree the range of equipment and resources most appropriate for a Resource Library. Appendix 2 identifies suppliers of quality resources and equipment. These resources can be borrowed from the Resource Library by Voluntary sector groups.
- 4.9 The Resource Library will enable voluntary organisations, local Toddler groups, Playgroups, and Out of School Clubs to access play equipment which will improve the provision of outdoor and indoor physical play.
- 4.10 The Childcare Development Officer who supports voluntary sector groups will chair a small steering group to monitor the development, implementation and organisation of the Resource Library.

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 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

8th February 2008

Appendix 1

Recommendations for allocation of the £44,000 Play Capital Funding to the Voluntary Sector.

Name	Details of Application	Funding Recommendation
The Inclusion Group	Adaptations to improve access to play and resources for children with additional support needs.	£1,700
Childcare @ Home	Upgrade play equipment	£1,100
St Ninians Family Project	Upgrade facilities for children and families and upgrade play equipment	£1,300
Family Mediation	Upgrade facilities for children and families	£1,000
Kid Unlimited	Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£1,500
Ancrum Plus	Upgrade play equipment	£1,000
Dundee Woman's Aid	Upgrade outdoor play space	£8,000
The Under 12's Project	Upgrade facilities for Parents and Toddlers	£4,000
Dundee International Woman's Centre	Upgrade play equipment	£1,500
Abertay Crèche	Improve facilities for Out of School Care. Upgrade Play equipment	£600
Grey Lodge Playgroup	Upgrade play equipment	£400
St Margaret's Playgroup	Upgrade play equipment	£350
Fintry Playgroup	Adaptations to improve access to play and resources for children with additional support needs.	£1,500
Lochee Parent and Toddler group	Upgrade play equipment	£400
Mill of Mains Out of School Club and toddler group (joint application)	Adaptations to improve access to play. Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£3,300
Menzieshill Out of School Club	Upgrade and improve facilities for Out of School Care and local community groups	£1,200
Fun Factory Out of School Club	Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£1,350
Happy Hours Out of School Club	Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£1,000
Clelington Out of School Club	Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£2,000
Grey Lodge Out of School Club	Improve facilities for Out of School Care.	£250
Dundee Out of School Care Network	Improve facilities for Out of School Care	£3,000
SCMA	Resources packs for childminders to develop better links with parents	£4,500
SPPA	Additional resources for use within the wider community	£500
Whitfield Inclusion Network Group	Upgrade play equipment	£600
Dreamtime Project	Range of resources for children with additional support needs	£900
St Andrews Project	Improve access to resources	£550
Aberlour Outreach	Upgrade play equipment	£500
		£44,000

Appendix 2.

Names of suppliers and the recommended allocation of Play Capital Funding of £15,000, to enable the creation of a Resource Library of play equipment for use by Voluntary sector groups who work with children aged from Birth to 12 years.

Supplier	Description	Cost
Galt	Range of Physical Play Equipment for children aged 0 - 5	£4,700.00
Asco	Range of Physical Equipment for children aged 0-5	£1,000.00
Hope	Range of Physical Play Equipment for children aged 5 - 12yrs	£3,800.00
NES Arnold	Range of Physical Play Equipment for children aged 0- 12 yrs	£5,500.00
		£ 15,000.00