

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 FEBRUARY 2004**

**REPORT ON: FUNDING TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS IN OUT OF SCHOOL CARE PROVISION**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 143-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to continue an initiative set up to enable children with additional support needs and their parents/carers to access Out of School Child Care provision within Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this report and approve proposals:

2.1 to continue to develop the existing project to support the access of children with additional support needs to all Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee

2.2 to continue the partnership between Dundee City Council Early Years and Childcare Team, Dundee Out of School Care Network and The Inclusion Group to facilitate the operational management of the project.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of the proposal for the financial year 2004/05 is £43,395. and for the financial year 2005/06 is £43,935. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy Fund made available to the Local Authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department. An outline of the proposed expenditure is set out in Appendix 1 of this Report.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This proposal will result in increased access to opportunities and the development of skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This proposal will improve equality of access to services, support the inclusion of children with additional support needs within mainstream provision and improve access to affordable, quality childcare for parents of children with additional support needs, enabling them to take up or maintain work or further education.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 A key target contained within Dundee Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001-2004 is to "Support the needs and interests of children with special educational needs within Out of School Care Clubs". Dundee City Council Children's Services Plan (2002-2004) identifies children with disabilities as a key target group.

- 6.2 Children with additional support needs may have a range of requirements which can impede access to Out of School Care Clubs. These children may require close adult support or have health needs requiring some specialist knowledge. This places greater resource and staffing demands on Out of School Care Clubs which usually operate to very tight budgets. This may mean that Clubs cannot offer provision to particular children because staff are not confident that they can safely support the best interests of the child. Information from parents has indicated that it may be possible to access childcare provision for all children in their family except the child with additional support needs. The proposals contained within this report outline the continuation of an initiative which makes Out of School Care services more inclusive and better able to meet a range of need.
- 6.3 The Inclusion Group is a Dundee based registered charity established since 1994. The vision underpinning the Inclusion Group's work is "to ensure that all children no matter what their ability could and should play and learn together".
- 6.4 Dundee currently has 19 Out of School Care Clubs registered to provide Out of School services for children, before and after school and during the school holidays. These clubs are members of the Dundee Out of School Care Network. A further 1 is due to open by the end of 2004.
- 6.5 Since the start of the Project in January 2001, the Inclusion Group has worked closely with the Out of School Care Network to develop links with individual clubs in which children are to be placed. A great deal of groundwork has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with additional support needs. Over the past year 19 children with additional support needs have accessed Out of School Care provision in 12 clubs in Dundee. There are currently 4 children waiting to be placed
- 6.6 Inclusion Group staff have worked to address the concerns of club staff and have offered a programme of training to support the project. The project is now firmly embedded within the Out of School Care sector. Management Committees and Staff now have the awareness and support to consider the needs of children who may otherwise have no access to Out of School Care when planning their programmes and activities.
- 6.7 Over the last year nine children who have accessed clubs with support and will now be able to continue using the clubs without any additional support. The Inclusion Group will shortly be presenting its first Inclusion Group Award to a club whose staff have successfully supported a child to independence. The project has broken new ground with its innovative approach to enabling children with additional support needs to access Out of School Care provision and requests have been made from other areas in Scotland for information and advice.
- 6.8 In addition the Inclusion Group offers training to Out of School Care staff to develop the confidence and skills to enable children to access Out of School Care without the need for additional support staff. A measure of the success of the current project is the strong links, which have been developed between Inclusion Group workers, and staff within out of school care clubs. Out of school care staff frequently request advice and support from the Inclusion Group and 12 clubs have accessed training during the last year.
- 6.9 The project plans to recruit two Inclusion Facilitators who, as well as offering short-term support to introduce new children into out of school care, will also support clubs who have immediate difficulties with existing children. The Facilitators will be employed by the Inclusion Group to oversee Sessional Workers who will support children within the clubs and the overall project will continue to be co-ordinated by the Project Co-ordinator.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Social Work and Head of Communities. In addition the Dundee Out of School Care Network has been consulted.

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

**ANNE WILSON**  
**Director of Education**  
**Date 06 February 2004**

**The Inclusion Group  
Appendix 1**

**Project Costs 2004 - 2005**

**Project Costs 2005 – 2006**

Project Co-ordinator 20hrs @ AP28	13584.00		14127.00
Inclusion Facilitators 16hrs GS10-18	8155.00 8155.00		8482.00 8482.00
Sessional Workers GS10	3001.00		3121.00
Management @5%	1645.00		1711.00
Training	4380.00		3900.00
Rent	2600.00		2700.00
Insurance	400.00		450.00
Administration	4507.00		4687.00
Telephone	500.00		520.00
Recruitment	220.00		120.00
Travel	1500.00		1560.00
Meeting & Conferences	20.00		25.00
Capital Equipment	950.00		50.00
	<b><u>49617.00</u></b>		<b><u>49935.00</u></b>
<b>Income</b>			
Bal. Brought forward	422.00		
Robertson	4000.00		
Michelin (in kind donation)	800.00		
Business Support Group(IT)	<u>1000.00</u>		
		Other Trusts	<u>6000.00</u>
<b>Education Dept. contribution</b>	<b><u>43395.00</u></b>		<b><u>43934.00</u></b>