

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE– 17th
February 2003**

**REPORT ON: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND QUALITY CHILDCARE
INITIATIVE**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 166-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to proceed with a portfolio application to New Opportunities Quality Childcare Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the contents of this report and approve the recommendations for inclusion of projects in the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership application to NOF Quality Childcare as outlined in Appendix 2.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this application is £349,000. This includes £318,000 and a 10% reserve of £31,800 allocated to Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Partnership subject to a satisfactory application to the NOF Quality Childcare Initiative.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This funding will support and improve access to services, skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This proposal will enhance choice and diversity in early years and childcare provision improving equality of access and further strengthening partnership across sectors.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The New Opportunities Out of School Hours Childcare Programme was introduced to support the setting up of Out of School Care Provision in order to allow parents to take up work or training. Under this programme 604 new Out of School Care places were provided in Dundee. There are three further rounds of this programme in February, April and June 2003 and further applications will be

submitted to provide Out of School Care in areas of Dundee where there is unmet need for service.

6.2 The above programme is to be replaced at the end of the last funding round in June 2003. However this programme is to be replaced and built on by a new programme, the New Opportunities Fund Quality Childcare Programme which was announced in October 2002 to provide £14.5 million to Scotland over three years. £318,000 has been allocated to Dundee subject to a successful submission of a portfolio of projects. The portfolio should also include reserve projects amounting to a further 10% of the total fund.

6.3 This programme aims to 'support the development of a vibrant, sustainable and good quality childcare sector by funding quality developments in new existing childcare projects'. Key projected outcomes are:

- To improve the quality of existing childcare provision
- To increase access to childcare for disadvantaged groups
- To demonstrate a holistic approach by combining different activities in after school care

6.4 Local Childcare Partnerships are key to this development and have been invited to co-ordinate the development of project portfolios from across their geographical area to meet local need.

6.5 Each Childcare Partnership was invited to submit a portfolio of projects to NOF by the end of February 2003.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership set out a timescale for delivery of the portfolio and agreed local priorities against which projects could be assessed at a meeting on 27th November 2002. A series of public meetings were held to promote the initiative to childcare providers from all sectors.

7.2 A sub group including representation from social work, health and the private and voluntary sectors was formed to make recommendations about project applications for consideration by the wider Partnership. Each application was scored against the local priorities and those set by NOF and by the Scottish Executive in Meeting the Childcare Challenge. (A description of the priorities is outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report). Where necessary additional information was sought from applicants to strengthen applications.

7.2 A good response was received with a total of 15 bids amounting to £538,243 representing a range of interest. Following the scoring 9 bids were recommended for inclusion in Dundee's portfolio and this was agreed by the Partnership at its meeting on January 15th 2003. An outline of the outcome of the scoring process and recommendations is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

7.3 Projects recommended for inclusion in the portfolio show a strong multi-agency approach and have maximum potential for development.

The breadth of the bids included reflects the New Opportunities Fund key outcomes for the Quality Childcare Programme and will support the development of projects with potential for significant impact across the childcare sector in the City. If successful the projects will provide:

- Additional support for children aged 0-5 with special educational needs
- Mobile crèche facilities to increase access to childcare for 0-3 year olds in areas of disadvantage
- Development of a drop in facility for parents and children at Stobswell (an area identified as having a need for services)
- Business development and advice for voluntarily managed childcare services in particular Out of School Clubs and playgroups
- Development of outdoor play facilities in Ardler and Charleston
- Provision of physical play resources for children on the autistic spectrum at Clepington Primary School

7.4 With the agreement and approval of the Education Committee it is proposed to submit the recommended projects within Dundee's project portfolio to NOF by the end of February 2003. Each Partnership's portfolio will then be reviewed by an expert panel to ensure it meets the aims and outcomes for the programme. Only projects agreed as part of the plan will be considered for funding. Successful projects will then require to submit a stage 2 application before NOF funding will be released. Funding is unlikely to be available before October 2003.

8.0 CONSULTATION

This Report has been the subject of consultation with the Director of Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Finance and Support Services.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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: 31st January 2003

Appendix 1

New Opportunities Fund Quality Childcare – Priorities

Local Priorities	Score
Partnership projects involving a range of agencies to widen access to services	3
Projects with maximum potential for support and development across all sectors	3
Childcare services for disadvantaged groups of children under 5	1
Support for Out of School Care Clubs Infra-structure	1
Support services for Children with Special Educational Needs across all sectors	1
Integrated childcare and family support	1
Support for young, lone parents – including students.	1
Integrated out of school childcare and learning.	1
NOF Priorities	
Workforce Development	1
Childcare projects which provide support to families	1
Outdoor Play/Capital Projects	1
Capital Support to Childcare projects – particularly pre-school	1
Integrated Care & Learning	1
Projects which support children with Special Needs	1
Scottish Executive	
To ensure every child has access to quality childcare	1
To close the opportunity gap for children and young using approaches including early intervention.	1
To promote a professional childcare workforce	1
The provision of integrated early years services.	1

APPENDIX 2: APPLICATIONS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND QUALITY CHILDCARE

	Name of Service	Summary of Proposal	Amount	Local Priorities								NOF Priorities						SE Priorities				Score	Recommendation	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4		Portfolio Inclusion	Reserve
1	One Parent Families Scotland/Fair Play	Provision of mobile crèche facility across the City	48,073	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	48,000	15,800
2	Wonderland Nursery	Purchase of land, soft top play area, computer learning stations	25,700	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	½	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	-	-
3	SPPA	Development worker for toddler groups	31,499	0	0	½	0	½	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-	-
4	SPPA	Production of information leaflets about childcare in 5 languages	3,870	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1 ½	-	-
5	Youth Sport Team	Establishment of physical activity area for primary school children on the autistic spectrum at Clepington P.S	4,250	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	10	4,000	-
6	Pre School Home Visiting Service	Deployment of additional teacher to provide additional support to children aged 0-5 with SEN attending childcare facilities	90,000	3	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18	85,000	1,600
7	Meadowside St Paul's Tinies	Support subsidised places for children in need	14,400	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	9	-	14,400
8	Dundee Women and Children's Project	Provision of family drop-in and crèche services at Stobswell	25,000	3	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	18	20,000	-
9	Netherurd Holiday Project	Provision of holiday breaks to families	10,500	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-	-
10	Charleston Early Years Centre	Provision of Outdoor Play area	18,300	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	18,000	-
11	SCMA	Training for Childminders	30,000																			-	-	
12	SCMA	Preparation for Disability Discrimination Act for Childminders	77,664																			-	-	
13	SCMA	Project to establish childminding in areas of deprivation	47,187																			47,000	-	
14	Ardler Early Years	Development of Outdoor Play	6,000	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	16	6,000	-
15	Dundee Out of School Network/SPPA	Development Advisor	90,000	3	2	0	1	½	1	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	16	90,000	-
	TOTAL		£538,243																			£318,000	£31,800	