

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 14th JANUARY 2008

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 20 - 2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to voluntary sector partners for the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy. The organisations included in this report are, Childcare @ Home and The Under 12's Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this report and approve the award of funding of £39,955 as outlined in the Appendix to this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £39,955.00 in the current financial year, 2007 - 2008. This will be met from funding made available to the Local Authority for the Early Years and Childcare Strategy.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 These proposals will enrich and enhance the learning and development of young children in Dundee and will support them and their families to play a full part in society.

4.2 The voluntary sector plays an important role in increasing and providing access to a range of services to support children and families. One of the key tasks outlined in " A Plan for Dundee's Children 2005 - 8", is to, "*Implement joint social work, education, communities, health and voluntary sector initiatives to improve local co - ordination of nursery, family support, health and community services and to increase access by vulnerable families.*" There is a well established partnership with a range of providers which strengthen this key task.

4.3 Childcare @ Home:

Childcare @ Home provides a home based sitter service for parents working unsocial hours. As 'Dundee Sitter Service', it has been in operation since 1999. It was established by One Parent Families Scotland, in conjunction with Dundee City Council, and this model of wraparound, flexible childcare has been, and continues to be, copied and emulated in other areas of Scotland. The service aims to provide affordable, quality, home based childcare for families (one or two parent) mainly on a low income, who are working, or in education, at times when no other childcare provision is available to them. The service also provides limited respite care (also linked to parental income, or sometimes paid by other services). In addition it provides directly targeted respite childcare through a service agreement with Dundee City Council Social Work Department.

The Childcare Development Officer for the voluntary sector will support the group and will monitor the development of the service and use of funding.

This proposal seeks to continue funding to support this project. The cost of this proposal will be £33,600.00 in the financial year 2007 - 2008.

4.4 Under 12's Project:

The Under 12's Project is a long established voluntary organisation which has been operating in the Mid Craigie and Linlathen area of Dundee for over 20 years. The project caters for families with children under 12 years of age and offers a range of community based groups and childcare services to the Mid Craigie area and environs.

The Project operates from two sites. Rainbow House, which offers an Out of School Club and various youth and community projects, including the parent and toddler group; and a second After School Care Club which operates from a self-contained space within Clepington Primary School.

This proposal aims to provide funding to continue and further develop the Under 12's Project. This will enable them to develop services in order to:

- Continue and develop work within the parent and toddler group.
- Provide funding for the purchase of additional resources.

The parent and toddler group provides 24 places for children, 3 mornings per week, for children aged 0-5 years and operates 30 weeks of the year. An established and experienced play worker facilitates this group and provides a range of activities and experiences for the children as well as providing support to parents.

The Childcare Development Officer for the voluntary sector will support the group and will monitor the development of the service and use of funding.

The cost of the proposal will be £6,355.00 in the current financial year 2007 - 2008. This will continue to fund the early year's worker in ensuring the organisation of play activities and also to welcome and support new members of the community.

- 4.4 Each of the above projects is supported by the Early Years and Childcare Team and has a Service Level Agreement in place. The Team works closely with all voluntary partners to ensure that outcomes for children and families are clearly agreed and evaluated.

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

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and the Director of Social Work.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

11th December 2007

Appendix

Childcare @ Home 2007-2008

Item	Cost
Salaries inc management fee	£48,082
Other Staff costs, recruitment, travel, training,	£739
Insurance, heat, cleaning repairs	£350
Administration	£1,954
Development activities and mobile phones	£485
Sub-Total	£51,610
<i>Less income from parental fees</i>	<i>£7,800</i>
Net Cost	£43,810
Funding	£33,600

Under 12's Project 2007 - 2008.

Item	Cost
Staffing costs	£4,415
Snack provision	£1,440
Resources	£500
Funding	£6,355