

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 20 March 2006

REPORT ON: Provision of Financial Support to New Registered Childminders in Dundee

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 201-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to newly registered childminders in Dundee.

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 £200 funding to childminders.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £1,600 in the current financial year. Funding will come from Childcare Workforce Development Funding made available to the authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will contribute towards ensuring that children and their families are effectively supported through childhood.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 One of the key tasks outlined in "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005- 8" is to, *"Provide services to support parents and carers in balancing their work and family responsibilities"*. Childminders provide a unique home based childcare service to families. They are valued as a key provider of childcare services to children of all ages and particularly to babies and toddlers for whom close relationships and a home setting are recognised to have particular benefits.

6.2 Childminders are now regulated by the Care Commission and require to meet the National Care Standards. It is therefore important for childminders to supply age-appropriate toys and equipment and also to ensure that necessary safety equipment to meet registration requirements is in place in their homes. All newly registered childminders in Dundee were invited to submit applications for a £200 grant to support the purchase of essential resources. 9 newly registered childminders applied for this funding.

6.3 It is proposed to award £1,600 to 8 local childminders who have recently become registered as child care providers with the Care Commission. A strong partnership approach has been developed between childminders and the Early Years and Childcare Team. All funding awards will be managed and monitored within the agreements signed with each childminder.

7.0 CONSULTATION

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
Date: 3 March 2006

AW/CAR

Childminder	Date Application Rec'd	Details of Application	Recommendation
1	27/01/2006	Pushchair, scooters, safety pads & various pirate toys	£200.00
2	17/01/2006	Home safety supplies, puzzles, games, toys, books, arts & crafts and storage	£200.00
3	17/01/2006	Home safety supplies, books, puzzles, toys and music	£200.00
4	26/11/2005	Toys, bricks, see-saw, slide, games and advertising	£200.00
5	23/11/2005	Playhouse, baby den & tent and Hinge Guard	£200.00
6	25/11/2005	Jungle Climber, Tiles for garden and to make garden safe	£200.00
7	28/11/2005	Slide, playhouse, coupe cars & sand pit	£200.00
8	02/12/2005	Twin buggy, booster seats, high chair & various toys	£200.00
		Total	£ 1600.00