

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE- 14th JANUARY 2008

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NEW REGISTERED
CHILDMINDERS IN DUNDEE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 21-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to 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 each of the new childminders in Dundee as outlined in the Appendix to this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £1200. Funding will come from Child Care Strategy Funding made available to the authority by the Scottish Government Education Department.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 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.

4.2 Childminders are now regulated by the Care Commission and are required 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. 6 newly registered childminders have applied for this funding.

4.3 It is proposed to award £1200 to 6 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.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

11th December 2007

Appendix

Childminder	Date Application Received	Details of Application	Amount
1	17.9.07	Tefal Kitchen, Sand and Water Table, Active Combo Playset Tent and Tunnel, Garage, Musical Instruments, Ball Set, Coupe Car, Dolls	£200
2	24.9.07	Sand and Water Table, Out door play equipment, child's first trike, push along trike, safety equipment, fitted car seat, push chair, booster chair	£200
3	25.9.07	Fire Blanket, Fire Extinguisher, Linked Electric Smoke Detectors, Car Seat, Toys, Books	£200
4	22.10.07	Double buggy, Car Seat, Large Play Equipment, Story Sacks x 3	£200
5	24.10.07	Car Seat, Twin Push Chair	£200
6	7.11.07	Lap Top Computer for developing policy, care plans and business procedures	£200