

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 15 March 2004

REPORT ON: CHILDCARE STRATEGY FUNDING SUPPORT TO PLAYGROUPS, PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS AND OUT OF SCHOOL CARE CLUBS.

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 247- 2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to provide funding to local Playgroups, Out of School Care Clubs and Parent and Toddler groups.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the proposals contained within this report and:

2.1 approve the award of funding to Parent and Toddler Groups and Playgroups as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report

2.2 approve the award of funding to Out of School Care Clubs as outlined in Appendix 2 of this Report

2.3 approve the award of funding to the Dundee Out of School Care Network as outlined in Appendix 3 of this Report

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £75,428.30 which will be met from Scottish Executive funding made available to the local authority for Childcare Strategy.

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 enhance choice and diversity in early years provision and will contribute to improve links with parents and strengthen partnerships across sectors.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Since the beginning of Childcare Strategy Funding in 1999, Dundee City Council has agreed to provide funding to a range of Voluntary Sector Groups involved in the delivery of services. This Report seeks approval to continue this funding.
- 6.2 **Parent and Toddler Groups** offer parents and their young children an opportunity to play, learn and make new friends in their local community. Groups meet for sessions during the week depending on local circumstances. Parent and Toddler Groups, are run by local parents and carers who form committees to plan and organise the programme. Parent and Toddler Groups are often the first group experience for parents and their young children and are often able to signpost additional services to parents.
- 6.3 **Playgroups** offer children opportunities for play following the National 3-5 Curriculum Framework. Parents take turns on duty enabling them to spend time with their children and to contribute voluntarily to their community. Children's social and emotional development is promoted and many children meet their nursery and primary school peers for the first time in playgroup.
- 6.4 **Out of School Care Clubs**, run outwith school hours and offer children opportunities for a range of leisure, learning and sports activities and supporting parents who require childcare for employment and training purposes. They provide non profit making childcare for school age children and an invaluable service to working parents. Parents pay sessional fees for this service.
- 6.5 The **Dundee Out of School Care Network** works in partnership with the Early Years and Childcare Team to support the infrastructure of Out of School Care In Dundee. An important aspect of this recently has been the provision of business development advice and payroll support to clubs. Management Committees and Club staff have recognised the importance of this support and as the network of clubs grows across the City there is a recognition that this kind of support now needs to be extended.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 The groups described above are dependent on the support and involvement of parents and in order to make the services widely affordable are often run on very tight budgets. These groups make a significant contribution to the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy and provide a choice and diversity of service provision within the City. These proposals have been developed in partnership with members of Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team, committee members and parents using the groups
- 7.2 Childcare Strategy Funding will support the sustainability and ongoing development of the groups and safeguard the services for the benefit of children and their families across the City.
- 7.3 In addition, a significant aspect of the funding is to promote anti- poverty measures particularly within Out of School Clubs, for example by widening the range of opportunities available to children attending Clubs, reducing fees for children in targeted groups, supporting children with additional support needs and providing enhanced support for Clubs in areas of economic and social deprivation. In order to disburse Poverty Package Funding fairly and equitably to clubs within Dundee it is proposed that Dundee Out of School Care Network set up a sub group specifically to allocate funding to clubs.

- 7.4 Dundee Out of School Care Network is a fully constituted group which represents all out of school care clubs within Dundee. Poverty Package Funding should be used within specific criteria which includes: the provision of innovative ways to enable children, previously excluded from the club through poverty, to access the provision by offering parents reduced charges, an improvement in the quality of their provision by the introduction of a healthy eating programme which will improve snack time after school and also during full day care, or the provision of innovative ways of introducing the children to healthy lifestyle choices through club activities, speakers, trips and visits.
- 7.5 Funding applications were made in consultation with the Dundee Out of School Clubs Network and the Scottish Pre – School Play Association Coordinator. Groups listed in the Appendices attached to this Report have provided funding applications in line with criteria set by the Team. The impact of the funding in contributing to the delivery of the targets contained within Dundee’s Early Years and Childcare Strategy will be monitored and evaluated by the Early Years and Childcare Team.
- 7.6 The recent pilot to support Out of School Care Clubs and their Committees with the business aspect of their provision has been highly successful. Feedback has shown that a number of voluntary parent management committees and their clubs have benefited from this much needed business advice and support. A range of concerns including personnel, finance, book keeping and legal issues have been addressed and it is proposed to extend this support across the out of school care sector. This type of support falls directly within the criteria for Poverty Package funding as, by improving the skill bases within management committees and improving the financial security within clubs, it directly supports sustainability and economic viability in areas of deprivation. It is now proposed to increase the business development advice from 6 hours weekly to 15. The Business Development Adviser is employed by the Dundee Out of School Care Network and is supported by the Early Years and Childcare Team.
- 7.7 It is widely acknowledged that quality of provision within the out of school care sector varies considerably between clubs. In order to improve quality of care and provide a consistent approach to supporting quality in all clubs in Dundee the Quality Framework Document has been developed. This document is the result of a multi-agency working group approach and has been written to support club staff and their management committees. The Quality Framework Document was launched to all out of school care staff at a successful launch event in February 2004.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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 Head of Communities.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1773 (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 8 March 2004

Appendix One Funding for Playgroups and Parent and Toddler Groups

Name of Group	Address	Description of Grant	Cost
Fintry Playgroup	Finmill Community Centre	Puzzles, Musical Instruments, Dolls Furniture, Dolls Prams, CD player, Tunnel £100 ongoing revenue costs	£495.51
Little Lodger Playgroup	Grey Lodge Settlement	Safety Mat, arts and Crafts, Music Tapes, Table Top Toys	£500
Grove Playgroup	Grove Academy	Maxi Colorado, Create a picture, Table Top Toys Books, Story Bags, Story Tapes	£500
Kirkton Toddlers	Kirkton Child and Family Centre	Activity Cubo, Activity Gym, Baby Corral, 2x Tracker Activity	£396.75
Chalmers Ardler Toddler Group	Chalmers Ardler Church	Trampoline, Dolls House, Easel, Arts and Crafts £100 ongoing revenue costs	£300
Mary's Lambs	St Kilda Road Baptist Church	Tent and Tunnel, Baby Gym, Mat, Arts Materials £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
St Johns Boomerang Toddler Group	110 Albert St	Children's chairs children's tables	£400
Trinity Toddlers	Trinity Church Hall	Garage, Train set, Chute, bikes, Baby equipment, Safety Mat £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
Fintry Toddlers	Finmill Centre	£300 storage units, dolls house £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
PATS	Grey Lodge Settlement	Boys and Girls dressing up clothes and storage, mobile cloakroom	£400
Playtime Toddler Group	Menzieshill Community Centre	Children's kitchen and Push bike for two	£394.75
Stobswell Toddler Group	Park Hall	Giant Soft Lego, Arts and Crafts £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
The Toddlers	Whitfield Activity Complex	Parachute, Activity treasure chest, finger puppets, hand puppets £100 ongoing revenue costs	£388
Under 12's project Toddlers	Rainbow House	Dolls House, Giant Soft Lego £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
Lochee Under 5's group	The Pavillion Lochee Park	Cozy coupe car, trike, trampoline, play dough table top toys, Bricks, ironing set, dolls pram, drinking cups	£400
St Aidan's Parent and Toddler Group	St Vincent Street Broughty Ferry	Bean bags, hoops, parachute, art suppliers collage sets, fuzzy felts, games, CD player, baby toys £100 ongoing revenue costs	£299
Toddlers and Co	Logie and St Johns Church Shaftesbury Ave	Playhouse, Car, Easel, Musical instruments, blackboard, popoids, linking tunnel	£400
Broughty Baptist Toddler Group	Broughty Ferry Baptist Church	Large indoor / outdoor playhouse	£380
St James Parent and Toddler group	Fort Street Broughty Ferry	Wooden toys, books bookcase, baby bouncer, baby gym, lego , construction toys	£400
Grove Toddler Group	Grove Academy	Bikes, large chute, trampoline, tunnel	£400
Lower Pleasance Toddler Group	Lower Pleasance Lounge Pleasance Court	Arts and crafts materials, puzzles, road play mat, construction	£399.24

Name of Group	Address	Description of Grant	Cost
West End parent and toddler group	Tullideph Rd	Round table bead frame, home corner materials, feeder cups, duplo	£399.65
Toddle Tots	Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre	Paint easels, safety gate, baby toys £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
Craigiebank Parent and Toddler Group	Craigiebank Church	Safety mats, safety partitioning	£400
Douglas Church Toddler Group	Douglas Church	Baby toys and equipment, special outing £100 ongoing revenue costs	£400
Asian Parent and Toddler Group	The Cabin Frances Wright Nursery School	Books, multicultural masks, glove puppets, dolls, posters table, chairs	£400
East Church Toddler Group	East Church Broughty Ferry	Giant soft lego, dolls house, farm and garage	£400
TOTAL			£10852.90

Appendix Two: Funding for Out of School Care Clubs

Name of Out of School Club	Address	Description of Grant	Cost
Forthillbillies	Forthill Primary School	Storage trays, computer, digital camera, arts and crafts materials, computer software, Atlas	£1,000
Downfield Out of School Care Club	Downfield Primary School	Computer software, ink and paper, digital camera	£400
School's Out	Broughty Ferry East Church	Arts and Crafts, Dolls house, home corner furniture, construction toys, Book rack Books	£999.45
Hilltown Out of School Care	Rosebank Primary School	Arts and Crafts materials, Sports equipment, Computer games, Summer outings and trips	£1,000
Finmill Out of School Care	Finmill Centre Findcastle St	Arts and crafts materials, puppets, puppet theatre, musical instruments	£996.67
Clelington Out of School Care	Clelington Primary School	Computer, printer, scanner and software, sports equipment, paper pens	£936.44
Lochee Out of School Care Club	St Mary's Primary School	Computer, printer, scanner software	£999.99
BJ's Blackness	Blackness Primary School	Lego, Kinex, scooters, safety helmets, printer, computer consumables, educational software, sewing materials, face painting kit, arts and craft, karaoke machine	£1,000
BJ's St Josephs	St Josephs Primary School	Lego, Kynex, scooters, safety helmets, sewing materials, storage equipment, non fiction reference books, arts and craft materials	£1,000
Boomerang Club	Douglas Community Centre	Volley ball stand, badminton set, balls, rackets, nets, shuttle cocks	£997.11
Gardyne Out of School Care Club	Dundee University Gardyne Road Campus	Arts and crafts materials, sports equipment, musical instruments, books and bookrack, games, small world play	£999.89
Happy Hours	Ardler Primary School	Arts and crafts materials, construction toys, dolls, dolls prams, cars, games, table top snooker remote controlled car	£999.68
Cherry Drop Club	Mid Craigie Primary School	Arts and craft materials, equipment, toys	£1000.00
Mill O Mains OSC Club	Mill O Mains Primary School	Computer, pc games, wooden dolls house, indoor table tennis, construction kits, home corner role play resources	£959.97
Kids Fun House	St Luke's and St Mathew's Primary school	Computer and software packages	£1,000

Name of Out of School Club	Address	Description of Grant	Cost
The Fun Factory	Park Place Primary School	Garden project Mosaic Art Tiles, mosaic snippers, safety goggles	£1,000
Barnhill Out of School Care Club	Barnhill primary School	T.V video, playstation games, dance mat, computer games, puppet theatre, puppets, balls, balancing boards Books, games	£1,000
Menzieshill OSC Club	Menzieshill Community Centre	Sports equipment, computer consumables, pencils, pens, multicultural masks, keyboard, digital drums, gillie sticks	£996.20
Glebelands OSC Club	Glebelands Primary School	Sports equipment, musical instruments, gym shoes for children	£1,000
TOTAL			£18285.40

Appendix Three: Funding to Dundee Out of School Care Network Anti- Poverty Package)

Business Consultant @ 15 hours per week at £30 per hour for 52 weeks	£23,400.00
Launch of Quality Framework Publication	£2,890.00
Dundee Out of School Care Network Poverty Package Funding	£20,000.00
Total	£46,290.00

SUMMARY OF TOTAL COSTS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS REPORT

Funding for Playgroups and Parent & Toddler Groups	£10,852.90
Funding for Out of School Care Clubs	£18,285.40
Funding for Dundee Out of School Care Network	£46,290.00
TOTAL COSTS	£75,428.30