

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 15 MAY 2006

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 292-2006

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, The Under 12's Project, Homestart Dundee, The Scottish Pre School Play Association, The Inclusion Group and Childcare@Home.

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 as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £157,409 in the current financial year and £95,860 in the financial year 2007 - 8. This will be met from funding made available to the Local Authority for Childcare Strategy. A summary of the proposed expenditure is attached at Appendix 1.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals 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, enabling them to make best advantage of future opportunities. The proposals will also further support partnership and collaboration with the voluntary sector in Dundee.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The voluntary sector has played an important role in increasing 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 of children aged 0 - 5 to integrated packages of support tailored to their needs*" The well established partnerships with a range of providers will strengthen this key task.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 **Home Start Dundee** is a voluntary home visiting organisation working with families who have at least one child under 5 years of age and who are experiencing difficulties. Trained volunteers, usually parents themselves, give practical and emotional support to families, often representing a lifeline for many parents who are finding it hard to cope. As a result of Sure Start funding in the past two years Home Start has recruited 22 new volunteers and has supported 93 families with 220 children, 46 of which are under 3 years of age in the period 2004 - 2006
- 7.2 The organisation was recently forced to move to new premises; however this move will allow better ease of access for volunteers and families with a central city location.
- 7.3 This proposal seeks to provide a total funding of £40,325 in 2006 - 7, £40,935 in 2007 - 8 to secure the continuation of services and to support capacity building which aims to increase the number of volunteers to an optimum number of 44 supporting approximately 66 families.
- 7.4 **The Scottish Pre School Play Association (SPPA)** SPPA has for many years provided support for playgroups and parent toddler groups within the city. There is now a well established partnership between the Early Years and Childcare Team and SPPA in providing support and resourcing to these organisations which are often the first services taken up by families with young children. In addition over the past year the SPPA Coordinator has played an important role in providing support to Out of School Club Committees and in working as part of a multi-agency team to strengthen support and guidance to Out of School Care Clubs
- 7.5 This proposal will enable the development officer for SPPA to continue to provide direct support to groups to identify and meet the changing needs of parents and children in their communities and to develop and promote facilities for under threes and their families It will also facilitate relevant networks and allow ongoing support to the Out of School Care Network including ongoing support directly to the newly appointed Out of School Care business advisors.
- 7.6 It is proposed to award this funding of £26,897 in 2006 - 7 and £ 28,654 in 2007 -8.
- 7.7 **The Inclusion Group** is a Dundee based registered charity established since 1994. The vision underpinning the Inclusion Group's work is "to ensure that all children no matter what their ability could and should play and learn together". Since the start of the Project in January 2001, the Inclusion Group has worked closely with the Out of School Care Network to develop links with individual clubs in which children are to be placed. A great deal of ground work has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with additional support needs. Over the past year, 17 children with additional support needs have accessed Out of School Care provision in 15 clubs in Dundee. There are currently 11 children waiting to be placed.

- 7.8 The group will also facilitate onsite training for club staff over specific issues. This will include observation periods, meeting with staff teams, children and families to raise the awareness at strategic level of issues faced by children with additional support needs.
- 7.9 It is proposed to provide funding of £45,229 in 2006 - 7 and £45,787 for 2007-8. This will allow the group to support 10 new referrals as well as the currently supported 25 children.
- 7.10 **The Under 12's project** is a voluntary organisation, formed in October 1998 as an amalgamation of Rainbow House Community Association and One Parent Families Scotland's Cherry Drop Out of School Care Club. It became wholly locally managed in April 2000. The Project caters primarily for families with children under 12 years of age, who live in the Mid Craigie and Linlathen areas of Dundee and their environs and who are in the catchment area for Mid Craigie, Mossgeil and St. Vincent's Primary Schools. During the course of each week 405 childcare places are taken up across the Project in services ranging from the out of school care club to children's groups, pre-5 work, homework clubs, lunch clubs and drop-in groups.
- 7.11 This proposal intends to support the existing parent and toddler provision which has been established for over twenty years. The group has eighteen children attending on a regular basis and fifteen parents who are responsible for the running and organising of the service.
- 7.12 The cost of the proposal will be £5,398.67 in the current financial year which will facilitate an early year's worker who will ensure the organisation of activities and to welcome new members of the community.
- 7.13 **Childcare @ Home** provides home based sitter services 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 Dundee model of wraparound, flexible childcare has been, and continues to be, copied and emulated in other areas of Scotland.
- 7.14 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 service provided care for 95 children in 49 families in 2004/5.
- 7.15 This proposal seeks to continue funding to support this project. The cost of this proposal will be £58,500 in the financial year 2006 - 2007.
- 7.16 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 its voluntary sector partners to ensure that outcomes for children and families are clearly agreed and evaluated.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 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.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
Date: 26 April 2006

AW/CR

Appendix One

Home Start Dundee

2006 - 2008

Costs	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008
Rent, volunteer expenses, electricity, stationary, telephone, advertising, training costs	£20,000	£20,000
Part timer co-ordinator/ development workers salary, income tax, national insurance and pension	£17,245	£17,762
Extra Admin assistant hours	£2,440	£2,513
Coordinator / development worker expenses	£640	£660
Totals	£40,325	£40,935

Scottish Pre - School Play Association (SPPA)

2006 - 2008

Costs	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008
Development Worker salary, pension, national insurance	£15,255	£16,264
Manager salary, pension, national insurance	£4,241	£4,408
Administrator, salary, pension, national insurance	£1,906	£2,102
Expenses	£1,600	£1,750
Development Worker training costs	£250	£250
Operations	£1,200	£1,275
Network Support	£2,445	£2,605
Totals	£26,897	£28,654

The Inclusion Group

2007 - 2008

Costs	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008
Development workers	£12,203	£12,569
Rent	£ 2,781	£ 2,864
Insurance & Registration fees	£ 1,000	£ 1,000
Telephone	£ 500	£ 515
Recruitment	£ 600	-----
Stat / Print / post	£ 900	£ 927
Staff training	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
Clubs	£ 3,000	£ 3,000
Admin Worker	£ 3,304	£ 3,403
Totals	£26,288	£26,278

The Under 12's Project*

2006 - 2007

Costs	2006 - 2007
Early Years Support Worker	£4,439
Snacks	£ 960
Total	£5,399

Childcare @ Home*

2006-2007

Costs	2006 - 2007
Salaries	£48,544
Staff costs, recruitment, travel, training, on call	£2,250
Insurance, heat, cleaning repairs	£410
Administration	£6,646
Development activities and mobile phones	£650
Total	£58,500

Total Cost of the proposal 2006 - 2007

Home Start Dundee	40,325
Scottish Pre-School Play Association (SPPA)	26,897
The Inclusion Group	26,288
The Under 12's Project	5,399
Childcare @ Home	58,500
Total	£157,409

Total Cost of the proposal 2007 - 2008

Home Start Dundee	40,935
Scottish Pre-School Play Association (SPPA)	28,654
The Inclusion Group	26,278
Total	£95,867

* Both the Under 12's Project and Childcare @ Home will be making further application in 2007-2008