

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 15 MAY 2006

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF CHILDCARE FUNDING TO SPECTRUM FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 293-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to Spectrum, a voluntary sector organisation, to support the provision of a youth and after school provision to children on the autistic spectrum.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee approve proposals to support the provision of funding to enable the delivery of after school and youth groups for children on the autistic spectrum

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be £19,000 in the financial year 2006- 2007. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy funding made available to local authorities by the Scottish Executive. Appendix One details the deployment of this funding.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This 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 This proposal will promote the inclusion of children and young people with additional support needs and will enhance choice and diversity in childcare and family support provision in Dundee and will further strengthen partnership with the voluntary sector.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 It is recognised that children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder may require specialist support to enable them to access services. The provision of after school and youth activities provides good opportunities for young people to develop social confidence and to participate in community, recreational activities. In addition these services are important for parents in balancing their family and work responsibilities.

6.2 The Spectrum Play scheme has been running during school holidays since 2001 for children aged 3- 8. This was expanded in 2003 to support children

aged from 8-12. These services have proved invaluable for parents and children.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 Spectrum is now keen to develop its range of services further and to provide youth club and after school clubs during school terms. This will enable young people aged from 12-16 to access services on weeknights. Spectrum has established a good relationship with Mains Parish Church who have agreed to accommodate the extended provision for the cost of heat, lighting and cleaning only.

7.2 Spectrum will also support its own economic sustainability through a range of fundraising activities, which will also involve the young people. In addition a new Parent Forum to harness the involvement of parents and to ensure that the services on offer match with their needs and expectations.

7.3 The delivery of these services will support implementation of "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005-2008. A key task within this Plan is to, *"plan jointly for new resources and services required to meet the needs of children and young people with additional support needs in early years and childcare services, schools and leisure facilities"*.

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

Outline of Financial Support

Income

Club Fees	£13,000
Fundraising (estimate)	£5,000
Total	£18,000

Expenditure

Staff Wages / Volunteer costs	£26,000
Cleaning	£1,800
Transport for outings	£1,500
Activities	£2,000
Snacks	£900
Insurance	£200
Contingency	£4,600
Total	£37,000

Funding Required for period 2006 - 2007	£19,000
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