

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MAY 21ST 2001

REPORT ON: Development of a Pilot Initiative to Provide Summer Playschemes in 3 Nursery Schools

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 310-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek approval to run 3 holiday playscheme provisions within Beechwood/Foggyley Children's Centre, Frances Wright Pre School Centre and Park Place Nursery in July 2001.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this Report and :

2.2 Remit the Director of Education to liaise with the Director of Personnel and Management Services in order to establish staffing to deliver the holiday playscheme provision

2.3 Remit the Director of Education to bring forward a further report to the Education Committee outlining the results and implications of making this provision and proposals for further developments within other nurseries

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full costs of this proposal, £2,848, will be met by funding for New Childcare Projects made available to Local Authorities by the Scottish Executive Education Department. A detailed financial outline is appended to this Report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals will enable everyone to play a full part in society

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will mean that pre school aged children are able to access childcare and play provision during school holidays and will support parents in employment or training. This Pilot will form the basis of a feasibility study into the implications and costs of making this provision available across the City.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Dundee currently has 14 Out of School Care Clubs which offer provision to children and young people before and after school and during school holidays. These Clubs take children of school age.

6.2 For some time there has been an acknowledgement that parents often require all year services for younger children. Currently nursery schools and classes operate during term times only. Making some provision available during school holidays is a natural progression towards creating comprehensive services. Already the extended hours service available in nursery schools is highly valued by parents, many of whom are able to work or train because of the additional support afforded by these services. Parents in this situation often have difficulty accessing affordable provision during school holidays.

6.3 In addition Dundee's nurseries are very committed to inclusive services which offer support to all children and their families. Dundee has a significant population of young children in need. The nursery provision offers opportunities to provide enhanced support to meet a range of need. The long gap in service provision particularly over the summer period may mean that developmental, social and emotional gains made are then lost or reduced.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 It is proposed to run a pilot in 3 nurseries over the summer holidays in July 2001. In Park Place and Beechwood/Foggyley, the pilot will run for 3 weeks and in Frances Wright it will run for two.

7.2 The nurseries identified for the pilot have all recognised a need for services during the holidays, each for specific reasons. Each nursery has canvassed the views of parents to gauge the levels of potential demand for the service.

7.3 In Beechwood/Foggyley Children's Centre, a group of children with significant social and behavioural difficulties will benefit from the continuity of service. There is also demand within Beechwood/Foggyley for provision for parents in employment.

7.4 Park Place Nursery School serves a population of parents where many are in employment or are students at the University. Many of these students take on summer employment to help the family's economic situation.

7.5 In Frances Wright Pre School Centre a group of parents have worked in partnership with the Early Years and Childcare Team to make an application to the New Opportunities Fund to run holiday provision for children aged 3-8 who are on the autistic spectrum. The results of this funding will not be known until June 2001 and if successful would enable provision to be made during the October holidays, the Easter 2002 holidays and summer 2002. A two week pilot in summer 2001 will provide a much needed service to these parents ahead of the NOF funding becoming available.

7.6 It is intended to make a consortium bid to the New Opportunities Fund to extend summer playscheme provision in nurseries. This pilot will inform the NOF application and will provide very useful information about the financial and staffing implications of developing a network of provision.

7.7 The pilot provision will be offered flexibly to meet the needs of families. In Beechwood/Foggyley, for example a group of 10-12 children identified as at risk or in need will be offered sessional daycare provision. This provision will deploy some of the staffing which is available during school holidays at Beechwood/Foggyley. The deployment of a further two nursery nurses will mean that a group of 10- 12 children who have working parents will also be able to take up the service. Beechwood/Foggyley, in particular is ideally placed to make this kind of provision available because the Centre is open all summer to deliver child and family services and therefore has a manager in place.

7.8 In all three provisions existing nursery nurse staff will take on additional employment for the period of the playschemes. This will ensure that high quality services are provided and that there are familiar, experienced staff on duty.

7.9 In Park Place the deployment of 2 nursery nurses and an auxiliary will mean that the provision can be offered to 12- 14 children from 9am- 5.15pm daily. It is anticipated that there is sufficient demand for these places, but if all places are not filled by Park Place children, the service could be offered to children from nearby nurseries, including Bellfield.

7.10 A more intensive staffing is required at Frances Wright due to the needs of the children with autism who will require a high adult ratio. It is envisaged that 17 children aged 3-8 will use this service, requiring a ratio of 1 adult to three children. The staff costs for this provision will therefore be significantly higher than for the other two services. However the need for such a service is clear and parents have often expressed concern about the lack of provision for these often highly demanding children during school holidays.

7.11 This service will be provided as a priority to children in need (in accordance with the criterion set out in Early Years and Childcare Fact Sheet 23) who will receive the service free of

charge. A charging policy will be in place for parents in employment. This has been set at £50.00 for a full week and £25.00 for a half week. Children will bring their own packed lunch and the usual snacks will be provided within the overall charges.

7.12 At Frances Wright the service will be offered as respite to parents between 10am until 2pm. Once again children in need will receive this service free of charge. A charge of £25 for a full week will be made to other parents.

7.13 The operational implications of running this service will be fully evaluated by the Early Years and Childcare Officer.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 This Report has been the subject of consultation with the Director of Social Work, the Director of Personnel and Management Services, the Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

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Director of Education

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Date

**PILOT INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE SUMMER PLAYSHEMES
IN 3 NURSERY SCHOOLS**

APPENDIX 1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OUTLINE

Frances Wright Pre School Centre (2 Weeks Pilot)

	£	
2 Senior Nursery Nurses (9.30 am - 3.00 pm)	£1,007.82	
4 Sessional Staff (£6 per Hour for 4 Hrs a day)	£960.00	
Equipment and Resources	£150.00	
Total Expenditure (2 Weeks)	£2,117.82	
Estimated Income	£850.00	17 Children, at £25 each for 2 weeks
Net Expenditure	£1,267.82	

Beechwood/Foggyley Children's Centre (3 Weeks Pilot)

2 Full Time Nursery Nurses	£1,791.48	
Equipment and Resources	£150.00	
Total Expenditure (3 Weeks)	£1,941.48	
Estimated Income	£1,200.00	8 Children, at £50 each for 3 weeks
Net Expenditure	£741.48	

Park Place Nursery (3 Weeks Pilot)

2 Full Time Nursery Nurses	£1,967.22	
1 Full Time Auxiliary	£821.28	
Equipment and Resources	£150.00	
Total Expenditure (3 Weeks)	£2,938.50	
Estimated Income	£2,100.00	14 Children, at £50 each for 3 weeks
Net Expenditure	£838.50	

Summary of Financial Implications of Pilot

Expenditure	£6,997.80
Income	£4,150.00
Net Expenditure	£2,847.80