

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE- 19th MAY 2003
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE -19th MAY 2003

REPORT ON: CONTINUATION OF SURE START STRATEGY AND
IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 345 – 2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report seeks Education Committee and Social Work Committee approval for taking forward Sure Start Dundee for the period April 2003-March 2004 to enhance and extend support and provision for children aged 0-3 and their families.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education and Social Work Committees:

- 2.1 approve the continuation strategy as outlined in the Report
- 2.2 approve the proposals for expenditure of Sure Start Funding in the financial year 2003/4
- 2.3 remit the Director of Education and Social Work to liaise with the Director of Personnel and Management Services to continue the deployment of staff involved in Sure Start initiatives for the period of these proposals

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of these proposals, £794,496 will be met from Scottish Executive Funding made available within the GAE for the financial year 2003/4. A detailed Financial Appendix is appended to this Report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Delivery of the Sure Start Strategy will support access to the skills, knowledge and information required to enable children and families to play a full part in society

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Sure Start increases access by a wide range of children and families to services and provision to match local need.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Sure Start was established nationally in 2000 to improve services for children in the first years of life and to strengthen support for parents and families. Joint Reports to the Education and Social Work Committees describing the delivery of Sure Start in Dundee were approved in 2000 (refer to Report No 645-2000) and in 2002 (refer to Report No. 269-2002).

6.2 Funding for the continuation of Sure Start has now been announced until 2006. In the financial year 2003/4 funding has increased from £653,000 in 2002/3 to £795,000. Funding for the subsequent 2 years will increase more significantly. In 2004/5 a total of £1,187,000 and in 2005/6 £1,696,000 will be available and there will be potential for considerable growth and development. This Report therefore seeks to establish an interim position and to continue the services and strategies already in place for a further year with a small scale development proposed only. A further Report will seek approval for increased development in April 2004.

7.0 CONTINUATION PROPOSALS 2003/4

7.1 The key elements of the current Sure Start Strategy can be summarised under the following broad categories:

- Centre based provision which includes childcare and broader family support services
- Parent support groups and programmes
- Home Visiting Programmes
- Community Outreach services
- Early Intervention Programmes for children aged 2-4
- Training and staff development
- Partnership and collaboration across agencies and departments including health

7.2 The three new service models established at Woodlea Children's Centre, Happyhillock Child and Family Centre and Charleston Primary School have been key outcomes of Sure Start funding.

7.3 The Report approved by Committee in April 2002 outlines the key element of the Sure Start Strategy in detail (refer to Report No. 269-2002). Evaluation evidence of these projects indicates that the services are highly valued by children, parents and early years staff. A survey of Sure Start projects conducted in November 2002, indicated that some 530 children and 273 families were supported by Sure Start projects across the City. Staff identified key strengths in the projects which are summarised below:

- Overall strengthening of services for children aged 0-3 and their families
- Better inclusion of a wider range of families and development of more effective strategies to support and involve hard to reach families
- Capacity to provide services in areas of the City where services were in previously not available
- Services able to meet a wider range of need under one roof
- Better transitional support for children moving between services

- Significant increase in support and provision for young children with additional support needs
- Improved support for children and families in their own homes
- Flexibility and responsiveness of support
- Increase in the skills level of staff
- Improved collaboration across services
- Developing play as a good means of raising parent's confidence and enjoyment in their role

7.4 The funding available will support the ongoing development of the existing projects. In addition a new Community Resource is proposed for children aged 0-3 within Woodlea Children's Centre. This will provide a range of services including, drop in provision, parent groups and workshops, community crèche, health promotion, assessment of additional support needs and access to appropriate services

8.0 CONSULTATION

This Report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive and Directors of Finance, Support Services and Personnel and Management 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

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

ALAN BAIRD
Director of Social Work

Date 6th May 2003

Date 6th May 2003

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CONTINUATION OF SURESTART STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION
FINANCIAL APPENDIX 2003/04**

	Total
Early Intervention Projects	
Woodlea Children's Centre	52,067
Kirkton Nursery and Child and Family Centre	48,895
Ardler Primary and Ardler Child and Family Centre	49,364
Resources to support Early Intervention	9,000
	<u>159,326</u>
Outreach Projects	
Ardler / St Mary's	26,227
Hilltown	27,027
Charleston/ Menzieshill	26,226
Resources to support outreach projects	9,000
	<u>88,480</u>
Development of Integrated Early Years Service	
Woodlea	123,902
Charleston	53,163
Happyhillock	49,537
	<u>226,602</u>
Voluntary Sector Projects	
(1) Dundee Sitter Service - part funded	15,000
(2) Home Start Dundee	29,000
	<u>44,000</u>
Pre school Home Visiting Service	
Staff costs	68,583
Resources to support Pre school Home Visiting service	9,000
	<u>77,583</u>
Sports Development Initiative	
Funding to Leisure and Arts	30,000
Health Workers	
Two health visitors	55,674
Early Years and Childcare team	
Central Team	81,520
Developing Social Work Family Support Service	
Resources	9,000
New Community Resource 0-3 at Woodlea	
Staff costs	22,311
TOTAL	<u><u>794,496</u></u>
FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE 2003/04	795,000