

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 26 JUNE 2006

REPORT ON: Provision of Financial Support to New Registered Childminders in Dundee

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 400-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to support new registered childminders in Dundee.

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 £200 funding to childminders as set out in Appendix 1 of this Report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £1,400 in the current financial year. Funding will come from Childcare Workforce Development Funding made available to the authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department.

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 contribute towards ensuring that children and their families are effectively supported through childhood.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 One of the key tasks outlined in "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005- 8" is to, *"Provide services to support parents and carers in balancing their work and family responsibilities"*. Childminders provide a unique home based childcare service to families. They are valued as a key provider of childcare services to children of all ages and particularly to babies and toddlers for whom close relationships and a home setting are recognised to have particular benefits.

6.2 Childminders are now regulated by the Care Commission and require to meet the National Care Standards. There is therefore a requirement for childminders to supply

age-appropriate toys and equipment and also to ensure that necessary safety equipment to meet registration requirements is in place in their homes. All newly registered childminders in Dundee were invited to submit applications for a £200 grant to support the purchase of essential resources. newly registered childminders applied for this funding.

- 6.3 It is proposed to award £1,400 to 7 local childminders who have recently become registered as child care providers with the Care Commission. A strong partnership approach has been developed between childminders and the Early Years and Childcare Team. All funding awards will be managed and monitored within the agreements signed with each childminder.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 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.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
Date: 19 June 2006

AW/CAR

Childminder	Date Application Rec'd	Details of Application	Recommendation
No	Date Application received	Detail of items requested	Amount
1	10/05/06	double buggy, car seat, toys and equipment for babies	£200
2	14/04/06	radiator covers, fire blanket, toys, jigsaws, buggy	£200
3	24/04/06	car seat, toys, art supplies, dressing up clothes, puppets, games	£200
4	20/04/06	outdoor play equipment, buggy, highchair, promotion of business through advert	£200
5	03/05/06	double buggy, car seats, rain cover, outdoor toys	£200
6	06/04/06	garden toys, books, jigsaws, baby toys, business cards, table and chairs, art materials	£200
7	20/05/06	stair gates, car seat, travel cot toys and equipment	£200
		Total	£ 1,400

APPENDIX 1