

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2002**

**REPORT ON: SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WITHIN OUT OF SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROVISION**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 468-2002**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to continue an initiative set up to enable children with special educational needs and their parents/carers to access Out of School Care provision within a number of Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee approve proposals:

2.1 to continue to develop the existing project to support the access of children with special educational needs to all Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee

2.2 to continue the partnership between Dundee City Council Early Years and Childcare Team, Dundee Out of School Care Network and The Inclusion Group to facilitate the operational management of the project.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of the proposal is £31,950. This will be met from the Childcare New Projects Fund made available to the Local Authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department. An outline of the proposed expenditure is set out in Appendix 1 of this Report.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This proposal will result in increased access to opportunities and the development of skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This proposal will improve equality of access to services, support the inclusion of children with special educational needs within mainstream provision and improve access to affordable, quality childcare for parents of children with special educational needs, enabling them to take up or maintain work or further education.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

- 6.1 A key target contained within Dundee Early Years and Childcare Plan 2000-2003 is to "Support the needs and interests of children with special educational needs within Out of School Care Clubs". Dundee City Council Children's Services Plan (1998-2001) states that "children with, or affected by, disability and their families should enjoy a full life which ensures their dignity, promotes self reliance and encourages active participation in the community".
- 6.2 Children with special educational needs may have a range of requirements which can impede access to Out of School Care Clubs. These children may require close adult support or may have health needs requiring some specialist knowledge. This places resource and staffing demands on Out of School Care Clubs which usually operate to very tight budgets. This may mean that Clubs cannot offer provision to particular children because staff are not confident that they can safely support the best interests of the child. Information from parents has indicated that it may be possible to access childcare provision for all children in their family except the child with special educational needs. The proposals contained within this report outline the continuation of an initiative which makes Out of School Care services more inclusive and better able to meet a range of need.
- 6.3 This initiative also supports the Government's agenda to promote social inclusion and to expand childcare provision to meet a range of need. The Scottish Executive provides grant to local authorities for Childcare New Projects to support the expansion and development of childcare initiatives. It is this funding which will finance the Out of School Care Special Educational Needs Initiative.
- 6.4 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".
- 6.5 Dundee currently has 16 Out of School Care Clubs registered to provide Out of School services for children, before and after school and during the school holidays. These clubs are all members of the Dundee Out of School Care Network.
- 6.3 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 groundwork has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with special educational needs. The project has broken new ground with its innovative approach to enabling children with special educational needs to access Out of School Care provision and requests have been made from other areas in Scotland for information and advice. In addition the Inclusion Group offer training for Out of School Care staff and are currently developing Training Packs.
- 6.4 Over the past year 10 children with Special Educational Needs have accessed Out of School Care provision in 9 clubs in Dundee. 4 children are currently waiting to be placed.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL**

- 7.1 This proposal was developed in a partnership between members of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Team, Dundee Out of School Care Network and the Inclusion Group. The continued funding will maintain, develop and strengthen the existing project.
- 7.2 The Inclusion Group will continue to work closely with Dundee Out of School Care Network to identify clubs for the children's placements.
- 7.3 The Project Co-ordinator will ensure that there is adequate support for the appropriate placement of identified children with special educational needs.
- 7.4 The project will be supported by 4 Inclusion Facilitators. The Facilitators are peripatetic workers who will support children within the clubs and encourage club staff to further develop their skills and experience. The project will continue to recruit volunteer playworkers who will support the Facilitators to work with the children in the clubs. Volunteers will be provided with relevant training.

7.5 The project will be strategically managed by an Advisory Group including membership from:

- Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team (Out of School Care Co-ordinator)
- Dundee Out of School Care Network
- Inclusion Group
- Social Work Department
- Tayside Health Board

7.6 Dundee City Council's Out of School Care Co-ordinator will be the Lead Officer for this Project and will undertake to ensure that a detailed Service Level Agreement is in place and is fulfilled. In addition the Lead Officer will undertake evaluation of the project in order to inform future planning.

## **8.0 CONSULTATION**

8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Directors of Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Support Services and Finance. In addition the Dundee Out of School Care Network has been consulted.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 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

## APPENDIX 1

### Financial Implications

#### Staff Costs

Project Co-ordinator	(20hrs x £11.87 x 39 weeks)	9258.60
Senior Inclusion Facilitator	(16hrs @ £7.48 x 39 weeks)	4667.52
Inclusion Facilitators (2)	(9hrs x £6.78 x 39 weeks)	4759.56
Inclusion Facilitator	(12hrs x ££6.78 x 39 weeks)	3173.04
Administrative Assistant	(5hrs x ££7.48 x 39 weeks)	1458.60

**TOTAL** **23,317.32**

#### Other Costs

Rent	2200.00
Insurance	200.00
Printing & Stationery	1123.00
Postage & Telephone	520.00
Advertisement	100.00
Travel	250.00
Subscriptions	25.00
Capital / Equipment	500.00
Meetings/Conferences	50.00
Volunteer Expenses	162.00
Training	3500.00

**TOTAL** **31,947.32**