

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 28th SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO KIDS UNLIMITED AND THE INCLUSION GROUP

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 485-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to provide funding to the Inclusion Group and Kids Unlimited for the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i) note the contents of this report;
- ii) approve the provision of funding to Kids Unlimited to continue and further develop the support to children affected by a family member's long term illness or disability or drug/alcohol dependence; and
- iii) approve the provision of funding to The Inclusion Group to enable the continued support to children with additional support needs to access out of school care within Dundee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £60,000 in the current financial year 2009/10. This will be met from funding made available to the Local Authority for Childcare Strategy. A summary of the proposed expenditure is attached in the Financial Appendix.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 These proposals will enrich and enhance the learning and development of young children in Dundee and will support them and their families to play a full part in society.

4.2 The voluntary sector provides a valuable role in increasing and providing access to a range of services to support children and families.

4.3 Kids Unlimited

4.3.1 Kids Unlimited is a Dundee based registered charity which offers a free group work service to young people aged 7-13 years who are living in a household where a family member has a disability, a mental health problem, HIV/AIDS, a drug or alcohol related problem or a bereavement. Some of these children experience social exclusion and may find it difficult to participate in local out of

- school care clubs or other community based groups because of their circumstances. The issues faced by the young people often have a major impact on their own mental health which may present in apathy and withdrawal from society or even rebellion and deviation.
- 4.3.2 The aim of Kids Unlimited is to allow the young people an opportunity to have “time out” from their difficult circumstances to enjoy some fun, whilst having the undivided attention and support of a dedicated team of workers and volunteers.
- 4.3.3 As a result of funding from childcare strategy funding over a number of years, Kids Unlimited continues to offer a service to 36 young people. Referrals are made from Social Work, Health and Education as well as some voluntary groups. The key elements of this service are a range of preventative measures and respite but other services include provision of a Reading Library, Bereavement Support, One to One Support, Training and Peer Mentoring.
- 4.3.4 As part of this proposal Kids Unlimited plan to further develop their current service and move towards a model which explicitly identifies and evaluates outcomes for the children accessing the service, with a view to supporting children to use other community facilities in the longer term. The project will be monitored and evaluated by the Out of School Care Co-ordinator.
- 4.3.5 It is proposed to provide funding of £30,000 for the financial year 2009/10. During this time it is agreed that the work of the project will be evaluated and the impact of the service will be measured.
- 4.4 The Inclusion Group**
- 4.4.1 The Inclusion Group is a Dundee based registered charity established since 1994. The vision underpinning the Inclusion Group’s work is “to provide a range of support to children and young people within Dundee that have additional support needs - and to their families and carers in order to increase opportunities, promote inclusion within the wider community and improve overall health and well-being’.
- 4.4.2 Since the start of the Project in January 2001, the Inclusion Group has worked closely with Dundee Out of School Care Network to develop links with individual clubs in which children are to be placed. A great deal of ground work has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with additional support needs. In session 2008/09 58 children's sessions took place across the city working with 644 children focussing on sensory awareness, autism, bullying and children's rights. 31 training sessions took place for staff working in the childcare sector with a focus on Child Protection Awareness and supporting children with additional support needs such as autism and ADHD.
- 4.4.3 In order to further develop and enhance their service, the Inclusion Group is proposing that it should provide tailored club training sessions and staff training sessions which will continue to raise awareness about inclusive play and practice. The Inclusion Group will also provide observation and feedback, and work with individual clubs to develop action plans and informed approaches to working with individuals with additional needs in their settings.

4.4.4 The Inclusion Group is supported by the Education Department as a key voluntary sector partner. A Service Level Agreement, outlining the terms and conditions of funding, is in place and the project will be monitored and evaluated by the Out of School Care Co-ordinator throughout the period of funding to ensure that outcomes for children and families are clearly agreed and evaluated.

4.4.5 It is proposed to provide funding of £30,000 for 2009-10 to allow the group to support this service.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality of Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and the Director of Social Work.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Jim Collins
Director of Education

18 September 2009

Financial Appendix

Kids Unlimited 2008 -2009

Breakdown of Costs	2009 - 2010
Staff costs	£34,850
Property costs	£9,205
Supplies and services costs	£9,530
Transport costs	£7,260
Total	£60,845
Total Funding Proposed	£30,000

Inclusion Group

Breakdown of Costs	2009 - 2010
Staff costs	£28,762
Rent	£800
Supplies and services costs	£700
Total	£30,262
Total Funding Proposed	£30,000