

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 22nd OCTOBER 2007

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 517-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to voluntary sector partners for the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy. The organisations included in this report are, Childcare @ Home, Kids Unlimited and The Scottish Childminding Association.

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 funding of £72,000 as outlined in Appendix to this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £72,000 in the current financial year. This will be met from funding made available to the Local Authority for Early Years and Childcare Strategy from Changing Children's Services Fund. A summary of the proposed expenditure is attached at 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 plays an important role in increasing and providing access to a range of services to support children and families. One of the key tasks outlined in " A Plan for Dundee's Children 2005 - 8", is to, "*Implement joint social work, education, communities, health and voluntary sector initiatives to improve local co - ordination of nursery, family support, health and community services and to increase access by vulnerable families.*"
There is a well established partnership with a range of providers which strengthen this key task.

4.3 Childcare @ Home:

Childcare @ Home provide a home based sitter service for parents working unsocial hours. As 'Dundee Sitter Service', it has been in operation since 1999. It was established by One Parent Families Scotland, in conjunction with Dundee City Council, and this model of wraparound, flexible childcare has been, and continues to be, copied and emulated in other areas of Scotland.

The service aims to provide affordable, quality, home based childcare for families (one or two parent) mainly on a low income, who are working, or in education, at times when no other childcare provision is available to them.

The service also provides limited respite care (also linked to parental income, or sometimes paid by other services). In addition it provides directly targeted respite childcare through a service agreement with Dundee City Council Social Work Department.

This proposal seeks to continue funding to support this project. The cost of this proposal will be £26,000 in the financial year 2006 - 2007. (See Appendix)

4.4 **Kids Unlimited:**

Kids Unlimited offers a free group work service to young people aged 9- 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.

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. Some of these children and young people may find it difficult to participate in local out of school clubs or other community based groups because of their circumstances.

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, 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.

As part of this proposal Kids Unlimited plan to re-model 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 Childcare Development Officer for the voluntary sector will support the project during this change and will monitor the development of the service and use of funding. Kids Unlimited should also strive to seek funding via other streams in the future.

It is proposed to provide funding of £30,000 (see Appendix 1) for the financial year 2007-08. During this time it is agreed that the work of the project will be evaluated and the impact of the service will be measured. Any future funding would be dependent on evidence of impact and the ability to integrate children into other community activities.

4.5 **The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA)**

Childminders provide a unique home based childcare service to families. They are a valued key provider of childcare services to children of all ages, particularly babies and toddlers where close relationships and a home setting are recognised to have particular benefits.

Local childminders benefit from a network of support, training and regular contact with their local SCMA development Worker.

It is proposed to award £10,700 to fund the SCMA Officer's post until the end of March 2008 and £750 to provide a further 10 Network meetings which will facilitate CPD for the childminders in attendance.

Childminders are regulated by the Care Commission and are required to meet the National Care Standards. It is therefore important to continue to offer Pre registration training to support new childminders via the SCMA Worker. It is proposed to award £4,558 for this purpose.

- 4.6 Each of the above projects is supported by the Early Years and Childcare Team and has a Service Level Agreement in place. The Team works closely with its voluntary sector partners to ensure that outcomes for children and families are clearly agreed and evaluated.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Risk Management.

- 5.1.2 There are no major issues.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
28.09.07
AW/LG

Appendix

Childcare @ Home 2007-2008

Costs	2007 - 2008
Salaries inc management fee	£39,675
Staff costs, recruitment, travel, training, other	£ 1,011
Insurance, heat, cleaning repairs	£ 480
Administration	£ 2,675
Development activities and mobile phones	£ 664
Sub-Total	£ 44,507
Less income from parental fees	£11,700
Total Funding Proposed	£26,000

Kids Unlimited * 2007 - 2008

Costs	2007 - 2008
Salary - Project manager 35 hrs per wk	£24,942
Employer costs (project coordinator)	£ 2,531
Staff costs - sessional workers x3	£ 3,393
Training - Staff	£ 200
Staff expenses	£ 350
Transport - (3 x per wk 52 wks per yr)	£ 7,800
Development activities / outings inc residential trip	£ 8,000
Insurance Content, public and liability	£ 600
Rent (inc building Insurance)	£ 5,471
Rates	£ 600
Admin / Office (stationary, postage etc.)	£ 500
Gas / Electricity	£ 1,200
Telephone / Internet	£ 1,100
Volunteers costs (training and expenses)	£ 200
Total	£ 56,887
Total Funding Proposed	£30,000

Costs	2007 - 2008
SCMA Officer's post	£10,700
Network meetings x 10	£ 750
Pre registration training	£ 4,558
Total Funding Proposed	£16, 000

Total Cost of the proposal 2007 - 2008

Childcare @ Home	£26,000
Kids Unlimited	£30,000
SCMA	£16,000
Total	<u>£72,000</u>