

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 20 SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FUNDING SUPPORT TO DUNDEE OUT OF SCHOOL CARE NETWORK

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 639-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to Dundee Out of School Care Network in order to support sustainability of 19 Out of School Care Clubs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee approve proposals to continue and expand the provision of business support and development advice to Out of School Care Clubs and their Management Committees.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be £58354.00 in the financial year 2004/5. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy funding made available to local authorities by the Scottish Executive. Appendix 1 details the deployment of this funding.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This funding will support and improve access to services, skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will enhance choice and diversity in childcare and family support provision in Dundee and will further strengthen partnership with the voluntary sector

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Government is committed to an expansion of high quality childcare services to support parents in employment or training. An additional emphasis is on establishing partnership approaches across the public, voluntary and private sectors to the provision of services.

There are currently 19 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee. All clubs are members of Dundee Out of School Care Network which is a fully constituted and well established group. Dundee Out of School Care Network meets monthly and offers a forum for member clubs to share ideas and support and keep abreast of local and national developments.

6.2 Out of School Care Clubs are reliant upon voluntary parent management committee members to carry out the administrative and managerial tasks involved with running

Out of School Care Clubs. This can be very burdensome for parents in addition to their family and work commitments. Over the last year a number of clubs have been supported by a business advisor which, when rolled out across all the clubs, will increase the efficiency, profitability and sustainability across the sector.

- 6.3 The report "School's Out - Framework for Development of Out of School Care" published by the Scottish Executive in April 2003 set out four key recommendations for local authorities to support the ongoing development of out of school care. The proposals contained within this Committee Report will support the delivery of these recommendations.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 Establishment of a Pilot Management Tool Project

- 7.2 It is proposed that funding of £16,354.00 is made available to Dundee Out of School Care Network to support 8 clubs in the setting up of a pilot "Management Tool" project. The supervisors of the 8 clubs will be funded for 8 hours each week to receive intensive training from the Business Advisor to enable them to set up financial and recording systems which will be easily tracked and recorded. Clubs will be able to see, at a glance and will be able to plan ahead more effectively. It is proposed that the 8 clubs who will take part in the pilot, are those clubs who have expressed a desire to do so. They are: Happy Hours, Forthill Billies, The Boomerang Club, Gardyne Road Out of School Care Club, Menziesshill Out of School Care Club Barnhill After School Care Club, Lochee Out of School Care Club and Schools Out!

- 7.3 It is further proposed that a supervisor who has already completed training in the "Management Tool", be seconded for 10 hours a week to mentor and support new supervisors joining the Project whilst continuing to work within her own club for the rest of her time.

- 7.4 In order to manage the funding on behalf of Dundee Out of School Care Network a small group of parent management committee volunteers have agreed to be part of a Project Management Group which will meet monthly to manage and monitor the funding received. The Early Years & Childcare Team's Out of School Co-ordinator will convene and support this Management Group. It is proposed that a sum of £3000.00 be allocated to the Network in order to support the voluntary parents on the Project Management Group with expenses.

7.5 Provision of grants to all Out of School Clubs in the City

- 7.6 This proposal also seeks approval to award grants of £1000 to the 19 Out of School Clubs across the City. This will provide much needed financial support to clubs who are struggling on very tight budgets and will enable them to purchase additional resources for use by children or training for staff.

7.7 Provision of Support to Clubs in areas of Socio- Economic Deprivation (Poverty Package)

- 7.8 Funding was made available last year to the Out of School Network for Clubs facing particular financial difficulty or who wished to provide subsidised places to children in need or who wished to develop additional support projects for children attending the Clubs. It is proposed to provide £20,000 this funding again this year. Clubs will be able to apply to the Network for Grants throughout the current financial year according to criteria established and agreed by representatives of all Clubs in the City.

7.9 Ongoing Monitoring

7.10 Each of these proposals will be closely monitored and evaluated by the Out of School Co-ordinator in terms of their effectiveness in supporting the sustainability and management of Out of School Care in Dundee. If successful the Management Tool Project will be rolled out to all other Clubs in the Network. Financial monitoring arrangements are in place to track the deployment of grants paid to Out of School Clubs

8.0 CONSULTATION

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 Head of Communities.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

1 September 2004

Appendix 1 Outline of Costs**Pilot Project**

8 supervisors x £8.50/hour x 26 weeks x 8hours/week	£14,144
Supervisor offering mentoring 10 hours/week x £8.50/hour x 26 weeks	£2,210
Revenue Grants	£19,000
Poverty Package Funding	£20,000
Support to Network Project Management Groups	£3,000
Total	<u>£58,354.00</u>