

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**REPORT ON: DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED EARLY YEARS PROVISION AT
CHARLESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

REPORT NO: 644-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek approval to establish a pilot initiative (until March 2002) to provide expanded early years provision at Charleston Primary School. By building on the existing nursery class provision and adding in elements of child-care and family support services a comprehensive care, education and family support service will be created.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education and Social Work Committees approve proposals:

- 2.1 to develop a pilot initiative to extend and enhance early years services at Charleston Primary School, to be operational in April 2001
- 2.2 to remit the City Architectural Services Officer to enter into a Partnering Agreement with Dundee Contract Services to undertake the necessary building works during the period January 2001 to March 2001.
- 2.3 to remit the Directors of Education and Social Work to undertake consultation with parents and service users and providers in the local area to discuss the proposals contained within this Report.
- 2.4 to remit the Directors of Education and Social Work to liaise with the Director of Personnel and Management Services in order to establish additional temporary staffing requirements for the new provision of three Children's Workers and one Nursery Nurse (from April 2001- March 2002)

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of these proposals, £75,000, in each of the financial years 2000/ 2001 and 2001/2002 will be met using funding for Sure Start and for Childcare Infrastructure made available to Local Authorities from the Scottish Executive Education Department. An outline of planned expenditure in relation to these proposals is contained within Appendix 1 of this Report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This development will mean that a greater level of local needs can be met locally and that there will be enhanced access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will improve access to a wider range of provision within the Charleston area.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The most recent projected population statistics in relation to Charleston predict that there will be 555 children aged between 0-5 living in the local area in 2003. (Source: General Register Scotland).

6.2 Charleston Primary School has a well established nursery class which occupies a large, effectively resourced space. This nursery currently provides 60 part time places for 3 and 4 year olds.

6.3 In addition there are currently 2 Parent and Toddler Groups and four registered childminders within the Charleston area.

6.4 Charleston has been identified as a local area requiring an expansion of early years provision. There is a relatively high population of young lone mothers; the level of distribution of baby milk tokens is around 45- 50 per week. There is also some evidence that a large number of families with young children currently take up no services in the local area until the children reach pre school age.

6.5 The population of Charleston also experiences many issues related to socio-economic disadvantage. These issues are known to put families under pressure and to raise levels of parental stress. This then impacts on children's health, well being, care and education. Effective early years services can make a positive difference to the lives of children and families and this Report highlights that there is a need for expanded provision in Charleston.

6.6 There is currently no Child and Family Centre provision within Charleston, although new outreach services will be developed from October 2000 (refer to joint Report to Education and Social Work Committees Ref No.350/2000). This outreach provision will now directly support the new extended provision in Charleston Primary School.

6.7 Initiatives such as Sure Start, child-care expansion and early intervention have emphasised the need for enhanced provision for children aged 0-3, support for families and extended care services. Provision that offers a range of services within a single facility is likely to have very positive benefits for children and their families in terms of convenience and continuity of experience.

6.8 The primary school has some surplus accommodation capacity and therefore the expanded early years provision can be established with a minimum of cost and disruption to the rest of the school. The Head Teacher and staff at the nursery have been consulted in the development of these proposals and are in agreement that this extended provision is needed and will be a very important asset to local children and families, the school and its local community. This proposed provision would mean that children from 0-12 can access a range of provision within the primary school setting.

6.9 In addition a successful New Opportunities Fund Bid means that Charleston Primary will also be the site for a new Out of School Care Club from January 2001. This facility combined with the early years services will significantly enhance the provision of services available within Charleston.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 The proposal is to alter the existing nursery class and infant wing of Charleston Primary School to create a wider range of provision for the existing nursery class and the proposed integrated early years provision for children aged between 0-5.

7.2 The new provision at Charleston will therefore provide:

- Pre School Education for 20 children part time am and pm and 20 full time
- Extended hours services before and after school hours for up to 12 three and four year old children morning and late afternoon
- Family support services – outreach services, parent support groups, services for children in need and their families
- A range of services for children aged 0-3 and their families, including sessional daycare provision for children in need.
- Linked childminding services
- Information and support services
- Enhanced support for community based services including childminders, parent and toddler groups etc

7.3 The balance of this provision will be delivered to meet the presenting needs of local children and families.

8.0 STAFFING

8.1 A full time nursery nurse will be deployed temporarily to support the increase in nursery places from 30 part time morning and afternoon to 20 part time and 20 fulltime. In addition 3 Children's Workers will be deployed to support the provision for 0-3s and family support. The Head Teacher of Charleston Primary School will have overall responsibility for the building and related services. The Children's Workers will report to the Outreach Worker who is accountable to the Manager of the Lochee Child and Family Centre for the Social Work provision.

8.2 The establishment of the new provision will be supported by neighbouring facilities including Lochee Child and Family Centre and the Beechwood/ Foggyley Centre. In addition a similar facility has been established within Ardler Primary School and therefore the approaches to setting up the new facility can be informed by and benefit from the emerging experience. A key challenge will be to integrate the services provided within the facility so as to create a comprehensive and coherent framework of support for children and their families.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The proposals contained within this Report have been the subject of extensive consultation between the departments and with staff involved in Charleston Primary School and local childcare services including Lochee Child and Family Centre and Beechwood/ Foggyley Centre.

Appendix 1

	FTE	2000/01 £	2001/02 £
Staff Costs			
Nursery Nurses	1.0	0	15,300
Childrens Workers	3.0	0	46,700
Total Staff Costs		0	62,000
Property Costs		75,000	0
Supplies & Services		0	13,000
Gross Expenditure		75,000	75,000
Funded From:			
Sure Start		60,000	60,000
Childcare Infrastructure		15,000	15,000
Total Funding		75,000	75,000