

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 15 October 2001**

**REPORT ON: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE, WHOSE LIVES ARE AFFECTED BY DISABILITY, TO PARTICIPATE IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 652-2001**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** This report seeks approval to award funding to continue and further extend the project which supports young people whose lives are affected by disability.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee approve the proposals contained at 8.1 – 8.7 of this report:

**2.1** The existing project will develop a pilot group for younger children whose lives are affected by disability within their immediate family.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**3.1** The full cost of this proposal over the financial year from November 2001 – October 2002 is £12,288. This will be met from the Childcare New Projects Fund made available to the Local Authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department.

## **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 and promote the inclusion of children who may be at risk of exclusion due to environmental factors.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

**6.1** A key target contained within the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001-2004 is the development of initiatives which provide support for children affected by adverse environmental factors.

**6.2** Children who live in families affected by disability, long term illness, mental health problems or HIV/AIDS/drugs/alcohol problems may have wide-ranging demands made on them. They may be expected to take on the role of carer at home, with all the subsequent responsibilities. They may feel angry, resentful or embarrassed and need an outlet to talk about their feelings. They may have problems coping at school which can lead to lower overall attainment.

**6.3** The proposed initiative to strengthen and develop the existing provision will also support the Government's agenda to promote social inclusion.

## **7.0 CURRENT SITUATION**

**7.1** These proposals have been developed in partnership with members of Dundee early Years and Childcare Team and Kids Unlimited. Kids Unlimited is a sub-group of Youth Link which is a Dundee based one-to-one befriending service for young people aged 5-18. Kids Unlimited offers a free group work service to young people whose lives are affected by disability.

**7.2** The project currently runs two successful groups for around 22 children aged 11-13 years and is concentrating on the transitional period between primary and secondary school. The children have access to a wide range of activities and outings that they would not normally be able to access and are given an opportunity to relax away from home pressures. These groups are funded through Childcare New Projects Funding and have been very successful and are highly regarded by parents and by the young people themselves. This was the subject of a previous Report to the Education Committee. Report number 345/2000 refers.

## **8.0 PROPOSAL**

**8.1** The proposal will support and strengthen the existing project and further develop the range of work being undertaken with young people affected by disability.

**8.2** The existing groups will be developed and strengthened. Topic based work will be introduced covering a range of relevant issues identified by the young people and the Co-ordinator. As the young people reach the upper age limit they will have the opportunity to develop their skills further by becoming mentors to the group. A mentor-training programme will be developed which will be offered to all young people once they reach the age of 14.

**8.3** It has been identified that there is a need for a similar group for younger children and it is proposed to set up a pilot group for children aged 9-11 years old whose lives are affected by disability. The main focus of this group would be to offer young people the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities which, due to their home circumstances, they may not normally be able to participate in.

**8.4** An on call service will be available to all young people who attend the Kids Unlimited groups. The Co-ordinator will be available if the young person needs to chat or talk about issues of individual importance.

**8.5** Young people may be referred to the project by Social Work Department, Education Department, Health Services, Parents or Voluntary Organisations. Home visits will be made by the Co-ordinator to provide information about the service and to evaluate and monitor the progress of the young person.

**8.6** A customised training package for volunteers will be developed.

**8.7** The project will be managed in partnership by Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team (Out of School Care Co-ordinator) and the Kids Unlimited Board of Directors.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

**9.1** This report has been the subject of consultation between the Directors of Support Services, Finance, Social Work and Neighbourhood Resources and Development.

## **10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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