

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 2003**

**REPORT ON: CHILDCARE STRATEGY GRANTS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 678-2003**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks approval to fund to two new breakfast clubs and one new Out of School Care club to enable them to satisfy Care Commission Registration requirements and to continue support to Dundee Sitter Service.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this report and:

- 2.1 approve proposals to provide funding to support the establishment of breakfast childcare provision at Menzieshill Out of School Care Club and Douglas Out of School Care Club
- 2.2 approve proposals to provide funding to support the set up costs of a temporary out of school care club at Gardyne Road
- 2.3 approve proposals to provide continued funding to the Dundee Sitter Service

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The full cost of these proposals is £43,000. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy funding made available to local authorities by the Scottish Executive. Appendix 1 details how this funding will be allocated.

## **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.
- 6.2 The grants proposed in this report will support the establishment of two new breakfast clubs within existing out of school clubs, support the establishment of a temporary out of school care club at Gardyne Road to serve children attending Craigiebarns Primary School and support the continued provision of Sitter Services within Dundee.
- 6.3 Funding to establish or extend Out of School Care has been made available through the New Opportunities Fund - Out of Hours Childcare strand and the last round for applications to this fund was in June 2003. A bid was submitted to this round to set up the two new breakfast clubs at Douglas Neighbourhood Centre and Menzieshill Neighbourhood Centre and the new Out of School Care Club to be based at Craigiebarns Primary School.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL**

### **7.1 Provision of Support to establish Breakfast Clubs at Menzieshill and Douglas Out of School Care Clubs**

For some time now there has been growing demand for early morning childcare and breakfast services for children attending Douglas and Menzieshill Out of School Care Clubs. The NOF application will, if successful, provide financial support for ensuring the long term sustainability of two new breakfast clubs within this provision.

However demand for these services is pressing and therefore this report seeks approval to allocate Childcare Strategy Funding of £1,000 for each club to enable them to start the provision in the interim period.

The breakfast clubs will eventually provide an average of 30 places during each session of opening.

### **7.2 Provision of Support to establish temporary Out of School Care Provision at Gardyne Road**

Children attending Craigiebarns Primary School attended a privately run club within the Dundee University Campus at Gardyne Road until it went out of business over the summer, leaving parents without childcare. Funding requested from the New Opportunities Fund aims to establish a new out of school care club within Craigiebarns Primary School. In response to demand from parents for a service in the meantime, a new management committee has been established and has accessed temporary accommodation for 15 children within the campus at Gardyne Road. In order for the temporary club to be registered with the Care Commission this report seeks approval to provide a grant of £1000 for the purchase of equipment and set up expenses. The new equipment will then transfer when the club moves into its new accommodation.

### **7.3 Provision of Grant Funding to support the continued delivery of Sitter Services**

- 7.3 Dundee Sitter Service is a voluntary organisation caring for children in their own homes whilst parents work or take up training for employment. Over the last year, 27 children aged 0-3 years, have received a total of 8199 hours of care. The care that is offered is flexible and affordable and can be provided at times when other childcare services are closed. The work of the Dundee Sitter Service is well recognised as providing a childcare service to families who may face difficulties in accessing centre based services. It is therefore a service operating clearly in line with aims and principles of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy. The funding requested, £40,000, will continue the current level of provision.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

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

## **8.0 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.

**ANNE WILSON**  
**Director of Education**  
**Date 13 October 2003**

## Appendix 1

The Boomerang Club (Douglas) Breakfast Club start-up costs	£1000
Menzieshill Out of School Care Club Breakfast Club start-up costs	£1000
Gardyne Out of School Care Support towards interim costs	£1000
Dundee Sitter Service Continuation Costs	<u>£40,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£43,000</u></b>