

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 18TH OCTOBER 2004

REPORT ON: WORKING FOR FAMILIES - TENDERS FOR NURSERY CRISIS CARE PROVISION, MONEY ADVICE SUPPORT, ROVING CRECHE WORKERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 714-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report is to advise the Committee of the outcome of the tendering procedures in respect of:

- a) Working for Families - Roving Creche Provision
- b) Working for Families - Money Advice Support
- c) Working for Families - Nursery Crisis Care Provision

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- a) the Roving Creche Provision be delivered by One Parent Families Scotland.
- b) the Money Advice Support Project is delivered by Dundee City Council's Welfare Rights Team.
- c) direct negotiations be entered into with appropriate providers in relation to Nursery Crisis Care Provision.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications for the Council as all monies are coming from the Working for Families budget awarded to the City Council by the Scottish Executive. Costs are as follows:

Roving Creche	<u>£82,955</u>
Money Advice Support	<u>£96,481</u>
Nursery Crisis Care Provision - Costs will be reported in due course.	

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Acceptance of this report will ensure resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Working for Families Initiative will ensure that parents who are disadvantaged in their steps towards employment as a result of childcare barriers are supported to overcome this barrier.

6.0 REPORT

- 6.1 These projects form part of the Council's Working for Families proposals to support parents on the pathway to employment. The Scottish Executive approved the proposals for funding in June 2004 and work has been being undertaken over the summer months to develop the proposals. The formal tendering arrangements for the above 3 elements of the initiative will ensure a comprehensive delivery of service for parents seeking advice, guidance and support to move towards the workplace. The project is due to run until 31st March 2006.
- 6.2 The quality and cost of the provision and level of support required to deliver the service was assessed together with the recent performance and availability of the organisation to deliver timeously and as a result it is proposed that the Economic Development Department enter into a contract/service level agreement with the organisations listed above.
- 6.3 The tender bids for the Money Advice Workers received were as follows:

	<u>Citizens Advice Bureau</u>	<u>Money Advice Support Team</u>	<u>Welfare Rights, Dundee City Council</u>
Tender	£103,407	£100,797	£103,098

- 6.4 However, an equalisation process was entered into to ensure that all tenders were being judged equally (as a result of variations on spinal column points within AP4 for the money advice workers and timescales for starting projects and inclusion of publicity in the Welfare Rights application which will be funded centrally by the Working for Families fund). The process resulted in the following alterations to tenders:

	<u>Citizens Advice Bureau</u>	<u>Money Advice Support Team</u>	<u>Welfare Rights, Dundee City Council</u>
Tender	£102,757	£96,083	£96,481

- 6.5 After careful consideration of all the criteria and a scoring process was undertaken the proposal from the Welfare Rights team was judged to best meet the needs of the tender.
- 6.6 There was only one tender received for the Roving Creche provision, from One Parent Family Scotland and it was within the budget that was outlined in the tender information and the quality of service to be provided and their understanding of the needs was good. The total cost of provision was £82,955 for 2 years. However, the project will only run until 31st March 2006 and costs will therefore be reduced accordingly (i.e. for 15 or 16 months).
- 6.7 No tender was received for the Nursery Crisis Care Provision. It is therefore proposed to enter into a direct negotiation with a number of potential providers in respect of this element.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.0 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE : 12TH OCTOBER 2004