

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 17 NOVEMBER 2003

REPORT ON: CHILDCARE STRATEGY GRANTS TO CRAIGIEBARNs OUT OF SCHOOL CARE CLUB AND KIDS UNLIMITED

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 741-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to provide funding to support the establishment of a new Out of School Care Club at Gardyne Road and to continue the funding of Kids Unlimited, a voluntary organisation which supports young people whose lives are affected by disability, mental health problems, HIV and AIDS, drug and alcohol problems or bereavement within their family unit.

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 match funding to support the establishment of a new out of school care club at Craigiebarns Primary School
- 2.2 approve the continued funding to Kids Unlimited

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full cost of the Craigiebarns proposal is £50,000 and the Kids Unlimited proposal is £21,393. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy Funding made available to the Local Authority by the Scottish Executive Department. Appendix 1 provides a financial outline in respect of this proposal.

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

6.0 PROPOSAL

6.1 Establishment of a New Out of School Care Club at Craigiebarns Primary School

6.2 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. 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. Children have been temporarily accommodated at the Cherry Drop Club at Mid Craigie Primary School and at a temporary club established on the University Campus (refer to Education Committee Report No. 678-2003). In the meantime a funding application was made to the New Opportunities Fund to match fund a Portakabin to be situated within the grounds of Craigiebarns Primary School. The Portakabin will be for the sole use of the Out of School Care Club and will provide places for 30 children before school, after school and during the school holidays.

6.3 The Education Department was informed on 17 October that the New Opportunities Fund Application has been successful and will fund £50,000 to support the match funding of the Portakabin at Craigiebarns and £4,785 to fund equipment and revenue costs.

6.4 The cost of installing the Portakabin was assessed by the Education Department Property Section at approximately £100,000. The precise cost of the Portakabin will be established through the usual tendering process. However in order to draw on the New Opportunities Funding the Education Department requires to confirm that match funding will be available for this project.

6.5 It is therefore proposed that a one off grant of £50,000 is awarded from Childcare New Projects to support the remaining costs associated with establishing the Portakabin provision.

6.5 Continued Support for Kids Unlimited

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

6.7 Children who live in families affected by disability, long term illness, mental health problems or HIV and AIDS and drugs and 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 leading to low overall attainment.

6.8 The proposed initiative, to strengthen and develop the existing provision, will also support the Government's agenda to promote social inclusion. Over the last three years the number of children attending the project has risen from eight to thirty six and many of these children have lost a family member and need sensitive and specialist support. The Project proposes to develop and strengthen the work they do with children by providing one to one support and developing their links with families, referring agencies and partner organisations. A Youth Achievement Awards scheme for the older age group supported by Youth Scotland will also be established. Part of this award scheme will be the creation of a youth café incorporating an information and enquiry point. The project will continue to recruit, train and support volunteers.

6.9 This project is well regarded and has well established links with the Early Years and Childcare Team. The work of the project will continue to be monitored and supported

by the Out of School Care Co-ordinator as part of the overall evaluation of the early years and childcare plan.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 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.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 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.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
06 November 2003

Appendix 1 Financial Outline

Proposal 1

Craigiebarns Out of School Care Club

Supply of portable building £76,400 (less New Opportunities Funding of £50,000)	£ 26,400
Foundations, architects fees, services, contingencies	£ 23,600
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	£ 50,000
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Proposal 2

Kids Unlimited

Salaries	
Co-ordinator 20 hours per week	£10,830.00
Sessional Staff 3 x 3hrs week	£ 3,393.00
Transport	£ 3,000.00
Outings/Activities	£ 1,000.00
Volunteers/Staff Expenses	£ 300.00
Rent	£ 2,040.00
Advertising	£ 50.00
Insurance	£ 80.00
Telephone	£ 200.00
Administration	£ 300.00
Electricity	£ 200.00
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	£ 21,393.00
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TOTAL	<u>£71,393.00</u>