

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE -**

**REPORT ON: PRE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING 2000-2001 AND GRANT FUNDING TO PLAYGROUPS & PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 776-2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for deployment of the Pre School Development Fund provided to Local Authorities by the Scottish Executive Education Department for the development of pre school education services. The report further seeks approval to award grants to three Toddler groups and the Menzieshill Church Playgroup.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- 2.1 Approve the allocation of Pre School Development Funding to the 18 partner providers of Pre School Education (private sector) and to one playgroup (as outlined in Appendix 1, Table (a))
- 2.2 Approve the allocation of Sure Start funding to support parent and toddler groups (as outlined in Appendix 1, table (b))

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £27,238. Of this £25,823 will be met from Pre School Education Funding made available to Local Authorities by the Scottish Executive Education Department. The remainder £1,415, will be met from Sure Start Scotland funding made available to Local Authorities to support services for families with young children (aged 0-3)

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The grants awarded will improve access to skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This proposal will enhance choice and diversity in early years and pre school education provision, improving equality of access and further strengthening partnership across sectors.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

### **Pre School Education Targets**

- 6.1 The Government is committed to the expansion of early years and childcare services. Funding is now available to support provision of a part time pre school place for all children in their pre school year and an ante pre school place for children in the term following their third birthday from August 2000.
- 6.2 The Government has set targets to provide a part time pre school education place for all four and three year olds by the year 2002.

### **The Pre School Development Fund**

- 6.3 The Pre School Development fund has been provided to support Local Authorities in meeting these targets and is funded by finances which are not committed to the provision of pre school places in the year 2000-2001.
- 6.4 The Government has stated its intention to provide a mixed economy of provision where public, private and voluntary sector providers work in partnership to meet pre school education targets.
- 6.5 The Pre School Development Fund will therefore be deployed within Dundee to support quality improvement and development across all pre school education provision.

### **Support to Registered Playgroups and Parent and Toddler Groups**

- 6.6 In Report No 213/2000 (20 March 2000) the Committee approved the award of grant to voluntary and private sector providers of pre-school education services.
- 6.7 In Report No. 566/2000 (18 September 2000) the Committee approved the award of grants to Parent and Toddler Groups. This was the first time that grants had been made available to such groups by the Education Department. It was therefore recognised that a number of groups may require additional support and guidance in submitting bids, particularly newly formed groups or committees. Subsequently, Parent and Toddler groups which had not submitted applications in September, were invited to make later applications. They were supported in this by staff from the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team.

## **7.0 CURRENT SITUATION**

- 7.1 Pre school education services are currently provided in Dundee by a range of providers including Education Department Nursery Schools and Classes, Social Work Department Child and Family Centres, private sector nurseries and voluntary sector playgroups. Dundee City Council currently commissions 396 part time (November 2000) pre school education places from 18 private sector providers and one voluntary sector playgroup.
- 7.2 Dundee currently has 11 Playgroups registered to provide childcare services under the Children Act 1989 with Dundee City Council. In addition there are at least 24 Parent and Toddler Groups providing valuable support to parents with young children.
- 7.3 Playgroups and Toddler groups are managed by voluntary management committees, comprising parents. These organisations rely on income derived from fees and fundraising to maintain their activities, pay rents and in the case of Playgroups, pay staff wages. Work ongoing within Dundee to support quality improvement across all early years settings will be enhanced by the proposed additional funding.
- 7.4 The Early Years and Childcare Team has now established close links with all Dundee Playgroups and Toddler Groups. Close monitoring is undertaken to ensure that Grant awards are used effectively to enhance provision and to support implementation of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Plan.

## **8.0 PROPOSAL**

- 8.0 Private Nursery partner providers together with Parent and Toddler Groups which had not previously applied, were invited to bid for funding in September 2000. Guidance Notes (see Appendices 2 a, b & c) were published to support bids and to target key areas for funding. A Grant Applications Panel met to consider bid applications on 30 October 2000. The Panel included representation from Education, Social Work and Neighbourhood Resources and Development Departments and from a private nursery and playgroup in Dundee.
- 8.1 Appendix 1 outlines a summary of bids and the recommendations made by the Panel. It is proposed to provide a maximum of £1, 500 for commissioned partners with more than 30 children on the roll and a maximum £1, 000 for partners with less than 30 children on the roll.
- 8.2 In line with the awards of grant previously made available to registered Playgroups and Parent and Toddler Groups, it is further proposed to award a maximum of £1500 and £500 respectively to these groups.
- 8.3 The bidding process demonstrated that the funding would support a wide range of improvements and the purchase of resources and equipment. All commissioned partners have now been inspected by HMI and the additional funding will support the providers in meeting the action points recommended in reports.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The Directors of Support Services, Finance, Social Work and Neighbourhood Resources and Development have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**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

**table (a)**  
**Pre-School Development Fund**

<b>Name of Partner Provider / Group</b>	<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
Abacus Day Nursery (Lethnot Street)	<30	£1,000.00
Abacus Day Nursery (St Peter Street)	>30	£1,325.00
Balgillo Nursery	>30	£1,464.00
Buttons & Bows	>30	£1,500.00
Coringa	>30	£1,500.00
Daisies Kindergarten	>30	£1,492.00
The Gate Nursery	<30	£969.00
Happy Days	>30	£1,500.00
Kiddycare	>30	£1,417.00
Langlea Nursery	>30	£1,500.00
Little Butterflies Nursery School	>30	£1,500.00
Nursery Rhymes	>30	£1,500.00
Oranges and Lemons (Clement Park)	>30	£1,500.00
Oranges and Lemons (Dunsinane)	>30	£1,282.00
Teddy Bear Club Nursery	>30	£1,415.00
Dundee University Nursery	>30	£1,474.00
Wonderland Nursery (Simpson Court)	<30	£927.00
Wonderland Nursery (Thistle Street)	>30	£1,458.00
Menzieshill Church Playgroup	not applicable	£1,100.00
	<b>Total table (a)</b>	<b>£25,823.00</b>
	<b>table(b)</b>	<b>£1, 415.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£27,238.00</b>

**table (b)**  
**Sure Start funding**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
Mill of Mains Area Parent/Carer Group	£425.00
St. Ninian's Toddler Group	£500.00
St. James' Toddler Group	£490.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1415.00</b>

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATIONS**

### **GUIDANCE FOR PARTNER PROVIDERS**

#### **1 CONDITIONS FOR FUNDING**

- 1.1** Only provider of pre-school places registered as partners with Dundee City Council will be eligible to apply for Grant Funding.
- 1.2** Completed application forms will be lodged with Christine Riach Early Years and Childcare Partnership Officer by
- 1.3** Grants will not exceed £1,000 (for up to 30 children in total on the roll) and £1,500 (for over 30 children in total on the roll).
- 1.4** Providers will nominate a person (in a senior position) who will undertake to ensure that Grant funds will be disbursed as agreed in the original application within six months of payment.
- 1.5** Providers will be open to evaluation to the impact of the Grant Funding by members of the Early Years and Childcare Team and to auditing of Grant Funding by Dundee City Council Finance Department.
- 1.6** Applications will reflect one or more of the key initiatives/areas below  
or
- 1.6** Applications will reflect the criteria

#### **2.0 CRITERIA**

- 2.1** Quality Nursery Resources to progress development projects in Nursery Development Plans.
- 2.2** Staff development materials/training to progress development in Nursery Development Plans
- 2.3** IT Resources (Computer, Printer, Software)
- 2.4** Larger physical play equipment, furniture, screens or dividers to support development of curriculum areas.
- 2.5** Materials to support the role of involvement of parents

## DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### FUNDING FOR REGISTERED PLAYGROUPS IN DUNDEE

#### GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

##### 1 CONDITIONS FOR FUNDING

- 1.1 Only playgroups registered under the Children Act 1989, with Dundee City Council can apply for Grant Funding
- 1.2 Completed Application Forms will be lodged with Christine Riach, Early Years and Childcare Partnership Officer by 5 p.m., 1 September 2000
- 1.3 Grants will not exceed £1,500, of which no more than £500 can be for revenue costs. The remainder of the funding grant should be linked to areas as outlined below.
- 1.4 Providers will nominate a person from the Playgroup's Management Committee who will undertake to ensure that Grant funds will be disbursed as agreed in the original applicant within 6 months of payment.
- 1.5 Providers will be open to evaluation of the impact of the Grant Funding by members of the Early Years and Childcare Team and to auditing of Grant Funding by Dundee City Council Finance Department.
- 1.6 Applications will reflect one or more of the key initiatives/areas outlined below.

##### 2.0 TARGET INITIATIVES/AREAS

*The following areas should be incorporated within your Application for Funding.*

- 2.1 Extension of services to enable the Playgroup to become a Partner Provider of Pre School Education with Dundee City Council.
- 2.2 Provision of quality resources/facilities for children aged 2-5.
- 2.3 Provision of quality resources/facilities for children with Special Educational Needs.
- 2.4 Screening and room dividers to support the development of curriculum areas.
- 2.5 Improved printed information for parents in relation to curriculum development.
- 2.6 Resources to promote one or more of 5 key curricular areas.
- 2.7 Large physical play resources.
- 2.8 Books or staff development resources for staff and parents.
- 2.9 Story corner resources (shelving, cushions, book boxes) and books for children.
- 2.10 ICT (computer, printer, software packages) resources for use by children.
- 2.11 Role-play resources, home corner furnishing, puppet theatre etc.
- 2.12 Minor building works or refurbishment

## DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### FUNDING FOR PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS IN DUNDEE AUGUST 2000

#### GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

#### 1. CONDITION OF FUNDING

- 1.1 Only groups who hold membership of the Scottish Pre-School Play Association (SPPA), are eligible to apply for funding.
- 1.2 Only groups that are properly constituted and have a functioning Committee compromising parents are eligible to apply for funding.
- 1.3 Only groups which meet for at least two hours weekly on a regular basis and with a minimum of 12 people (including children) in regular attendance are eligible to apply for funding.
- 1.4 Grants will not exceed £500.
- 1.5 Groups will nominate a person (normally the Chairperson) who will undertake to ensure that Grant funds will be disbursed as agreed in the original application within 3 months of payment.
- 1.6 Groups will be open to evaluation of the impact of the Grant funding by members of the Early Years and Childcare Team and to auditing of Grant Funding by Dundee City Council Finance Department.
- 1.7 Applications will reflect one or more of the key targets outlined below.

#### 2 Key Targets

*The following areas should be incorporated into your Application for Funding.*

- 2.1 Provision of quality resources/equipment for babies and children aged 0-3.
- 2.2 Provision of quality resources/equipment for children with Special Educational Needs.
- 2.3 Provision of quality resources/equipment to support parents in parenting and promoting children's learning.
- 2.4 Resources/equipment to promote the learning and development of children aged 0-3 through play, including opportunities for :
  - pretend play (e.g. dressing up clothes)
  - physical play (e.g. chutes, climbing frames)
  - quiet play (e.g. books)
  - messy play (e.g. water/sand trays)
  - exploring and discovering play (e.g. boxes, natural items, musical instruments, mobiles)
  - and sleep/rest facilities.