

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – APRIL 22nd 2002

REPORT ON: FUNDING TO SUPPORT MID CRAIGIE AND LINLATHEN UNDER 12s PROJECT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 267-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report seeks approval for the provision of continued childcare funding for the Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12's Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the contents of this Report and approve the proposed continued provision of funding to The Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12's Project.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be £21271 in the financial year 2002/2003. This will be met from New Childcare Projects 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. The Scottish Executive has made funding available to Local Authorities to support the development of services in partnership with other sectors.

6.2 The Under 12's Project is a voluntary organisation, formed in October 1998 as an amalgamation of Rainbow House Community Association and One Parent Families Scotland's Cherry Drop Out of School Care Club. It became wholly locally managed in April 2000. The Project caters primarily for families with children under 12 years of age who live in the Mid Craigie and Linlathen areas of Dundee and their environs and who are in the catchment area for Mid Craigie, Mossgiel and St. Vincent's Primary Schools.

6.3 The Project operates from two sites. Rainbow House from which all non childcare services are delivered, and self contained space within Mid Craigie Primary School from where the Cherry Drop Out of School Care Club operates. The Project's recently published Annual Report indicates that it has provided 350 children with services ranging from out of school care at Cherry Drop to children's groups, pre-5 work, homework club, lunch club and drop-in groups at Rainbow

6.4 As a provider of out of school care, the Project is a member of the Dundee Out of School Care Network. Like the Under 12's Project's Cherry Drop Club, all voluntary sector out of school care clubs within Dundee are managed by parent led committees. The Project's Cherry Drop Club has the benefit of being the longest functioning club in the City, bringing a wealth of experience to the Network. Additionally the Project has a skilled and experienced staff team including a full-time administrator.

7.0 **PROPOSAL**

7.1 The proposal is to continue the funding to the Under 12's Project which will enable them to continue and develop services under four principle headings:

- Support to constituent members of Dundee Out of School Care Network
- Additional pre-fives services
- Development of children's work particularly within the Linlathen area which is currently under represented amongst users of the Project.
- development of before school childcare for primary school pupils.

7.2 ***Support to constituent members of Dundee Out of School Care Network***

7.3 Clubs are normally reliant upon parent committee members to carry out all administrative and managerial tasks involved with running Out of School Care Clubs. This can be very burdensome for hard pressed voluntary parent committees and they have to source services from elsewhere which can incur significant additional expenditure within tight financial constraints. Payroll support to two Out of School Care Clubs was successfully piloted from July 2001 and from November 2001 an enhanced service was offered across the clubs. The services include provision of payroll services, auditing, inland revenue, budgeting, monthly and annual accounts, materials for record keeping and advice on general administration. It is proposed that the current support continues and is extended to provide the management and administration of a Supply Pool of Out of School Care workers. Management Committees are totally reliant on staff to provide the service and clubs may have to close if staff are unable to work due to illness or any other reason. A Supply Pool of Playworkers is an important addition to the success of Out of School Care provision in Dundee. 16 Out of School Care Clubs (650 children) will benefit from this provision.

7.4 In addition, the widely acknowledged experience of the Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12s Project Team will continue to be made available to clubs in partnership and collaboration with the Early Years and Childcare Partnership Team's Out of School Care Co-ordinator. This will provide support for a range of activities which may include, fundraising, committee advice, support and supervision of staff, managing teams, health and safety, promoting good practice and dealing with disputes. Staff training will also be provided. These aspects have been identified in consultation with Dundee Out of School Care Network.

7.5 ***Pre-fives services***

7.6 Funding for the year 2001/2002 has enabled the Project to increase the number of both places and sessions for young children and their families. The project has been able to provide additional sessions on a Monday afternoon and a Friday afternoon and also to increase capacity from 12 to 18 places in the 3 morning sessions. This represents an increase of 300 childcare places on offer throughout the year. It is proposed that funding is made available to continue the level of provision and to further develop the service in response to the expected increase in numbers of children moving into the new houses in Mid Craigie.

7.7 *Development of children's work within the Linlathen area*

7.8 A key task within Dundee Early Years & Childcare Plan is to consult with children and young people and to increase Out of School Care provision to meet a range of need. It is proposed to continue and further develop the successful evening sessions which are provided twice a week for children in Primary 1-4 and Primary 5-7 respectively. During the last financial year 266 children accessed evening activities and it is expected that this number will increase during the year to 2003. Activities have included, sports, arts, games, trips and visits to Rainbow House to use the facilities there. It is proposed that funding for this provision is maintained.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Directors of Social Work, Support Services, Finance and Neighbourhood Resources and Development. The Head Teacher of Mossgiel Primary School and local service users have also been consulted in the drafting of this Report.

9.0 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

APPENDIX 1

Support to 16 Out of School Care Clubs

Staff Costs for financial, administration & management support		
Administration of Supply Pool	£11927.50	
Total		£11927.50

Induction Training	£469.92	
Good Practice Seminars	£352.44	
Annual Health Checks for 16 clubs	£661.60	
		£1483.96

Pre-Fives Work

Staff Costs	£1150.00	
Activity Costs	£450.00	
Snack Costs	£220.00	
Additional equipment and outing costs	£1100.00	
		£2920.00

Services in Mossiel

Evening Sessions Staff Costs	£4574.40	
Admin. For above	£364.80	
Total		£4939.20

Total Costs		£21270.66
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