

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – APRIL 21ST 2003

**REPORT ON: SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS
WITHIN OUT OF SCHOOL CARE PROVISION**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 306-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to continue an initiative set up to enable children with additional support needs and their parents/carers to access Out of School Care provision within a number of Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

2.2 to continue to develop the existing project to support the access of children with additional support needs to all Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee

2.3 to continue the partnership between Dundee City Council Early Years and Childcare Team, Dundee Out of School Care Network and The Inclusion Group to facilitate the operational management of the project.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the proposal in the financial year 2003/04 is £29,039. This will be met from the Childcare New Projects Fund made available to the Local Authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department. An outline of the proposed expenditure is set out in Appendix 1 of this Report.

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 equality of access to services, support the inclusion of children with additional support needs within mainstream provision and improve access to affordable, quality childcare for parents of children with additional support needs, enabling them to take up or maintain work or further education.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1** A key target contained within Dundee Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001-2004 is to “Support the needs and interests of children with special educational needs within Out of School Care Clubs”. Dundee City Council Children’s Services Plan (2002- 2004) identifies children with disabilities as a key target group.
- 6.0** Children with additional support needs may have a range of requirements which can impede access to Out of School Care Clubs. These children may require close adult support or may have health needs requiring some specialist knowledge. This places resource and staffing demands on Out of School Care Clubs which usually operate to very tight budgets. This may mean that Clubs cannot offer provision to particular children because staff are not confident that they can safely support the best interests of the child. Information from parents has indicated that it may be possible to access childcare provision for all children in their family except the child with additional support needs. The proposals contained within this report outline the continuation of an initiative which makes Out of School Care services more inclusive and better able to meet a range of need.
- 6.1** This initiative also supports the Government’s agenda to promote social inclusion and to expand childcare provision to meet a range of need. The Scottish Executive provides grant to local authorities for Childcare New Projects to support the expansion and development of childcare initiatives. It is this funding which will finance the Out of School Care Additional Support Needs Initiative.
- 6.2** The Inclusion Group is a Dundee based registered charity established since 1994. The vision underpinning the Inclusion Group’s work is “to ensure that all children no matter what their ability could and should play and learn together”.
- 6.3** Dundee currently has 16 Out of School Care Clubs registered to provide Out of School services for children, before and after school and during the school holidays. These clubs are members of the Dundee Out of School Care Network. A further 2 are due to open by the summer.
- 6.4** Since the start of the Project in January 2001, the Inclusion Group has worked closely with the Out of School Care Network to develop links with individual clubs in which children are to be placed. A great deal of groundwork has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with additional support needs. It has taken time to address the challenge of implementing an added dimension to the provision of Out of School Care.
- 6.5** Inclusion Group staff have worked to address the concerns of club staff and have offered a programme of training to support the project. The project is now firmly embedded within the Out of School Care sector. Management Committees and Staff now have the awareness and support to consider the needs of children who may otherwise have no access to Out of School Care when planning their programmes and activities.
- 6.6** Children who use the club have benefited from the project and, from the beginning of April, 2 children who have accessed clubs with support will be able to continue using the clubs without any additional support. For these children the project has provided a stepping-stone to independence. The project has broken new ground with its innovative approach to enabling children with additional support needs to access Out of School Care provision and requests have been made from other areas in Scotland for information and advice. In addition the Inclusion Group offers training to Out of School Care staff and it is through this training that club staff have improved their skill levels and gained the confidence to enable children to access Out of School Care without the need for additional support staff.
- 6.7** Over the past year 10 children with additional support needs have accessed Out of School Care provision in 8 clubs in Dundee. There are currently 4 children waiting to be placed. The project has recently undergone an independent evaluation and, as a result of this evaluation, plans to seek funding elsewhere to extend the project to

include other childcare providers, e.g. Childminders, Playgroups and Private Nurseries. This extension will be informed and supported by the original Out of School Care project which will continue to strengthen and develop in the coming year.

7.0 CONSULTATION

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Directors of Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Support Services and Finance. In addition the Dundee Out of School Care Network has been consulted.

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 Report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

Date 11 April 2003

Appendix 1

Financial Outline

Cost Elements	Amount
Rent	2,500
Insurance	200
Stationery/Print	500
Telephone	600
Advertising/Recruitment	140
Postage	100
Travel	200
Subscriptions	30
Equipment	150
Meetings	25
Training	1,500
Salaries:	20,454
Management Costs	2,640
Total	29,039