

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 18 June 2001

**REPORT ON: PROPOSED EXPANSION TO BARNARDO'S SIDE-BY-SIDE SCHEME
(FAMILY BASED RESPITE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES)**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 396 - 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval to deploy £56,000 of the Council's 2001/02 Children's Services Development Fund allocation for the purpose of expanding family based respite services for children with learning disabilities in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

2.1 Acknowledge the work currently undertaken by Barnardo's respite carers in providing a service to children with learning disabilities.

2.1.1 Agree the deployment of £56,000 in a full financial year of the Children's Services Development Fund monies held in contingency for the purpose of expanding the current Barnardo's Side-By-Side Scheme.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These proposals will cost £40,000 in 2001/02 and £56,000 in a full financial year. This will be met from the Children's Services Development Fund which has been provided for within the Council's revenue budget 2001/02. The Government has indicated that this fund will operate until at least 31 March 2004 as a means of addressing its strategic priorities for Children's Services.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

The proposals within this report are in keeping with Agenda 21 objectives.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

The proposals within this report promote the rights of children with disabilities to receive a family based respite service.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The Local Authority has a duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to provide services for children with disabilities, with the emphasis on promoting opportunities for children to lead lives which are as normal as possible within their own communities.

- 6.2 One of the priority areas for future development identified in the 2000 Review of the Children's Services Plan is "to continue to develop short breaks and respite opportunities through day-care schemes and family based provision in order to meet an increasing demand".
- 6.3 Barnardo's Dundee Family Support Team in partnership with Dundee City Council have, since 1985, been providing a range of support services for children with severe and profound learning disabilities in Dundee.
- 6.4 It is evident from previous surveys of parents using the Dundee Family Support Team, that respite care is one of the most valued services available. Currently the Project has 16 approved respite carers, providing a regular respite care service to 19 children. During the last financial year 2000/2001, a total of 556 days of respite care were provided. There are currently 9 children on a waiting list for this service. As the costs of providing respite care have increased, ie through increases in carer fees and allowances, the number of days respite allocated to individual children has had to be reduced.
- 6.5 There is also an identified need, for an emergency respite service to be available to families in crisis. This could be achieved through the recruitment of one contract carer who would be available to support children on an emergency basis.
- 6.6 The allocation of an additional £56,000 to the Side-By-Side Respite Scheme, alongside an additional £4000 from Barnardo's would enable a significant expansion to be made to the service. A total of 1260 days of respite care could be provided, an increase of 704 days per annum. This would enable a maximum number of 30 children to receive up to 42 days respite per annum. It would also fund the cost of one contract carer to offer emergency respite provision for families in crisis.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director of Support Services, Education, Personnel and Management Services, Neighbourhood Resources and Development Services and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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.

9.0 SIGNATURE

Director of Social Work

Date

7 June 2001