

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 28 FEBRUARY 2011

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF CHILDCARE STRATEGY FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF OUT OF SCHOOL CARE IN DUNDEE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 126-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding and support for Out of School Care in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. notes and approves the contents of this report;
- ii. approves the funding of grants to Dundee Out of School Care Network which will be disseminated to 20 Out of School Care Clubs;
- iii. approves the provision of funding to Spectrum Out of School Club; and
- iv. approves the provision of funding to enable Dundee Out of School Care Network to support the annual Big Event and to offer payroll support to 21 clubs.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £38,720 in the current financial year (2010/11) which will be funded from the Education Department Revenue Budget. A summary of the proposed expenditure is attached in the Appendix.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Out of School Care plays an important part in supporting parents and carers in employment and training and in providing a range of activities for children and positive educational play activities for young people during out of school hours. Out of School Care Clubs have benefited from a range of input aimed at strengthening their sustainability, improving the quality of provision and supporting the business management of Clubs, particularly those serving populations on low incomes.

5.0 CURRENT SITUATION

5.1 Out of School Care

Out of School Care Clubs provide a valuable service to families across Dundee, enabling parents and carers to work or take up training while their children are looked after in a safe, caring, stimulating environment. All clubs are voluntary organisations run by parent management committees and they employ trained playworkers to look after the children before and after school and during school holidays and in-service days. Clubs are non profit-making organisations and have to cover their staff wages, outings, visits, art materials and equipment expenses through parental fees.

5.2 Spectrum

Spectrum Out of School Club is a registered charity that was started in 2004 by a group of parents who saw the need to promote the health and well being of children who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and to support the families and carers by operating out of school clubs and holiday play schemes for children aged 4-14. The club has been providing these services for families in the Dundee area who have children affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Spectrum has consistently shown itself to be providing a significant service to young people affected by autism in Dundee City. Were it not for this project these young people would have difficulty in accessing other local service or support.

Spectrum makes a profound difference to the lives of families affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorders. It provides the children with essential social opportunities outwith school in an environment sympathetic to their autism specific needs. Such opportunities help them to develop their social skills, become more independent and gain confidence. Parents also face a great deal of added stress because they have to give so much time and attention to their autistic child and this often means that they are unable to give enough time to each other or any other children in the family. The time away at the club provides families with some space to address these issues. These opportunities reduce family stress and breakdown enabling them to deal more effectively with the challenges that arise.

5.3 Big Event

Following successful Big Events which have run annually over the last 6 years for all 21 clubs and attended by 400+ children and 120+ adults, there has been considerable support for a similar event to be run in the summer of 2011. The Big Event provides an opportunity for Clubs to come together and offers children a range of sports, games and crafts activities. The Big Event is the result of partnership working between the Education Department and a number of organisations and departments including Dundee Out of School Care Network, Leisure and Communities Department, Active Schools, and other Voluntary Sector organisations. It is proposed therefore to provide funding to support the 2011 event which is to be held in St. John's RC High School. The funding supports the transport of children to the event, the funding of some activity providers, and the purchasing of equipment and materials for the day.

6.0 PROPOSAL

6.1 Out of School Care Grants

There are currently 21 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee including Spectrum. All clubs are members of Dundee Out of School Care Network which is a fully constituted and well established group and the clubs provide a highly valued service to parents who are in work or training and offer a stimulating environment meeting a range of childcare needs in line with the Single Outcome Agreement. Clubs depend on income generated by fees and often struggle to break even over the course of a year. It is proposed that clubs apply for a grant which will enable them to improve quality within their setting and which falls within set criteria.

This proposal seeks approval to award grants of up to £1,000 to each of the 20 Out of School Clubs across the City to be disseminated by Dundee Out of School Care Network. This will provide much needed financial support to clubs who are struggling on very tight budgets and will enable them to purchase additional resources for use by children, improve training opportunities for staff and encourage projects to support healthy living and partnership working.

6.2 Spectrum Grant

The Spectrum club has to run from a local hall for which they pay rent. The staff to child ratio is higher than in other clubs and the club requires specialist equipment to enable the children to benefit from attending.

This proposal seeks approval to award a grant of £10,000 to enable the club to continue to deliver quality care to the children who attend.

6.3 Big Event

In order to ensure the success and quality of this much valued day this proposal seeks to approve the grant of £2000 to Dundee Out of School Care Network towards the delivery of a Big Event in St. John's RC High School in July 2011.

6.4 Payroll Support

Delivering efficient payroll services within clubs is an onerous responsibility. The service is currently provided by The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and it is proposed to provide further funding to the Network for this service. This proposal seeks to award £6,720 to cover part of the cost for this service to enable clubs to continue to access a consistent and accurate payroll service.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be available on the Council Web Site <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>
- 7.2** These proposals will enrich and enhance the learning and development of young children in Dundee and will enable them and their families to play a full part in society.
- 7.3** These proposals will support children to access to Out of School Care across the City and will further support partnership and collaboration with the voluntary sector in Dundee.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1** This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance, Director of Social Work and Director of Leisure and Communities.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1** Equality Impact Assessment.

JIM COLLINS
Director of Education

JC/CMacC

February 2011

Financial Year 2010/11

Club Name ¹	Amount Requested	
Barnhill OSC	£1000.00	
BJ's Blackness	£1000.00	
BJ's St. Joseph's	£1000.00	
Boomerang	£1000.00	
Cherry Drop Club	£1000.00	
Craigiebarn Owls OSC Club	£1000.00	
Downfield OSC Club	£1000.00	
Finmill OSC Club	£1000.00	
Forthill OSC Club	£1000.00	
Fun Factory	£1000.00	
Glebelands OSC Club	£1000.00	
Happy Hours	£1000.00	
Hilltown OSC Club	£1000.00	
Kids Fun House	£1000.00	
Lochee OSC	£1000.00	
Menzieshill OSC Club	£1000.00	
Mill of Mains OSC Club	£1000.00	
Rainbow OSC Club	£1000.00	
St. Clement's OSC Club	£1000.00	
School's Out	£1000.00	
		£20,000
Spectrum - Specialist Equipment	£1500.00	
- Rental Services	£2500.00	
- Contribution to staff costs	£6000.00	£10,000
Big Event		£ 2,000
Payroll Support 21 clubs x £80/quarter		£ 6,720
Total		£38,720