

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 21 FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FUNDING SUPPORT TO DUNDEE OUT OF SCHOOL CARE NETWORK AND STEPPING STONES AND SPECTRUM

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 128-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award funding to Dundee Out of School Care Network in order to continue to support sustainability of 20 Out of School Care Clubs and to Stepping Stones and Spectrum to support the provision of out of school care for children on the autistic spectrum.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee approve proposals to continue and expand the provision of business support and development advice to Out of School Care Clubs and their Management Committees and to continue and extend provision of out of school care for children on the autistic spectrum.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be £62,320.50 in the financial year 2005-6. This will be met from the Childcare Strategy funding made available to local authorities by the Scottish Executive. Appendix 1 details the deployment of this funding.

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 There are currently 20 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee. All clubs are members of Dundee Out of School Care Network which is a fully constituted and well established group. Dundee Out of School Care Network meets monthly and offers a forum for

member clubs to share ideas and support and keep abreast of local and national developments.

- 6.2 Out of School Care Clubs are reliant upon voluntary parent management committee members to carry out the administrative and managerial tasks involved with running Out of School Care Clubs. This can be very burdensome for parents in addition to their family and work commitments. Over the last year a number of clubs have been supported by a business advisor which, when rolled out across all the clubs, will increase the efficiency, profitability and sustainability across the sector.

The report "School's Out - Framework for Development of Out of School Care" published by the Scottish Executive in April 2003 set out four key recommendations for local authorities to support the ongoing development of out of school care. The proposals contained within this Committee Report will support the delivery of these recommendations.

- 6.3 It is recognised that that children on the autistic spectrum may have difficulty attending out of school care and that special provision may be the preferred option for parents whose children need to be looked after while they work or train. Spectrum has offered holiday provision for six weeks of the year at Frances Wright Pre-School Centre for children on the autistic spectrum during part of the Easter, summer and October holidays. Stepping Stones offers term-time care for children on the autistic spectrum after school each day and is based at Mains Parish Church.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 Continuation of a Pilot Management Tool Project

- 7.1 It is proposed that funding of £28,989.00 is made available to Dundee Out of School Care Network to continue to support 8 clubs currently participating in the successful pilot "Management Tool" project and to extend the "Management Tool" to a further 3 clubs. The supervisors of the 8 clubs will continue to be funded for 8 hours each week to receive intensive training from the Business Advisor to enable them to firmly establish the financial and recording systems which they have been implementing during the life of the pilot. Clubs are able to see their financial status at a glance and are able to plan ahead more effectively as financial information can be printed off for committee meetings. 8 clubs have been taking part in the pilot, and a further 3 clubs have expressed a desire to do so. The clubs currently on the pilot are: Happy Hours, Forthill Billies, The Boomerang Club, Craigiebarn Owls, Menzieshill Out of School Care Club, Barnhill After School Care Club, Lochee Out of School Care Club. The clubs wishing to take up the training are: Park Place Out of School Care Club, Cherry Drop Club and Schools Out!

- 7.2 It is further proposed that the supervisor who was seconded to the pilot to mentor and support new supervisors joining the project, should continue with this work with an increase in her weekly hours to 15.

- 7.3 In order to manage the funding on behalf of Dundee Out of School Care Network a small group of parent management committee volunteers have agreed to be part of a Project Management Group which will meet monthly to manage and monitor the funding received. The Early Years & Childcare Team's Out of School Co-ordinator will convene and support this Management Group. It is proposed that a sum of £3000.00 be allocated to the Network in order to support the voluntary parents on the Project Management Group with expenses.

7.4 It is further proposed that £33,331.00 be allocated to continue out of school care for children on the autistic spectrum who would otherwise be unable to access provision. This would provide 58 places per week for children aged 4 - 14 (Stepping Stones Project) and 20 places per day during school holidays (Spectrum Project).

7.5 Ongoing Monitoring

7.6 Each of these proposals will be closely monitored and evaluated by the Out of School Co-ordinator in terms of their effectiveness in supporting the sustainability and management of Out of School Care in Dundee and the quality of provision of out of school care for children on the autistic spectrum.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

21 February 2005

AW/CAR

Appendix 1 Outline of Costs

Extension to Pilot Project

8 supervisors already on pilot x £8.50/hour x 26 weeks x 8hours/week
£14144.00

3 new supervisors x £8.50/hour x 26 weeks x 8 hours/week
£5304.00

Supervisor offering mentoring
15 hours/week x £10.45/hour x 26 weeks £4075.50

Mentor Travelling expenses 50 miles x 26 weeks x 42p/mile
£546.00

Mobile Phone plus cost of calls for Mentor
£360.00

IT Support for Management Tool
On Site Support to Individual Supervisors 11 x £60
£660.00

Contingency funding for additional support of Management Tool
£800.00

Stationery
£100.00

Support to Network Project Management Group
£3000.00

Total **£28989.50**

Spectrum Holiday Project for children on the autistic spectrum

Wages	£12000.00
Insurance	£250.00
Storage	£500.00
Outings	£1000.00
Catering/Snacks	£250.00
Admin/Equipment	£1000.00

Stepping Stones Out of School project for children on the autistic spectrum

Overall cost of project	£54331.00
Less Income from fees/fundraising	£36000.00
	£18331.00

Total **£33331.00**

Total Expenditure in Financial Year 2005-2006 **£62320.50**

