

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE- MAY 21st 2001
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE- MAY 21st 2001

REPORT ON: PUBLICATION OF DUNDEE'S EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PLAN
2001- 2004

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 311-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report outlines details of the Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001- 2004

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Social Work Committees note and approve the contents of the Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001- 2004.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications arising from implementation of the Plan will be met in 2001/2002 by the deployment of funding made available to the Local Authority for the following:

- Childcare Infrastructure - £197,710
 - New Projects Funding - £169,300
 - Sure Start Scotland - £653,000
 - Pre School Development Funding - £124,855
 - Childcare Workforce Development Funding - £45,670
 - New Excellence Funding - £137,800
- (in respect of the Parents Services Initiative)

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Plan supports everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A key element of the Plan is to improve access to services within a fully inclusive framework.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The first Dundee Early Years Plan was published in April 2000 and approved by Education and Social Work Committees on 17TH April 2000. This outlined how early years, childcare and family support services would be developed in the three year period until April 2003. Members are referred to Committee Report No 264-2000.

6.2 New Guidance to Childcare Partnerships published by the Scottish Executive in January 2001 asked Local Authorities to produce rolled forward plans to cover the period 2001-2004. This Plan fulfils the requirements of that guidance. In addition the Plan reports on progress towards achieving the early years, childcare and family support service targets set out in the earlier Plan 2001- 2003.

6.3 The Plan sets out targets and progress towards achieving them for developments in the following key areas:

- Services for children aged 0-3 and their families
- Quality services for pre school children (aged 3-5)
- Services for school aged children aged 5-14 during out of school hours
- Services to promote and support the role and involvement of parents and families
- Workforce development and training and staff development
- Inclusion Strategies
- Childcare Information Service

7.0 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 7.1 The Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001- 2004, demonstrates significant progress in developing effective early years, childcare and family support services. In addition there has been evidence of strong and effective joint working across Council Departments and local authority, private and voluntary sector providers.
- 7.2 The ongoing targets for development cover a broad and comprehensive range of services which when delivered will considerably strengthen the provision of services to children and their families.
- 7.3 The Early Years and Childcare Partnership has been an effective and committed consultation forum in the development of the Plan and in its ongoing review.
- 7.4 A copy of the Early Years and Childcare Plan 2001- 2004 is attached to this Report.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 This Report has been the subject of Consultation with the Directors of Neighbourhood Resources and Development , Support Services and Finance.

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.

10.0 SIGNATURES

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Director of Education

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Date

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Director of Social Work

.....
Date

**DUNDEE EARLY YEARS AND
CHILDCARE PLAN
2001- 2004**



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INTRODUCTION

This Plan outlines how early years and childcare services will be developed in Dundee between April 2001 and April 2004. An earlier Plan produced to cover the period 2000 - 2003 has been incorporated and updated within this new Plan.

A VISION FOR DUNDEE'S EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SERVICES

Dundee City Council places children, young people and families at the centre of its processes for policy, planning and delivery of services.

This Plan is underpinned by a shared vision of services which we will work together to deliver. Services will:

- place central importance on the best interests and all round wellbeing of the child
- be co-ordinated, high quality, flexible, affordable and accessible
- include all children and families
- listen and take account of the views of children, parents and providers

2.0 LINKS WITH OTHER PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

The Early years and Childcare Plan is one of several planning frameworks where children and families are a central concern.

2.1 The Dundee Children's Services Plan

The first Dundee Children's Services Plan was published in 1998 as part of local authority duties under The Children (Scotland) Act 1995. This Plan will be updated in 2002, to take account of guidance contained within a Strategic Framework for Social Work Children's Services due to be published by the Scottish Executive later in 2001.

The Dundee Children's Services Plan describes services for children and young people in the city and places an emphasis on how children in need will be supported and how their needs will be identified and met. The Plan was published following a process of consultation and the involvement of relevant Council departments, Tayside Health Board and NHS Trusts, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Tayside Police, The Children's Panel, the Procurator Fiscal's Office, voluntary organisations and service users.

The Early Years and Childcare Plan and the Children's Services Plan are two closely interwoven planning contexts, which together will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable children are given priority within a broad framework designed to meet the needs of all children and their families.

2.2 Other planning frameworks which are linked to the planning of early years and childcare services in Dundee include the:

- Dundee City Council Corporate Plan
- Education Department Plan
- Community Learning Plan
- Community Plan for Dundee
- Tayside Health Improvement Plan

3.0 DUNDEE - A SUMMARY OF THE DEMOGRAPHY

Dundee is one of Scotland's four major cities. The City of Dundee covers an area of 26 square miles and is geographically the smallest local authority in Scotland. Dundee is a city with a major agenda for regeneration. The City's success in attracting new industries, notably in the science and medical fields, and the important re-developments in housing, amenities and cultural centres have created a climate of change and dynamism.

However, Dundee has all of the problems associated with urban disadvantage, unemployment and poverty. A critical issue for this City is to support the social inclusion of all of its citizens. The city has four areas of Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP 1); Ardler, Kirkton, Mid Craigie/ Linlathen and Hilltown/ Maxwelltown.

3.1 The Population

Dundee is a city with a population of 144,430 (mid year GRO estimates 1999). There are currently 27,680 children aged 0-15, of whom 8,145 are aged 0-4.

A key issue for Dundee is its falling population. In common with other urban populations there has been a consistent out migration from the city into suburban areas. Dundee has a higher than average (for Scotland) population of 18 - 23 year olds and persons aged over 60 years but a lower proportion of people aged 25-55. The total population of Dundee decreased by 7.6% between 1991 and 1999, a reduction of 11,810 people.

The number of children aged 0-15 is likely to fall to 25,577 by the year 2003 and to 23,949 by the year 2006.

3.2 Statistical Information

Key demographic statistics, which are relevant to the development of an effective early years, and childcare service are:

- higher than national average of low income households
- higher than average rates of unemployment; 25% of wards have unemployment rates more than twice the average for Scotland. However this trend is turning and there has been a fall in unemployment in the SIP1 areas which is higher than the average for Scotland and for Dundee as a whole.
- just over half of all children are eligible for School Clothing Grants and this rises to 75% in SIP 1 areas
- a lower percentage of secondary school pupils in Dundee attained Standard and Higher Grade passes than pupils in Scotland as a whole
- significantly higher than national average of lone parent families, rising to more than 50% of families in Mid Craigie
- significant numbers of young parents and highest level of teenage conception rates in Scotland (twice the national average for Scotland)
- significant numbers of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and alcohol and drug related problems
- higher than average numbers of pupils entitled to free school meals with a 22.3% average across the city rising to 40.5% in the SIP1 areas
- higher than national average percentage of children from minority ethnic communities

4.0 NURSERY EDUCATION, CHILDMINDING AND DAYCARE SERVICES IN DUNDEE: THE CURRENT PICTURE

Since its establishment in January 2000, the Early Years and Childcare Team has improved access to information about current levels and uptake of early years and childcare services in Dundee. The Childcare Information Service has had a significant impact on this. A summary of levels and uptake of current provision (as at April 2001) is outlined below.

4.1 Nursery Schools and Classes

Admissions Policy

A revised Nursery Admissions Policy for pre-school education places was approved by Dundee City Council Education Committee in May 2000. This sets out guidance for parents to facilitate access to services.

Admission of three and four year olds to part-time nursery education places in Dundee is made possible by the high levels of service on which to build. The commissioning of nursery education places in partner facilities has further enhanced this situation.

The Admissions Criteria sets out how places should be prioritised for age eligible 3 and 4 year old children in Dundee. In areas where demand for places may exceed supply, there is "Locality Area" guidance. The Council is however committed to providing places in the nursery of choice for the majority of children and accommodates parents who wish to take up a nursery place outwith their local neighbourhood. Parents often choose a nursery close to extended family who help with childcare or close to their place of employment or training. Children who are not resident in Dundee can access a pre school place within the City only when all Dundee resident children have been provided for.

For many years a significant number of children have been able to access full time places in nursery schools and classes in Dundee (16% as at April 2001). These places are provided free of charge to children in need.

Pre school education places are also available to children eligible for primary school whose parents wish to defer entry to school for a further year. In April 2001, there was demand for 185 places for children in this category.

Current level and uptake of nursery education services

There are currently 12 local authority nursery schools and 22 nursery classes providing 1979 part time places and 310 full time places (April 2001). As part of the Ardler regeneration project, the former Ardler nursery school is now part of the new integrated early years and family support provision established in Ardler Primary School in 2000.

A further two nurseries are now co-located with child and family centres providing early education, childcare and family support provision in one location. These are Woodlea Children's Centre (formerly Beechwood Child and Family Centre and Foggyley Nursery School) and Kirkton where the nursery school and the child and family centre are now co-located.

In May 2001, the new early years facility at Charleston Primary School will be operational providing an enhanced early years, childcare and family support services for 0-12 year olds (within a primary school).

There is also one Community Early Years Centre providing a total of 50 places for children aged 2-5 and their older siblings during out of school hours.

All nursery schools and the two integrated units at Ardler and Charleston provide extended hours services offering parents a flexible resource from the early morning until late afternoon.

In addition three playschemes will be piloted in summer 2001 to provide places for pre school children in Woodlea Children's Centre, Park Place Nursery and Frances Wright Pre School Centre. The latter will be for children aged 3-8 who are on the autistic spectrum.

A New Opportunities Fund Application will be prepared to extend this network of provision across the nursery provision in summer 2002.

TAKE UP OF PLACES IN LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CLASSES APRIL 2001

	PT am		PT pm		FT		Extended hours					
	ante	pre	ante	pre	paid	free	am		pm		lunch	
							free	paid	free	paid	free	paid
Bellfield	8	34	17	18	4	14	0	10	3	11	4	10
Cotton Road	14	19	13	16	3	10	4	1	1	4	3	4
Fintry	33	29	15	47	0	8	0	6	0	3	4	9
Foggyley	14	23	16	23	0	20	1	7	0	8	3	17
FWPSC	2	18	6	14	4	16	1	5	3	5	2	5
J Porter	19	49	29	37	14	8	1	4	0	9	0	4
Kirkton	19	14	24	7	3	12	0	0	1	2	13	14
Law	18	25	29	18	13	7	1	11	0	12	8	26
Longhaugh	15	33	11	38	0	9	0	3	3	3	4	8
Menzieshill	23	42	30	34	5	0	0	7	0	10	0	4
Park Pla	10	34	22	19	21	7	0	3	0	12	0	22
Wallace	21	14	23	12	19	11	0	8	0	6	2	3
Ardler	12	5	9	10	0	31	0	1	1	4	0	0
Dens Rd	14	15	12	18	0	31	8	66	12	89	43	126
Glebelands	15	14	17	13	7	2						
Mid Craigie	17	8	16	12	3	18						
Mossiel	8	2	10	0	0	10						
Barnhill	0	27	0	26	96	214						
Brackens	7	13	5	15								
Charleston	12	18	7	23								
Craigieba	13	27	14	23								
Douglas	3	16	3	15								
Eastern	0	30	11	19								
Forthill	0	36	10	26								
Newfields	6	14	6	11								
Lochee	4	15	9	11								
Macalpine	22	5	26	4								
Mil o Main	8	12	8	9								
Powrie	2	18	6	10								
St Mgts	7	7	3	11								
St Marys	3	26	6	23								
St Ninian's	3	11	1	15								
St Vincent's	6	16	2	7								
Sidlawview	2	8	416	584								
	360	677										

KEY PT am Part time am places
 PT pm Part time pm places
 FT Full time

Commissioned Partner Providers of Pre School Education

There are currently 22 private nurseries in Dundee of which 19 have commissioning agreements with the Council for the provision of part time pre school education places. In addition 1 playgroup is a commissioned partner provider.

In August 1999, 350 part time pre school education places were commissioned from 18 private nurseries and 2 playgroups. This rose to 474 places in April 2000 (404 children resident in Dundee) and as at April 2001 has now risen to 583, with 470 of these places taken up by Dundee resident children. The closure of one playgroup and the opening of another private nursery provider means that the number of partner providers remains constant.

One additional playgroup and one additional private nursery have indicated an interest in becoming partners.

4.2 Child & Family Centres

There are currently 9 child and family centres in Dundee providing a range of family support services to children in need aged 0-12 and their families. Over the past two years the Social Work Department has been working closely with the Education Department to promote the development of more integrated services for children and their families.

Dundee's child and family centres work closely together to provide an integrated network of family support services across the City. Currently a total of 589 children receive services within child and family centres. An additional 60 families benefit from the new services provided in other community settings by the appointment in 2001 of 3 Outreach Workers as part of Dundee's Sure Start initiative.

4.3 Private Sector Provision

There are 22 private nurseries in Dundee. This is an increase of 2 from last year with an additional 2 nurseries due to be opened later in 2001. Of the 22 all provide day care for children in the 2 to 5 age range and 11 of these also provide for the 0-2 age range. In total these nurseries provide care and education for over 1200 babies and children from 0-5 years old.

The nurseries range in size, with rolls from 10 to 90 children accessing a range of placements from one or two part time sessions to five full days. Most nurseries are open from 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the year.

A further five private sector nurseries have successfully achieved planning permission for new nurseries providing a potential 190 new places. 2 additional planning applications are pending with a potential to provide a further 100 places.

4.4 Playgroups

There are 13 pre-school playgroups within Dundee – 11 of which are registered under the Children Act 1989.

Grants of up to £1500 have been made available to all registered playgroups to enable them to purchase equipment and provide resources, further enhancing quality.

4.5 Parent & Toddler Groups

There are 24 Parent & Toddler Groups operating in Dundee, currently supporting over 300 children and their families. These groups often provide a highly valued community service, especially to lone parents, or parents who lack the support of extended families. Grant funding of up to £500 has been made available to all groups to assist them in purchasing toys and equipment.

4.6 Childminders

There are currently 167 registered childminders providing home based care to children, particularly 0-3 year olds.

4.7 Out of School Care Clubs

There are currently 14 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee providing a total capacity of 393 places, including 84 breakfast places. These places currently serve 725 children throughout the year. (as at April 2001). An additional 48 places will be established within two new clubs scheduled to be operational in May 2001 at St Mary's and Charleston.

5.0 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2001- 2004

This section of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Plan set out the key targets for service development planned until 2004. A summary of progress towards the targets is also included.

The key areas of service which are planned for are:

- 5.1 Services for Children aged 0-3 and their Families
- 5.2 Quality Pre School Services for Children aged 3-5
- 5.3 Out of School Care Services
- 5.4 Parent and Family Services
- 5.5 Promoting the Inclusion of All
- 5.6 Recruitment, Training and Staff Development

The resource implications are set out for the current financial year 2001/ 2002. For the years 2002/ 2004, the resource implications will be calculated annually to take account of available funding.

5.1.0 Services For Children Aged 0-3 And Their Families: Sure Start Dundee

NO	KEY TASK	PROGRESS AS AT APRIL 2001	AIM BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
1.1	Establish integrated good practice models for group care of children aged 0-3 where early intervention projects support early learning and development of children in need.	Woodlea Children's Centre established in 2000. Kirkton Centre established 2000. 1 new facility providing up to 18 sessional places at Charleston Primary School 3 Sure Start Early Intervention initiatives established to provide support for children aged 2-4 requiring enhanced learning opportunities within Woodlea, Ardler and Kirkton.	1 further early intervention project established in 2002	£100,000 £50,000 per project
1.2	Develop affordable daycare services for children aged 0-3	1 additional daycare facility for up to 20 children aged 0-3 established in Happyhillock Child and Family Centre	2 additional facilities providing a total of 40 places by 2004	£40,000 development costs plus £50,000 per project ongoing p.a.
1.3	Review the current workload of the Pre School Home Visiting Service, particularly in relation to its capacity to support children and families from minority ethnic communities and those with special educational needs	Pre School Home Visiting Service expanded in August 2000 and Service Development Plan published March 2001	Ongoing development to extend role in supporting the delivery of the Early Years and Childcare Strategy particularly in relation to providing support for children with special educational needs and their families.	£56,000
1.4	Identify and disseminate good practice models of provision	0-3 Curriculum Group established to promote and support good practice including producing guidelines on 'Working with 0-3's'. First Annual Report on Quality Development in services for children 0-3 due for publication August 2001	Ongoing-good practice information published annually	Within EYCC Team resources
1.5	Develop mechanisms to promote consistent early identification and assessment of very young children with special educational needs to ensure that appropriate care and education plans can be drafted.	Pre School Home Visiting Service working to co-ordinate assessment information for all children with Special Educational Needs Pre School Placements Panel's role and remit clearly defined August 2001	Multi-agency notification system in place by December 2001.	Within EYCC Team resources
1.6	Develop and support parent and toddler group network.	Inaugural meeting end of November 2000.	Ongoing	Within EYCC Team resources

5.1.0 Services For Children Aged 0-3 And Their Families: Sure Start Dundee (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	PROGRESS AS AT APRIL 2001	AIM BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
1.7	Provide support to parent and toddler groups and management committees.	Family Support Co-ordinator providing ongoing support.	Ongoing	£7,000
1.8	Identify ways to provide subsidised or low cost childcare services within public, private and voluntary services.	Subsidised daycare provision available for 20 children aged 0-3 in January 2001	Ongoing - increased access to provision to meet demand and need	£5,000
1.9	Review capacity of existing services and provision to provide additional services for young children and families.	Ongoing. Additional services in Happyhillock, Charleston and within the integrated centres..	Report published to Partnership, September 2001.	£65,000
1.10	Review provision for children with special educational needs and provide additional resources to improve access and affordability of services.	Expansion of provision in 3 integrated facilities (total of 24 additional places for children with SEN by Aug 2002)	Review report published June 2001.	£10,000
1.11	Support for voluntary organisations providing services for young families.	Grant support to Homestart, Dundee Sitter Service, Mid Craigie Linlathen Under 12's.	Ongoing review of role and involvement of Voluntary Sector providers	£100,000
1.12	Develop outreach services in Charleston, Hilltown and St Mary's.	2 Outreach Workers appointed September 2000. 1 further November 2000	Identification of existing service levels and development plan for expansion	£75,000 £10,000 Project related funding
1.13	Develop links between service providers and primary health care professionals (health visitors). Ensure the needs of those children and families in greatest need are met. Facilitate appropriate access to services.	LHCC representative on Early Years and Childcare Partnership. Health Visitors contributing to development of 'Working with 0-3 guidelines'. Involvement of Health in Sure Start Development. Health Representatives on Local Early Years and Childcare Networks. Work in preparation for second New Community School (primary and early years)	Joint planning of services in place	£50,000
1.14	Strengthen support for childminders and promote the inclusion of childminder interests in local networks and in the Partnership.	Childminder Networks (4) established in August 2000. Dundee wide network commenced December 2000. Training for new and registered childminders commenced September 2000, including 13 working towards SVQ III Early Years Care and Education. SCMA appointed Dundee representative September 2000. Recruitment of registered childminders is a key task within Local Early Years and Childcare Network Action Plans, particularly where childminding provision is low.	Framework of Support for Childminders developed by January 2001 and local networks established city wide.	Within resources And Training Strategy

**5.1.0 Services For Children Aged 0-3 And Their Families: Sure Start Dundee
(continued)**

NO	KEY TASK	PROGRESS AS AT APRIL 2001	AIM BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
1.15	Provide linked Childminding to provide subsidised childcare services for children in need and their families.	Commitment to promote linked childminding incorporated into proposals for Happyhillock and Charleston provision. Discussion paper being prepared on recruitment, support and function of linked childminders.	Available from 6 Centres by 2003.	£5,000
1.16	Support Dundee Sitter Service and Homestart to provide home based support and sitter services for parents working unsocial hours, or to support families with a range of needs.	Grant support to Homestart and Dundee Sitter Service. Family Support Co-ordinator member of Dundee Sitter Service Management Committee.	Ongoing Improved provision of services for parents at all times, including those working night shifts and at weekends	See 1.11
1.17	Establish locally based Family Learning Networks to strengthen the role of parents in supporting children's learning development.	The Kirkton PLAY Programme is run October - November 2000. 1 planned in Charleston Spring 2001. Several other initiatives in place	4 ongoing	Within resources

5.2.0 Quality Pre School Services For Children Aged 3-5

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/ PROGRESS PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
2.1	Implement a common Quality Framework for pre-school facilities, based on "Child at the Centre"	Training provided on Child at the Centre to Local Authority and Private Providers	Quality Framework implemented by December 2001 and quality improvement strategy supported into implementation by all providers.	Within EYCC Team resources
2.2	Introduce Development Planning in Partner Provision	Development Planning operational in all Partner Provision by December 2000	Development Plans published by all providers of pre school education	As above
2.3	Introduce Standards and Quality Reporting in all Local Authority Provision and Partner Provision	All Authority providers publishing Standards and Quality Reports by September 2000.	Partner Provider producing Reports by September 2002. All providers publishing Standards and Quality Reports	As above
2.4	Provide central support to promote quality development across all provision	Pre school Quality Co-ordinator visited each provider regularly (minimum two visits per year). Support materials and guidance produced. All partner providers have taken up a range of training opportunities (accredited and non accredited) Grant funding to LA Nurseries, child and family centres and private/ voluntary sector providers	Accessible central support to all providers available to meet need and to support local and national developments	As above £75,000
2.5	Provide consultation and information sharing opportunities	Partner Providers Forum, Nursery Head Teachers Forum, Support Groups for Teachers and Nursery Nurses established and ongoing	Opportunities available for networking and sharing ideas	Within EYCC Team resources
2.6	Introduce and implement new National Standards for Care into all childcare and early years provision	Information gathered on implications and discussions ongoing with Early Years Registration and Inspection Team	2002- 2004	Costs associated with meeting standards in LA provision
2.7	Continue to support the development of Curriculum Framework for Children 3-5 into practice in pre school facilities.	Central support visits, in service training programmes. Ongoing.	Framework fully implemented and quality assured within all pre school facilities by April 2001.	Within EYCC Team resources

5.2.0 Quality Pre School Services For Children Aged 3-5 (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/ PROGRESS PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
2.8	Upgrade and refurbish nursery accommodation	Building work at Ardler and Charleston. Refurbishment of Cotton Rd Nursery. Happyhillock building works undertaken to create daycare provision for 0-3s. Various minor building works undertaken to upgrade food preparation areas, outdoor play areas	Nursery provision modernised to meet the changing demands of service development and expansion	£20,000
2.9	Develop consistent systems for transfer of information about children's progress and development from pre school to Primary One.	Audit conducted October 2000 Working Group in progress 2000-2001 New Policy Framework for Children 0-5 to be produced, December 2001	Consistent approach implemented supported by new guidelines.	Within EYCC Team resources
2.10	Provide support and training to playgroups, their workers and management committees.	Dundee Playgroup Network established August 2000. 16 playgroup staff undertaken training since September 2000.	Playgroup network established September 2000.	£20,000- grant funding £19,000- SPPA resource worker
2.11	Develop a charging policy for services provided in Council facilities outwith core pre-school education to ensure equitable charging and to ensure that priority for low or no cost provision is given to children and families in need.	Pilot charging policy in place. Ongoing monitoring and review. Survey of Nursery Head Teachers undertaken, December 2000.	Pilot charging policy introduced August 2000. Charging Policy implemented by August 2001.	Within EYCC Team resources
2.12	Maximise the use of existing services to increase choice and to provide for a greater range of need.	Enhanced provision across all nursery schools.	Ongoing	Within Education Department budget
2.13	Provide a part time pre school education place for all three and four year olds whose parents wish to take up a place.	Expansion of partner provision from 350 to 528 part time places. Additional 50 places in Barnhill, Forthill and Eastern Nursery Classes.	100% availability for all children whose parents wish to take up a place by August 2001	£30,000
2.14	Continue to offer full time places for children with identified needs.	Audit conducted September 2000. New criteria for enrolment in place and supported towards implementation.	New criteria for full time allocation in place by August 2000. Ongoing monitoring and review.	Within Education Department budget
2.15	Increase quality partnerships with private and voluntary sector providers to provide a greater choice and diversity of provision.	1 additional private nursery registered as commissioned partner. 1 further nursery and 1 playgroup in process.	2 additional playgroups as partners Level of partner provision flexible to meet demand	Within EYCC Team resources

5.2.0 Quality Pre School Services For Children Aged 3-5 (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/ PROGRESS PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
2.16	Provide pre school education services to meet particular needs, such as those of children who are disadvantaged, have special educational or health needs, children whose first language is other than English and children from minority ethnic groups.	Expansion of provision for children with special educational needs. Audit of levels of pre school children 0-5 with SEN complete Pre School Placements Panel established to review all children with SEN from a multi disciplinary perspective. Additional staffing in nurseries to support individual children with SEN. Deployment of bi lingual support to nurseries.	Policy on inclusion established and implemented February 2002.	£50,000 £10,000 (transport)
2.17	Review levels of current provision to ensure equity of access across the City to choice and range of services.	Ongoing identification of gaps in provision. New Admissions Policy in place. 50 new places created in the east of Dundee to meet demand Increase in partner provision to meet demand	Admission Criteria reviewed annually. Demand for services reviewed and adjusted annually.	within EYCC Team resources
2.18	Develop holiday provision in nursery schools	Three pilot services planned July/August 2001.	Evaluate and extend provision to meet demand as appropriate, using New Opportunities Funding where appropriate	£10,000- start up costs

5.3.0 Out of School Care Services

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
3.1	Continue to provide support to existing Out of School Care Clubs. Central support visit to each club twice a year. Identify and disseminate good practice models.	Regular visits to clubs by Out of School Care Co-ordinator. Negotiation on their behalf with relevant Departments. Response to requests for advice and support. Clubs accessing training.	Ongoing	£25,000- grant support Within EYCC Team resources
3.2	Continue to support Dundee Out of School Care Network and guide funding applications.	Out of School Co-ordinator attends each Network meeting and provides relevant information and support to address issues Successful NOF Applications progressed	Ongoing	£4,000 to support OSC Network
3.3	Develop a programme of support to Out of School Care Clubs including Sports Development, Arts and cultural activities and bi lingual support to meet a range of need and to attract older young people	Consultation with service providers. Youth Sport Strategy ready for implementation from August 2001	Ongoing	£12,000
3.4	Develop holiday playscheme provision through NOF funding	3 pilot holiday playschemes scheduled for summer 2001. Wider development planned if NOF funding secured	City wide network of holiday playscheme provision	See 2.18 plus £10,000 for provision for children on the autistic continuum plus NOF Funding
3.5	Continue to develop support for children affected by family or social difficulties. Child and family centres to continue to provide OSC services in respond to local need.	Successful projects established in Partnership with the Inclusion Group and Kids Unlimited 2000/2001 30 additional places provided city wide in child and family centres	Wider range of provision catering for all needs	£39,000
3.6	Fully exploit New Opportunities Fund as a source of place generation.	Successfully secured funding to start two new clubs in the Lochee area.	Three successful NOF bids by 2004	Within EYCC Team Resources
3.7	Provide support/subsidised places for children in low-income families.	All clubs have accessed funding through Childcare Partnership and Social Inclusion Partnership funding.	No child prevented from accessing Out of School Service as a result of poverty	To meet presenting demand
3.8	Increase Out of School Care provision in Dundee to meet a range of need. Provide additional Out of School Care places in Dundee.	2 new Out of School Care clubs to open in January 2001. Clubs will offer study support each week	Ongoing. 100 supported places by 2004.	£10,000 start up prior to NOF funding
3.9	Promote and support the needs and interests of children with SEN within Out of School Care Clubs.	Range of provision available and developing	Up to 50 children with SEN supported into Out of School Care Club/ holiday playscheme by 2004	£10,000

5.4.0 Parent and Family Services

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS 2001/2002
4.1	Promote opportunities for parental involvement	Range of strategies in place, including the Parents Services Initiative .	Role and involvement of parents clearly in evidence across all provision	Within PSI (Parents Services Initiative) resources
4.2	Facilitate increased consultation with parents in service planning and monitoring at project, neighbourhood and city wide level.	Consultation at project and community level integral to Local Early Years & Childcare Networks. New Networks established in Fintry/Mill of Mains/ Child and family centres consulted with parents as part of Best Value Review June 2000. Parents' Services staff worked with parents who participated in the PLAY Project and took part in planning, publicising and co-leading the new programme which started in October 2000.	Annual consultation exercise conducted and results published. Ongoing.	Within PSI resources
4.4	Provide multi agency training and staff development on the theme of working with parents	Training Strategy launched September which included a two session workshop on 'Working with Parents', 3 group awards which include element of parent's work commenced September 2000. 1 independent accredited unit 'Family Issues' commenced September. Parents' Services staff have developed and delivered training on the theme of 'Working with Parents' to local authority nursery and early primary school staff, as well as childminders, out of school staff and private nurseries.	Training strategy published December 2000 and reviewed annually.	Within PSI resources
4.5	Support the development of play opportunities for all children aged 0-14 in local communities.	Fair Play training brought issue of Play to Early Years and Childcare Partnership in August 2000. Further discussions required to progress play strategy.	Play Strategy published April 2002.	Within resources
4.6	Establish locally based family learning programmes to strengthen the role of parents in supporting children's learning and development	Several programmes established across the city	Maintain four programmes annually	Within PSI resources

5.4.0 Parent and Family Services (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
4.7	Minimise barriers such as childcare, transport, accessibility of buildings or language, which may prevent parents from participating in services.	Groups for parents are being held in community venues and childcare is provided. Translators and translation of materials have been provided for ethnic minority women doing group programmes.	Ongoing	Within PSI resources
4.8	Extend existing work with parents across the City to meet a wider range of need.	Parents' Groups in Schools looking at issues like homework or family health developed as a follow up to the PALS programme. Work has been undertaken with parents from the Asian Community. Child and family centres expanding individual and group based outreach services to families in own homes and other community settings	Ongoing	Within PSI resources
4.9	Support families in need or crisis by providing an integrated range of support, respite and advice services.	Parents' Services staff as gateway to help parents make links with appropriate agencies at the end of a group programme. SPIN video work is being offered to parents by Parents' Services and child and family centre staff as appropriate. Child and family centres continuing to expand individual and groupwork services to parents of children in need. Feel Good Groups being established in each child and family centre.	Network of integrated provision to provide comprehensive services to meet all round needs of children and their families	Within PSI resources
4.10	Improve quality of information and publicity about services to increase access to appropriate services.	New leaflets for workers and parents, posters and a video are available to publicise PALS. Work currently ongoing to produce PALS resource pack. New leaflet on child and family centre services produced in April 2001.	Information available in all services and public facilities.	Within PSI resources
4.11	Support the development of PALS (Parents Altogether Lending Support) parenting programme across the City.	Six PALS groups were held in the period April-September 2000. Six groups are being run October-December 2000.	5 PALS Groups run per school term	Within PSI resources
4.12	Provide support and advice to employers wishing to establish childcare services and family friendly policies.	Initial discussions within Partnership.	Strategy developed by December 2002	Within EYCC Team resources

5.5.0 Promoting the Inclusion of All

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
5.1	Review existing provision for children with special educational needs in nursery schools and classes and child & family centres.	One new facility developed at Foggyley, August 1999, for 8 children. Pre School Home Visiting Service expanded Additional staffing support for children in mainstream settings	Establish one specialist provision per year within a mainstream setting for children with SEN, behavioural difficulties or who require early intervention.	Already calculated
5.2	Develop Early Intervention initiatives in nursery schools and child and family centres to provide support for children affected by adverse environmental factors.	3 initiatives established- up to 60 places developed Staff in 2 child and family centres and 1 nursery trained in working with young children to promote language and communication in June 2001 13 staff in child and family centres trained to identify and develop programmes for families with children with feeding difficulties	1 further initiative by 2003	Sure Start funding
5.3	Provide training and staff development focused on supporting inclusion within all early years, childcare and family support services.	Included as part of the Training Strategy	Two training programmes offered annually.	Within training strategy budget
5.4	Publish a Strategy for Inclusion in Early Years, Childcare and Family Support Services.	Work ongoing to identify individuals /groups at risk of exclusion.	Strategy published and implemented by December 2002.	Within EYCC Team resources
5.5	Develop the work of the Multi Agency Pre School Provision Panel for children with Special Educational Needs.	New Policy Framework for children 0-5 planned for publication, December 2001.	Improved identification and referrals to Panel at the earliest age.	Within resources
5.6	Review Charging Policies to ensure that families in low or no income groups are not barred from accessing services because of costs and review arrangements for subsidising places within services.	Pilot charging system in place. Review due for publication August 2001. Pilot charging system in place at Happyhillock Child and Family Centre June 2001	Review published by April 2001. Subsidy Review undertaken and proposals outlined for Committee by August 2001.	Already calculated
5.7	Audit the needs and demands of families within ethnic minority groups and match with current provision.	Meetings with Equality Action Team Leader and Multi Cultural Health Visitor have been productive in terms of gaining better understanding of issues affecting families. Work ongoing to develop closer links with representative groups which will both provide forum for consultation and auditing of needs.	Audit produced by December 2001 and proposals brought forward. Enhanced Bi-lingual support across all services	Within EYCC Team resources

5.6.0 Recruitment, Training and Staff Development

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
6.1	Publish an Early Years and Childcare Training Strategy showing how training can be accessed.	Monthly calendar of training published and distributed to voluntary, private and independent sectors. Launched September 2000.	Strategy published and implemented by May 2001.	£50,000
6.2	Ensure that all childcare workers can access a minimum of three training sessions annually.	Minimum of four sessions available monthly.	Minimum levels available by end 2000.	Within above
6.3	Increase levels of staff with accredited qualifications.	Funded places on HNC, SVQ 's in Playwork and Early Years Care and Education, PDA and Post Grad for Nursery Teachers.	10% increase annually.	Within above
6.4	Continue to audit training needs.	Course evaluation forms request information about further training needs. Regular agenda item at Provider's Network meetings. Ongoing audit through visits, questionnaires, forums, evaluation of training.	Annual audit produced in May.	Within EYCC Team resources
6.5	Gather information from visits assessing quality assurance, HMI Inspections and Social Work Registration Inspection to ensure that quality improvement is well supported by training.	Information available (ongoing). Provision of curriculum evenings, training courses, input into in-house staff development access to accredited training.	Ongoing	Within EYCC Team resources
6.6	Review recruitment of early years and childcare staff including teaching staff and nursery nurses within Council facilities and ensure that appropriate training is provided to support all staff.	Recruitment Survey delayed - due to undertaken in October 2001.	Recruitment Survey published.	Within EYCC Team resources

5.6.0 Recruitment, Training And Staff Development (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
6.7	Provide funding to support access to training such as Professional Development Award, BA Early Childhood Studies, SVQ and NC routes.	Funded places taken up: 18 = SVQ3 Early Years Care & Education 12 = SVQ2&3 Playwork 8 = HNC Childcare and Education 7 = Professional Development Award 17 = Independent (HNC or PDA) units. Budget prepared and adjusted accordingly. Funding also provided to support 10 Nursery Teachers to undertake Post Graduate Certificate in Early Education.	Budget set and published annually. Application process established. Year on year increase in qualified staff	Within training strategy budget
6.8	Ensure that training programmes are delivered at convenient times and locations to meet a range of need.	Range of options available, full day, twilight, evening, Saturday am. Varied locations.	Continuous quality monitoring. Menu of options available.	Within resources
6.9	Continue to audit training needs and ensure that all sectors are represented within programmes.	Training course evaluation form used to elicit future training needs of those having undertaken training. Identify mechanisms for capturing training needs of those who have not taken up available training.	Annual audit produced in May.	Within resources
6.10	Promote multi agency opportunities for workers from different sectors to share perspectives.	Courses are inclusive of broad range of providers - private nurseries, playgroups, childminders, out of school clubs.	Three multi agency events provided annually.	Within Training Strategy budget
6.11	Identify and provide information about good practice developments within Dundee. Support visits to models of good practice for workers.	National Early Years Best Practice information disseminated. Attendance at national and local conferences and seminars supported. More sharing via Training Strategy, local for forums, support groups and networks. Information from HMI, visits. Newsletter, Factsheets etc.	Regular dissemination of information.	Within resources

5.7.0 The Early Years and Childcare Information Service: Supporting Information Sharing and Consultation with Service Users and Providers in Dundee

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
7.1	Continue to develop the work of the Early Years and Childcare Partnership Team and the Early Years and Childcare Partnership.	Both established	Ongoing	£1,000 Partnership support
7.2	Establish local early years and Childcare networks to improve opportunities for people to have their views heard and considered	7 local childcare networks established.	Further 4 by 2004	£500
7.3	Establish forums and opportunities for children and young people to put forward their ideas, views and comments.	New Pupil Council established to give secondary school pupils a voice in November 2000. Primary School Pupil Council in planning stages	Consultation with children and young people more representative and included in service planning and policy. Strategy for Consultation with Children and Young People published February 2002.	£1,000
7.4	Collate statistical data from identified quality sources, report as to meet the purposes of members of the Early Years and Childcare Team.	Sources identified: DCC's Intranet site, Government information web sites, Early Years Registration and Inspection Team, service providers, General Register Office, TERC	Ongoing- annual statistical report published on service levels and uptakes	Within EYCC Team resources
7.5	Update and develop further information on DCC web site as appropriate.		Update July 2001, every 6 months - 2004	Within resources
7.6	Continue to promote the Partnership, Team and services through variety of media.	Press, Education News, Talkback, CIS Bulletin, Childcare Link newsletter. Two editions 'Early Years and Childcare News' published in October 2000 and March 2001. Plan Summary produced July 2000 Family Fun Day held April 21 st 2001 which attracted more than 1000 children and families.	Ongoing- exploit all opportunities to promote services	£10,000

5.7.0 The Early Years and Childcare Information Service: Supporting Information Sharing and Consultation with Service Users and Providers in Dundee (continued)

NO	KEY TASK	EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS	TARGET BY 2004	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
7.7	Continued evaluation of telephone Helpline service through consultation with users, quality assurance.	Pilot study shows month on month increase in number of calls – system redesigned on basis of evidence from pilot. Customer evaluation of Helpline Service for sample months, November 2000- February 2001 undertaken and results reported on to Partnership	November - February, annually, 2004.	Within EYCC Team resources
7.8	Publish Dundee Childcare Information Statement of Service, within Early Years and Childcare Statement of Service.	Childcare Information Service Statement of Service drafted January 2001	Early Years and Childcare Service Statement of Service produced February 2002.	£500 publication costs
7.9	Actively consult with identified key groups via a combination of methodologies.	Consultation ongoing across provision	Comprehensive consultation of all key provider and user groups. Ongoing 2004	£2,000 Software package to support consultation analysis
7.10	Investigate feasibility of co-ordinating single information source for children with special needs.	All information about children 0-5 currently held by Pre School Home Visiting Service. System for gathering information about children aged 5-14 taking up childcare services required	All information about children aged 0-14 using early years and childcare services held centrally by December 2002. Parents able to access all relevant information from the Childcare Information Service	Within EYCC Team resources
7.11	Identify groups of people under-using the Information service. Ensure appropriate action taken.	Liaison with local childcare networks who are beginning to identify service shortfalls and services which are underused	Better uptake of services by minority groups	Within EYCC Team resources
7.12	Promote the use of email as means of enquiry and monitor by use of enquiry logging forms.	E mail widely used to contact local authority providers and increasing number of e mail enquiries form service users	Ongoing from August 2000 - 004	Within EYCC Team resources
7.13	Maximise access to early years and childcare information for the citizens of Dundee.	Electronically linked to DCC's community information system, Pinpoint. 25 Fact Sheets produced. Information packs distributed to professional workers.	Ongoing, 2004	Within EYCC Team resources

APPENDICES

A1.0 REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SERVICE DELIVERY 2000/ 2001

The following section outlines progress made in developing early years, childcare and family support services in 2000- 2001.

A1.1 Nursery Education

Fifty additional local authority nursery places were established in the east of the City in August 2000 to manage increased demand for part time nursery education places, especially from three year olds. These places are as follows:

- 10 part time places at Forthill Nursery
- 20 part time places at Barnhill Nursery
- 20 part time places at Eastern Nursery

A new purpose built nursery was established at Barnhill Primary School in October 2000 to ease pressure on the existing primary school accommodation and to enhance the level of nursery service available.

Dundee has a mixed economy of provision with the majority of places being accessed within local authority nursery schools and classes. There has been an increase in funded places within partnership nurseries in the voluntary and private sectors. This level of commissioned places has met fully the presenting demand for places in these sectors.

A programme of continuous quality improvement is in place to ensure that all pre school providers can work towards a common quality framework. An extensive programme of staff development has been implemented offering a wide range of non accredited and accredited courses. "The Child at the Centre" and the "Curriculum Framework 3-5" have been supported into practice through one to one visits, production of guidance and support materials and delivery of in service programmes.

All Partner Providers except the newest applicant have been HM Inspected.

All nurseries produce a Development Plan. Funding for resources and equipment from the Pre School Development Fund and a high level of central support has progressed the ongoing implementation of these plans.

Local Authority nurseries also now produce annual Standards and Quality Reports and are involved in the School Review process. Partner providers are in the process of producing Standards and Quality Reports and the first published reports will be available in 2002.

A1.2 Extended Childcare Services within Nursery Schools

Many children taking up part time nursery education services in Dundee are cared for outwith their own homes for the remainder of the day. In response to high levels of demand from parents, extended hours services are now available in all nursery schools and in the integrated unit at Ardler Primary School. These services provide support particularly to parents who are in employment and training. A total of 436 places are available in morning, lunchtime and evening services. Extended hours places are charged for at £2 an hour and are provided free of charge to children in need.

In the session 2000/ 2001 a pilot initiative was implemented to charge parents wishing to take up a full time nursery place because of employment or training commitments. This has proved very successful especially for student parents many of whom have been able

to access funding to support take up of these places. Full time places continue to be offered as a priority to children in need and for this group of children there is no charge.

These flexible and affordable services enable parents to balance their work and family commitments and promote increased continuity and consistency across the City.

A1.3 Child and Family Centres

Dundee's 9 child and family centres continue to play a key role in the provision of family support services to children in need aged 0-12 and their families. A range of information, advice, support and therapeutic services are provided to children and families living the local area served by each child and family centre. The provision of such services is responsive to changing individual, family and community need and a range of new individual and groupwork services is being developed on an ongoing basis within each centre.

Dundee's child and family centres have now developed and adopted the PaCT approach (Parents and Children Together). The rationale for developing PaCT as an approach is that child and family centres can promote better outcomes for children and parents by supporting them **together** towards positive change. This approach recognises that whilst parenting can be a rewarding task, it can also be very challenging and some parents are so overwhelmed by the demands upon them, that they find the parenting experience a less than rewarding one. The role of child and family centres is to support those parents who find the task particularly difficult or stressful. The services focus on assisting parents in helping their children to develop and fulfil their potential, and to create a range of opportunities for parents and their children to experience the many rewards of family life together.

Across the centres PaCT as an approach is being developed as the basic foundation upon which to build integrated packages of support to children in need and their families. A number of initiatives have already been developed which provide opportunities for parents and children to learn together and from each other. This includes the use of video interaction guidance as a means of promoting effective communication and interaction between parents and children, and improving family relationships.

Child and family centres continue to provide individual and groupwork services. The PALS (Parents Altogether Lending Support) parenting programme has been further developed to provide support to parents. Feelgood Groups are also being developed to help parents deal with stress and to promote their general well-being.

Ensuring that children's all round needs are met also remains a primary aim and considerable investment has been made during the past year in skills development for staff. Hanen training funded through the Health Improvement Fund has been delivered to staff in two child and family centres and one nursery with a view to developing skills in promoting speech and language of young children. A number of staff also through the Health Improvement Fund have been trained to identify and address feeding difficulties in young children. In addition the Little Gym Time Programme has been developed to develop staff expertise in promoting children's physical activity play.

A further key development has been the creation of 3 Outreach Worker Posts funded through Sure Start Dundee. The workers are attached to Lochee, Ardler and Bruce Street Child and Family Centres to identify unmet need for services for children aged 0-3 and their families in the Charleston, St Marys and Hilltown areas of Dundee. These workers are developing strong links with other local service providers in a joint approach to strengthening existing services and the development of new individual, groupwork and PaCT services for children aged 0-3 and their families living in each local area.

Child and family centres work closely with other professionals and agencies to ensure an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to the provision of services to children and

families within their local communities. The growth of this diverse range of services is a dynamic process with centres responding flexibly to changing individual, family and community needs and working to maximise the benefits they have to offer as an integrated network of specialist resources across Dundee.

A1.4 Development of Integrated Early Years, Childcare and Family Support Services

A key development has been to promote effective joint working by co-locating social work and education services. This has strengthened integrated approaches to service delivery meaning that children and their families can access pre school education, childcare and family support services within a single facility.

In addition new initiatives within these facilities, develop innovative ways to deliver services and extend the range of services available to meet identified needs.

The three new service models are based within Woodlea Children's Centre, Kirkton Nursery School and Ardler Primary School. Each of these facilities provide pre school education, childcare and family support services. In addition a Sure Start Early Intervention Team has been established within each centre to provide enhanced support for target groups of children aged 2-4.

A fourth integrated early years, childcare and family support facility will be operational in May 2001 within Charleston Primary School.

A1.5 Development of Sure Start Dundee

Sure Start Dundee has been developed as an integral aspect of Dundee's early years and childcare strategy. The diagram shown in Appendix A7.0 of this report outlines the key elements of Dundee's Sure Start initiative.

The Sure Start initiative has been highly influential in promoting effective collaboration across agencies and departments. The Sure Start Strategy and Implementation Group has a multi professional membership and has been the forum for ongoing discussions about joint work and collaboration to improve the delivery of services to children under three and their families.

Integrated Early Years, Childcare and Family Support Services

Sure Start funding has been the key resource in establishing integrated models of service delivery. Enhancement of services for children aged 0-3 and their families is evident in Woodlea Children's Centre. This includes family support services for children 0-12 years and up to 20 sessional places for children aged 0-3.

In addition from May 2001, the new Charleston early years, childcare and family support service will provide up to 18 sessional places for children aged 0-3. In addition a range of family support services will be provided for children in need up to the age of 12 and their families.

A 20 place daycare service for children aged 0-3 has also been developed within Happyhillock Child and Family Centre. This provides low cost childcare provision to meet the needs of parents in low income groups who are in employment or training.

A proposal to develop a linked childminding initiative, where parents in low income groups can access subsidised childminding services, is also well advanced. This will increase the flexibility of provision available to parents and will offer an alternative to a group care setting for younger children.

Sure Start Early Intervention Projects

Three early intervention projects have been established to combine expertise within nursery education and child and family centres to strengthen the potential of services to impact positively on the lives of young children and their families. An additional teacher and nursery nurse were deployed to support the initiative in each of the three facilities.

This additional resource has meant that intensive learning and family support can be provided to children and their parents. In April 2001 a total of 53 children are involved in the early intervention initiative.

In August 2001, two health professionals will be appointed to work across early years services to work in conjunction with early years staff to promote the health and wellbeing of children and families within early years settings.

Expansion of the Pre School Home Visiting Service

The Pre School Home Visiting Service (PSHVS) has been expanded to create a team of 3.6 teachers and a clerical officer and is strategically linked to the Early Years and Childcare Team. This service offers a flexible provision for children 0-5 in their own homes. Although the primary focus is children with special educational needs, this is interpreted broadly to include all children identified as vulnerable. Referrals to the service are made from a wide professional group including, health visitors, nursery staff, educational psychologists, GPs, community paediatricians, speech and language therapists and child and family centre staff.

The service provides support to children in transition, moving from home to an early years setting or from one setting to another. The expertise within the service is invaluable to service providers who are able to access advice and guidance to support children in mainstream placements. This means that better support can be given to children with additional educational needs within mainstream nurseries. The PSHVS can be accessed by all early years services in the local authority, private and voluntary sectors.

In April 2001, a total of 112 children and their families were receiving support from the PSHVS. In April 2000, 65 children received a service.

Sure Start Outreach Workers

Three outreach workers were appointed in 2000, using Sure Start funding to develop services for children 0-3 and their families in local areas of Dundee. These areas, Charleston, St Marys and Hilltown were identified in earlier service audits as having a need for additional services, especially for younger children.

In addition to establishing contact with the service providers, local Councillors, health professionals, church groups and voluntary sectors in each of the local areas, the Outreach Workers have also been able to make face to face contact with parents to gather their views about services in the local area.

The Outreach Workers have been able to access the support and resources from existing services in the local areas. Each worker is managed by local Child and Family Centre Managers and are supported by an Outreach Workers Group chaired by the Manager Early Years and Family Support Services within the Social Work Department.

Hilltown Outreach Project

This project working from Bruce St Child and Family Centre has developed two PaCT Groups (Parents and Children Together) in the Kids Cabin at Frances Wright Pre School Centre. These groups are attended by a total of 17 families as at April 2001. These

groups aim to provide an opportunity and safe environment where parents and children can play and socialise with one another in a small group.

Bruce St Child and Family Centre has also established a Baby & Co. Group to support families with babies. In April 2001 this was attended by 6 adults and 6 babies. Health Visitors have also recognised the potential of this group and the group is supported by 4 Health Visitors.

Charleston Outreach Project

The Outreach Worker based at Lochee Child and Family Centre has supported the development of the new early years, childcare and family support unit at Charleston Primary School. This worker will supervise the provision for children aged 0-3 and family support services for children aged 0-12 within the new service.

The project has also established A PaCT Group attended by 17 families, including 21 children. The worker also runs Craft Groups where women with young children can meet together and share concerns and issues.

A heuristic play group attracts an attendance of 4 families with 5 children. The Outreach Worker has also coordinated the development of a questionnaire to gather information from parents about their needs and views to inform future service development in the Charleston area.

St Marys Outreach Project

This project is run by two Outreach Workers on job share. The workers have formed close links with St Kildas Church, located in an area where there is a particular need for improved services.

A new Parent and Toddler Group runs from the Church and currently attracts 20 families with 29 children. A questionnaire has been produced to gather local views and contact has been made with over 50 families with young children. In addition the workers have established contact with a range of professionals working with children and families in the local area.

Childcare services for student parents

There is a high level of demand for daycare services for the children of student parents. The extended hours provision available in nursery schools has meant that parents of pre school children can access appropriate services. However there is a continuing need to develop affordable provision for younger children. Discussions have taken place with Dundee College and the two Universities, Abertay and Dundee to look at how childcare needs of students can be best addressed. Each of these institutions provides some financial support to students towards meeting childcare costs.

Abertay University currently has no campus based childcare provision and has plans to develop a nursery facility for the use of students outwith campus. This will be supported by Sure Start funding in the financial year 2001- 2002.

Support to Voluntary Organisations

Sure Start funding currently supports the Dundee Sitter Service and Homestart Dundee who provide invaluable services to parents and children. In addition all parent and toddler groups across the City received additional funding supported by Sure Start.

A1.6 Out of School Childcare Services

Dundee currently has 14 Out of School Care Clubs which currently provide services to 725 children in a total of 454 places.

A successful New Opportunities Fund Bid has been submitted to support the development of two further clubs in the Lochee area of Dundee. These clubs (2 x 24 places) will service five primary schools and will fill a current gap in provision in the local area. Small building works and recruitment of staff have been undertaken in preparation for the opening of the Clubs in May 2001.

An Out of School Network is established to take forward issues identified by the Clubs and to work on shared solutions. This Network is the key consulting body with Out of School Clubs and is represented at the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership.

All Out of School Clubs levy charges at rates affordable by the majority of parents. This means that budgets are tight. All Clubs have received grant funding from the New Childcare Projects fund amounting to approximately £2500 each in the financial year 2000/2001. These Grants sustain the Clubs through financial shortfalls and enable them to purchase new resources and equipment to support their provision.

A new initiative started in 2000, has improved the access of children and young people with special educational needs to Out of School Clubs in their local areas. This is a partnership between a voluntary sector group called The Inclusion Group and the Early Years and Childcare Team. Coordinators and volunteers have been recruited to provide adequate staffing within Clubs to ensure that the needs of individuals are met.

Another voluntary organisation, Kids Unlimited are running a project for children aged 11-13 who live in a household where someone has a disability, long term illness, mental health problems or HIV/ AIDS/ drugs/ alcohol problems. The project now has 2 groups with a total of 12 children participating. Demand for this is growing and a proposal for additional funding will be considered in the current financial year.

In addition work has been undertaken to develop summer holiday provision for younger children. A New Opportunities Fund bid has been submitted to establish a holiday provision for children on the autistic spectrum aged 3-8 who are during holiday times. This has been prepared in partnership with a newly formed parents group, 'Spectrum'.

Two other holiday playschemes will be piloted in the summer of 2001 in three nurseries at Park Place and Woodlea. A larger consortium bid will be prepared to create holiday provision for children aged 3-5 across the City.

A1.7 Services and Support for Children with Special Educational Needs

Considerable work has been undertaken to extend provision for children with special educational needs. As increasing numbers of three year olds with complex needs take up nursery places. There has been a full scale review of services.

Dundee has one dedicated specialist early years provision offering up to 30 places to three and four-year-old children with moderate and complex special educational needs.

In addition Tayside Health Board provide an assessment centre, Armitstead Child Development Centre which also offers a nursery provision for children with complex medical needs.

There is a commitment to placing pre school children in mainstream settings where that is possible. The expanded Pre School Home Visiting Service supports these placements and offers expert guidance to staff. A group of children with special educational needs

were placed in Woodlea Children's Centre in August 2000 and it is intended to create similar provision in Kirkton in 2001 and in one other location in 2002.

The Pre School Placements Panel is a multi agency panel meeting to discuss and recommend educational placements for three and four year old children with special (educational) needs. The panel has representation from education, educational psychology, pre school home visiting, social work and the various health providers including speech and language therapy, Armitstead Child Development Centre and paediatricians. In April 2001, 75 children are being considered by this panel for placement in August 2001 and 54 children were placed in August 2000.

A new Policy for Children aged 0-5 with Special Education Needs is at draft stage and will be published in autumn 2001.

An initiative to support children with special educational needs to take up places in their local out of school care club has been developed. This coordinates voluntary support to overcome some of the difficulties experienced in accessing mainstream provision.

A1.8 The Dundee Parents' Services Initiative

This initiative is funded from New Excellence Funding for Education and aims to support, empower and strengthen the role of parents in early years services. The work is based on the recognition that parents are their children's first teacher and are important partners in their education and development.

The programme builds on existing family strengths to support parents in the task of nurturing their children. Over the period April 2000/ 2001, The Parents Services Team has developed this work by:

- Strengthening and building on the work of the PALS parenting programme
- Offering individual support to parents
- Developing opportunities and information for parents to support their children's learning
- Working in schools and nurseries to promote parental involvement especially when children are starting primary one
- Networking with other agencies and providers of services to families
- Promoting opportunities for parents to participate in and contribute to life within local communities
- Delivering multi agency staff development programmes

A total of 15 parenting programmes (PALS: Parents Altogether Lending Support) has been delivered to 75 parents. In addition child and family centres have gone on to deliver PALS programmes to 48 parents.

The Parents' Services Initiative has generated considerable interest both locally and nationally and has contributed to newsletters, conferences and seminars.

A1.9 Family Learning Programmes

Family learning programmes have taken place in Mid Craigie/Linlathen, Kirkton, Douglas and Bellfield. These were established as part of the work of the local childcare networks to build on the expertise of staff working in local areas and make use of community based facilities. Each programme places a key emphasis on the central importance of positive communication and interaction between parents and their children and on play.

Those contributing to the programmes included staff from education, social work, neighbourhood resources and development, Tayside Health Board and the voluntary sector. In Kirkton the programme became known as PLAY (Play and Learning Across

the Years). This model has been adapted for use in other areas of the City and staff at Douglas Child and Family Centre ran a programme early in 2001 for 7 parents.

The original programme at Kirkton is due to be repeated in May 2001 .

Staff and parents from Bellfield Nursery collaborated with the Parents Services Team to develop "Magic Maths" bags. These bags are designed to support maths learning in a fun way involving both parents and children.

A1.10 Building Works - Strengthening the Infrastructure of Services

Nursery education has been a feature of life in Dundee for more than a hundred years and therefore many of the City's nursery school services are housed in old buildings. Considerable minor works have been undertaken to upgrade facilities (and toilets), create more open plan spaces and improve access. In addition, most nursery schools now have designated space for parents and for extended hours services.

Three major projects were undertaken in 2000 - 2001. These were the development of an extended pre school education, childcare for children 0-5 and family support service at Charleston Primary School, the refurbishment of Cotton Road, one of Dundee's oldest nursery schools and the development of a new self contained nursery unit at Barnhill Primary School.

Additional works improved the safety of outdoor play areas and provided sinks for hand washing and food preparation areas.

A1.11 Development of Voluntary Sector Involvement

The Voluntary Sector is acknowledged as making a significant contribution to family support and childcare services. The diversity of organisations within Dundee reflects the needs of families within the City. They play an important role in reducing the effects of social exclusion. Considerable work has been done to engage more effectively with the voluntary sector. A seminar was held in November 2000, both to promote the work of the early years and childcare partnership and strengthen representation of the voluntary sector within the partnership.

Additional funding has been provided to support local Playgroups and Parent & Toddler Groups, as well as a number of voluntary organisations providing valuable childcare and family support services: Homestart Dundee, Mains Parish Family Centre, Dundee Women & Children Project, Dundee Sitter Service, Chalmers/ Ardler Children & Family Project.

A 'Scottish Pre-school Play Association' (SPPA) fieldworker was also funded for the period 2000-01 by the Partnership, to support pre-fives groups within the voluntary sector.

In 2000/ 2001, voluntary sector groups were also able to make applications for New Childcare Projects. Currently a range of initiatives within this sector are funded through this including:

- The Inclusion Group who are supporting children and young people with special educational needs to take up places in Out of School Care Clubs
- Grey Lodge Settlement who are providing a range of services including a twins group, a parent and toddler group and summer programmes for 0-6 year olds and for 12- 14 year olds

- Fair Play Training who provide an orientation programme for prospective childcare workers, crèche worker training, short courses for Out of School Care workers and SVQ Level 3 Playwork training and Assessor training
- Frances Wright Parents Group which is a self help group for parents with children aged 3-8 on the autistic continuum
- Kids Limited who provide Out of School provision for children and young people affected by disability

Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12s Project who provide a range of services including a Breakfast Club and a Community Links Group and who also provide administrative support and training to Out of School Clubs.

A1.12 Childminding Services

The development of a city-wide 'Childminders Network', (which meets every four weeks) has strengthened the representation of childminding within the Early Years and Childcare Partnership, supported development of this provision and enhanced partnership working with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA).

A significant number of childminders have demonstrated a commitment to ongoing personal development through undertaking both accredited and non-accredited training, thus raising standards and placing childminding on a more professional basis alongside other childcare workers.

Childminders have also shown a commitment to the development of the service and currently plans are well progressed to establish 'Linked Childminding' from a number of centres throughout the City. This will provide home based care to families on low income or children in need, as an alternative to group settings. Additionally a number of experienced childminders have volunteered to become part of a 'mentoring scheme' which will complement the pre-registration training by providing support to newly registered childminders.

A1.13 Playgroups

One Playgroup is presently a partner provider of pre-school education. The combined efforts of the Early Years & Childcare Team, SPPA Fieldworker and the Local Authority's Inspection & Registration Team are assisting two further groups to become registered, thereby working towards establishing a consistent minimum standard across the whole City.

A seminar was held in June 2000 to provide advice and information to all Playgroups about the process of becoming a partner provider and work is ongoing to support the adoption of a further two playgroups as partner providers of pre-school education. This will further extend parental choice, increase the involvement of parents in their child's early education, and support partnership between the public and voluntary sector.

Much work had gone in to establishing and facilitating a 'Playgroup Network' within the City. Since an inaugural meeting in August 2000, the Network meets every six weeks and is a valuable source of mutual support, advice and ideas with input from the SPPA fieldworker and Early Years and Childcare Team representative.

A1.14 Promoting the health and well being of children and families

Strengthening links with health care providers so as to promote health and well being across all early years and childcare services has been an ongoing commitment. Several key initiatives have been undertaken to deliver this commitment.

A multi agency Child Health Strategy Group has been established within Tayside and the early years and childcare partnership has played an active role in this. In addition two Health Workers will be deployed to early years services as part of a multi professional team. The health workers will deliver a comprehensive package of support to address the all-round care, learning and health needs of children. These posts will be operational in August 2001. This work will support a multi professional approach, working with children and their families in the context of their local neighbourhoods. The model will be fully evaluated to measure the benefits of this professional input and to gauge the potential implications of a wider scale initiative.

The promotion of healthy eating within all early years services is recognised as a key aspect of the physical, emotional, personal and social development of the children. A full scale review of food related issues has been undertaken to look at provision, guidance and advice across all services.

New Snack Guidance has been issued to all providers of pre school services. This outlines ideas for healthy snack management and important guidance on safe food handling. In addition a recipe book produced by Tayside Health Promotion is currently being piloted. Food preparation areas have also been upgraded and equipped in all and Partner provision. In addition training and staff development has supported the implementation of safe, hygienic and nutritious food and snacks across all early years services.

As the result of a successful bid to the Tayside Health Improvement Fund, a small scale research project is currently being undertaken into food provision across a range of early years settings. This will focus particularly on food provision for children in all day services and for children in the first three years of life.

Several initiatives are also underway to promote physical activity and movement. The Youth Sports Development Team has delivered a very successful initiative in SIP1 areas of the City called "Little Gym Time" which promotes movement and exercise for young children. Considerable work has gone into promoting the Little Gym Time strategies and approaches to early years workers. This initiative will be extended in the coming years using childcare funding to augment SIP funding.

An initiative to increase the level of sports activities in Out of School Care Clubs has also been developed. This will provide specialist sports coaching in all Out of School Care Clubs for six week sessions, four times a year, over the next school session.

Work undertaken by the Parents Services Initiative and by child and family centres has also supported the mental health and well being of parents who often report that they find the opportunity to discuss issues within a peer group supportive and helpful.

A1.15 Delivery of a Multi Agency Early Years and Childcare Training and Development Strategy

Since its launch in September 2000, the Dundee Early Years & Childcare Training Strategy has been a tremendous success. The Strategy was developed by the Early Years and Childcare Team in partnership with key childcare training providers in Dundee such as Dundee College and Fair Play Training. Courses have also been delivered by the Early Years and Childcare Team. In addition the Team have delivered a range of courses to nursery staff as part of the Calendar of In Service Training and Staff Development published by the Educational Development Service.

The Strategy was developed to meet the aims of the Scottish Executive document 'The Childcare Challenge':

- *Increasing the skill level within the existing workforce*
- *Expanding the childcare workforce*

To date 64 courses have been made available, generating a total of 836 applications from across the sectors. Staff in private nurseries account for the greatest number of places ultimately 'booked' (52%), followed by childminders (28%), Out of School Care Club workers (11%), and other voluntary organisations including Playgroups (9%).

12 courses have been accredited, enabling workers to gain recognised qualifications ranging from *independent Higher National Units* to group awards such as *HNC Childcare & Education*, or the *Professional Development Award*.

For the first time, childminders have been able to access training which has placed them on a equal footing with the qualifications of their counterparts in private and local authority nurseries. In April 2001, 13 are on target to complete the *SVQ Level 3 - Early Years Care and Education*, in June 2001.

A broad range of non-accredited courses (52) have been eagerly taken up. Mainly workshop based these have included topics such as *'The Importance of Play'*, *'Working with Parents'*, *'Healthy Eating'*, *'Planning for Children with Special Needs'* and many more.

People considering careers in childcare have been able to explore the options available to them through the *'Making Choices'* course, and those new to out of school care have participated in induction training to equip them with the right skills and knowledge to work in this setting.

The ongoing evaluation of courses, ongoing consultation and questionnaires have ensured that the Strategy is responsive to the needs of the early years & childcare workforce quality training.

A1.16 Establishment of the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership

The Partnership was established in January 1999. This brings together the public, voluntary and private providers of early years, childcare, health and family services in Dundee and also parents, employers, planners and others.

The Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership has been the key consulting body in the preparation of this plan. Partnership members have made presentations to disseminate information about initiatives, good practice and services. In addition The Partnership has provided an opportunity for participants to consider and discuss a range of issues related to local and national policy including:

- The New Opportunities Fund bids process
- Development of pre school services
- Training and qualifications for early years and childcare workers
- Planning and implementation of the early years and childcare strategy
- Discussion of national and local policy and guidelines
- Publication of revised Curriculum Framework 3-5
- Implications of the Working Families Tax Credit
- Proposals for Expanding Services for Children aged 0-3 and their Families, 'Sure Start Scotland'
- Establishment of the Early Years and Childcare Team
- The Dundee Childcare Information Service and the National Childcare Information Service
- The commissioning arrangements for pre school education places
- The Early Years Best Practice Initiative
- Publicity and consultation

A1.17 Local Childcare Networks

Seven local childcare networks have been established in the local areas of, Mid Craigie/Linlathen, Kirkton, Hilltown, Charleston, Fintry/ Mill O Mains, Broughty Ferry and Ardler/St Marys.

The Local Networks take forward collaborative approaches to reflect and acknowledge the individual local contexts and support:

- Networking across all those with an interest in early years, childcare and family support
- Agreement of shared priority agendas and joint action planning
- Identification of service shortfalls, needs and demands
- Involvement of and consultation with service users; parents, children, local employers
- Identification of training and development needs
- Direct links to city wide planning and policy direction through the Early Years and Childcare Partnership

A1.18 Establishment of the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team

An Early Years and Childcare Officer was appointed, on a three year Secondment from October 1999 to manage and co-ordinate the strategic and operational delivery of the early years and childcare strategy and to establish and lead a new Early Years and Childcare Team.

The full team was established in January 2000 and includes the following posts:

- Pre School Quality Co-ordinator
- Family Support Co-ordinator
- Childcare Information Co-ordinator
- Out of School Services Co-ordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Senior Clerical Assistant
- 2 Clerical Assistant

The Parents' Services Initiative is an integral part of the Early Years and Childcare Team and is staffed by a Co-ordinator and 2 Development Workers.

The Pre School Home Visiting Service is also attached to the Team and is staffed by a Co-ordinator and 2.6 Pre School Home Visiting Teachers.

A2.0 THE DUNDEE CHILDCARE INFORMATION SERVICE

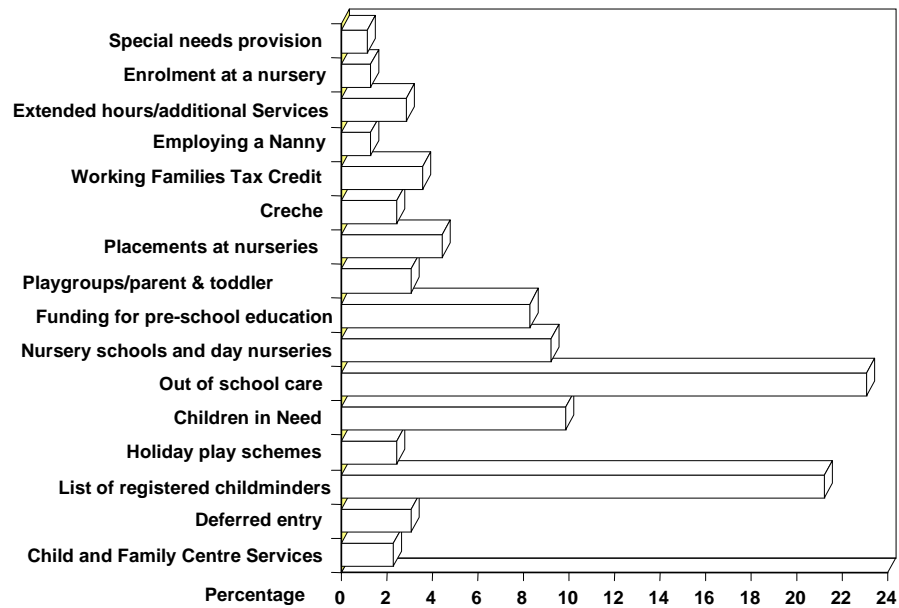
The Dundee Childcare Information Service is central to the work of the Early Years and Childcare Partnership and has significantly improved access to quality information for parents, carers and those involved in providing early years services across the city.

The ultimate objective of the Service is to provide a 'one-stop-shop' for information about early years and childcare services in the city, primarily to parents and carers. There are three strands to information delivery - paper based, telephone help, and electronic.

From January 2000, the Early Years and Childcare Team has been actively involved in:

- Developing a range of 26 Fact Sheets for parents and carers, covering topics such as 'Registered Childminders in Dundee', 'How to Choose a Nanny', and 'Nurseries in Dundee', the latter including both private partner providers and local authority nurseries. Fact Sheets are reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and, as new categories of information emerge, new Sheets are developed.
- Setting up a Freepost address, July 2000, for use by Dundee people. This is simply, 'Freepost Early Years and Childcare Team', enabling written enquiry or comment, as well as return of information surveys, at no cost.
- Establishing and operating the telephone Helpline, 433900, which is staffed from 8.30 a.m. to 5p.m, Monday to Fridays, with an answering machine to record enquiries outwith these hours. The Helpline was first publicised in March 2000 and continues to be well used. Enquiries are logged, entered into a custom-built database and analysed. Results show that, for the year 2000, 68% of enquiries came from parents and carers, 23% from professional workers and 8% from service providers. The majority of callers, 92%, were female, and 96% lived within Dundee city boundaries. Across all enquiries, information about out of school care was the most frequently requested at 23%, followed by information about registered childminders, 21%, children in need, 10% and nurseries, (partner providers and local authority nurseries), at 9%. (See diagram overleaf)
- Augmenting both the quantity and quality of electronic information held in Dundee's local Childcare Information database which has an active link to the national www.childcarelink.gov web site. New data collection forms, designed for specific types of provision, were issued first in June 2000. An information management system is in place which ensures regular updating. Since March 2000, the childcare web site has been linked to Dundee City Council's City Wide Information Network, PinPoint. In March 2001 new web pages were produced for the Council's own web site. These give information about the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership, key contact details for the Team and some frequently asked questions to assist parents.
- Networking - both actual and virtual. Dundee Childcare Information Service has established links with other Information Services both at local and national (UK) level.

Information Requested by Telephone Helpline Customers, Pilot Study, 2000



Marketing the Service

A multi-faceted approach has been utilised in promoting the Childcare Information Service. Examples of promotional channels used are:

- posters in the Odeon Cinema (summer 2000)
- advertising panels on all Travel Dundee buses, (November 2000)
- electronic advertising on Dundee's City Wide Information Network
- bookmarks and carrier bags distributed via Dundee's Neighbourhood libraries
- promotional campaigns through local press, radio and newsletters (Spring 2000, 2001)
- including a new publication - Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Newsletter
- articles in national bulletins
- advertising in Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department's 2001 Year Planner', free to every household in the city.

Key Events

An Information Seminar, focusing on the work and future plans of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Partnership, was held in November 2000. Targeting over 50 professional workers from differing sectors across the city, the event opened up new networking opportunities for the Team and highlighted the need for continued communication and integrated working between all those involved in the sphere of early education, childcare and family support.

In April 2001 a 'Family Fun Day', organised by the Partnership, was held at a city centre venue. A wide range of stalls, offering free information from over 35 organisations in the city, represented involvement from the voluntary and private sectors in addition to key local authority departments. A programme of entertainment was provided for the children who enjoyed balloon modelling, puppet shows, demonstrations of circus skills and story telling sessions. Approximately 2000 parents, children and service providers attended this event.

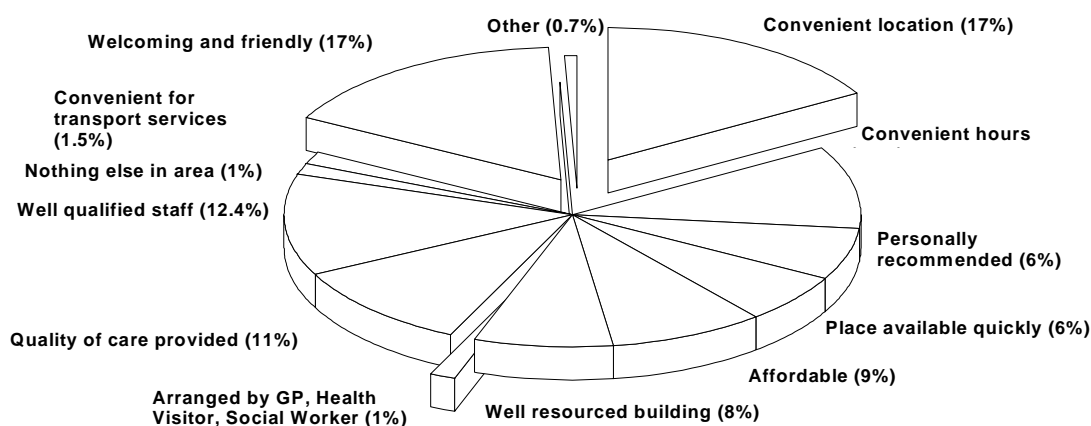
A3.0 CONSULTATION WITH EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SERVICE USERS IN DUNDEE 2000-2001

The establishment of the Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership, the Childcare Information Service and the 7 local Childcare Networks have done much to promote wide involvement in the early years and childcare strategy.

In March 2001 the Early Years and Childcare Team undertook a pilot survey to identify the range of services used and to identify a need for either new or added value services. Service providers within the seven local childcare networks distributed the survey to parents and carers.

Respondents represented a total of 525 children using early years, childcare and family support throughout Dundee. 67% of these respondents had children in the 0-5 years age group, 32% were in the 6-14 years group and 1% also had children aged 15 and over.

36% of respondents had children who attended a local authority nursery school or class, 19% had their children looked after by family or friends, 13% used playgroups or parent and toddler groups. However these categories were often only part of the package of services or facilities used - for example, 26% of children attending a nursery school or class were looked after by family or friends for the rest of the day. 11% of respondents used Child & Family Centre services and 22% of these children were also looked after by family and friends. 7% of respondents used Out of School Care Clubs and a further 7% used Private Nurseries. 4% of the sample used Childminders and under 1% took up crèche facilities.



Pilot User Survey: How Respondents Chose Early Years and Childcare Services

Respondents selected the most important factors relevant in choosing a service

The following factors were most commonly selected in order of priority:

'Welcoming and Friendly' and 'Convenient Location'	17%
'Well Qualified Staff'	12%
'Quality of Care Provided'	11%
'Convenient Hours'	10%
'Affordability'	9%
'Personal recommendation' and 'Place available'	6%
'Convenient to Transport Services'	2%

Those who had services recommended by their GP, Health Visitor or Social Worker comprised just over 1% of respondents.

When parents and carers were asked how they would like to see services improved for themselves and their families 25% stated that there was 'No need to improve' as they were satisfied with the services they currently receive. Of those who would like to see improvements, 'Longer Hours' was most frequently cited, at 19%, followed by, 'More for 3-5 years olds' (12%), 'More for Older Children', (11%), 'More Sessions per week', and 'More for 0-2 years' were both rated at 9%. 'Greater affordability' was an issue for 6% of respondents, 'Creche facilities' for 4%, 'Closer to home', for 3%.

Other suggestions included opening nursery schools for an extra month in the summer, holiday playschemes and, generally, longer hours of service provision. Reasons given were, in order of precedence, parents looking for work, developing the social skills of children, keeping the children busy and parents of children with special needs, for example, autism, pointing out that needs were all year round.

Additional services requested by parents and carers were, full time nursery places (32%), Out of school care, (27%) and extended hours at nursery schools and classes, (24%). Of those who responded to this question, over 62% were either working or in training. Other additional services requested were creche facilities, (9%), childminders at 4%, and more services at child and family centres at 2%.

Local Consultation Groups

Nine Consultation Groups were held between January and March 2001 to consult local people about the early years and childcare services they receive. This information augmented the data gathered from the user survey, (previously described).

The consultation groups were held at voluntary and local authority centres across the city. Groups mainly comprised of parents and carers and a total of more than 80 local people volunteered to participate.

Participants currently use a range of services provided by the local authority, private and voluntary sector organisations. Often friends and family, primarily grandparents, care for children especially when parents are working unsociable hours.

When discussing services currently used, priorities mentioned were 'welcoming and friendly' and 'good for children to learn to socialise', The opportunities for parents meeting others through playgroups and parent and toddler groups were highly valued. The most significant perceived benefits were, the reduction of social isolation and the chance to discuss problems and resolve difficulties. Advice from staff, (whether working on a paid or voluntary basis), was considered important, as was improvement of the social skills of children. Affordable fees and low cost coffee and snacks were also mentioned.

Overall, the parents who took part were satisfied with the level of early years, childcare and family support they received, particularly pre school nursery provision for three and four year olds. However those working or in training found difficulties with childcare outwith extended hours nursery provision and some wished to see an increase in the level of full time nursery places. One example given was of hospital staff, working shifts, having great difficulty in accessing care services over night or in the very early, morning and late evening. In most instances family and friends were relied on for care outwith scheduled hours.

Concern about the lack of registered childminders in some areas was also expressed. Given the high numbers of students in Dundee it was felt that not enough help with childcare was available to them and that the criteria for financial assistance were too limiting. Other gaps in provision, often expressed, can be summed up by the following comments: 'Not enough happens in the afternoons', 'All the Out of School Clubs are full' and 'There are not enough playgroups'.

Overall in this sample, services for the 0-3 age group emerged as the highest priority. One problem identified in relation to this was that groups and activities specifically targeted at this age group of children often run at the same time - thus preventing children from attending both.

In all areas across the city comments were made about the lack of holiday playschemes, or other appropriate activity groups for young children. There was also criticism about the relatively high cost of some existing provision, especially for families with more than one child. Concerns were raised, across the city, about the lack of safe out door play areas.

In general, there was a high level of awareness of services and facilities available in local areas. Interestingly, word of mouth was the key means of communication. Many parents mentioned use of local sports facilities, libraries and organisations for children and young people, (such as the 'Brownies' and 'Anchor Boys') as beneficial in keeping them occupied during holiday periods.

Suggestions were made that local providers needed to advertise their services more effectively and that primary and nursery schools could contribute more in the sphere of out of school and holiday programmes. In addition it was felt that employers should be more aware of family issues and that ethnic minority groups were not well enough informed of services available.

Additional Consultation

The ongoing development of the Childcare Information Service has also increased the range and level of consultation with service users and providers. Some further examples of recent consultation work are summarised below.

- Telephone Helpline customers were asked to evaluate the service they received, over a four-month pilot period. Results were very positive. This exercise will be repeated in 2001, revised on the basis of the findings of the pilot study.
- Audit of information requirements of workers in the sphere of early years, childcare and family support in Dundee. This was conducted via an Information Seminar held in November 2000 and aimed to identify any gaps in information provision.
- Audit of parents' services available across the city, October 2000.
- Consultation with those parents and carers using SIPs funded services in the Hilltown area of the City, August 2000, to ascertain their levels of satisfaction with provision. This was an intrinsic part of the Hilltown Childcare Initiative Evaluation.

A4.0 RESOURCING THE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PLAN

Several funding strands are combined as an integrated resource to support early years, childcare and family support developments in Dundee. This Plan outlines the expansion of service facilitated by funding available in 2000- 2001 and also shows how funding will be committed in 2001- 2002. Plans for continued expansion between 2002 and 2004 are indicative (with the exception of Sure Start funded projects) and will be dependant on continued funding being available.

Funding Strand	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003-2004
Childcare Infrastructure	£143,000	£197,710		
Childcare New Projects	£172,000	£169,300		
Childcare Workforce Development	£ 56,810	£ 45,670		
Pre School Development Fund	£319,516	£124,855		
Excellence Fund (Parents Services Initiative)	£137,800	£137,800		
Sure Start Dundee	£508,000	£653,000		

Summary of Expenditure 2000/ 2001-05-10

Childcare Infrastructure **£143,000**

Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team
 Publications, advertising and information, including the Childcare Information Service
 Family Fun Day
 Support for Early Years and Childcare Partnership

Childcare New Projects **£172,000**

£75,000 has been used to support Out of School Care Clubs across the City through provision of Grant, central support and training initiatives.

The remaining £100,000 was made available for agencies through a bidding process for new projects. These supported projects are:

- Grey Lodge Settlement
- Scottish Childminding Association
- Scottish Pre School Play Association
- Charleston Summer Play
- Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12s Project
- The Inclusion Group (supporting children with special educational needs in Out of School Care Clubs)
- Fair Play Training Dundee

Childcare Workforce Development Funding

£ 56,810

A Dundee Early Years and Childcare Training Strategy was delivered to promote quality improvement across all early years and childcare settings. A total of 64 courses were delivered with approximately 490 people participating. In addition 46 workers have received funding in order to undertake accredited training including the SVQ Playwork, HNC Childcare and Education and the Professional Development Award for Nursery Nurses.

Pre School Development Fund

£319,516

All providers of pre school services have received grant funding to support quality improvement, including nursery schools and classes, child and family centres, private nurseries and playgroups.

Major building works have been undertaken to extend provision at:

- Barnhill
- Charleston
- Cotton Road
- Beechwood/ Foggyley (now named Woodlea)

In addition small works have been undertaken to improve safety and provision of food and snacks, carry out repairs and maintenance and improve outdoor play areas.

Additional staffing has been provided to support increased nursery places at:

- Barnhill
- Eastern
- Forthill

and to enhance support for three year olds and children with special educational needs at:

- Menzieshill
- Longhaugh
- Woodlea

Excellence Fund

£137,800

This funds the Parents Services Initiative to promote the role and involvement of parents in early years services. Key elements of this initiative are:

- delivery of the PALS (Parents Altogether Lending Support) parenting programme across the city
- the promotion of effective links between home and early years settings
- development of family learning programmes
- promotion of multi agency collaboration to promote integrated services
- training and staff development
- production of materials and information

Sure Start Dundee

£508,000

This funds a range of initiatives to support children aged 0-3 and their families. Initiatives include:

- Development of integrated early years, childcare and family support facility at Beechwood/ Foggyley (now named Woodlea Children's Centre)
- New Early Intervention Teams at Woodlea, Ardler and Kirkton to provide enhanced support for targeted children aged 2-4
- Deployment of three Outreach Workers in Charleston, St Marys and Hilltown
- Funding to support Dundee Homestart and Dundee Sitter Service
- Establishment of childcare provision for 0-3 year olds at Happyhillock Child and Family Centre
- Expansion of Pre School Home Visiting Service to extend support to young children with special educational needs and their families
- Resources and equipment
- Support for Parent and Toddler Groups in Dundee
- Establishment of a new 0-3s provision at Charleston Primary School
- Family learning programmes

A5.0 MONITORING THE DUNDEE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PLAN

Ensuring that the Plan is implemented and monitoring the impact of the Plan are important aspects of ensuring that services really do improve and that they become more accessible and affordable.

There has been a significant increase in the levels of consultation and ongoing evaluation of strategies and policies.

A bi-annual plan review (March and October) will be undertaken by the Early Years and Childcare Team. The first review of progress was undertaken in October 2000 and information from this is included in this Plan.

The following section contains the outline planning targets for the key service areas for the years 2000- 2004.

The targets within this Plan will also be monitored to ensure that they reflect the Government's stated intention to build a comprehensive network of early years and childcare services which are:

- **high quality**
- **affordable**
- **accessible**

A6.0: Statistical Data on Stock of Places and Providers

1. Stock of Pre-School Education Places

Pre-school education places available in centres registered by SEED for pre-school education, broken down by provider type, i.e. 'the maximum number of children that the centre can accommodate at any one time', focusing on capacity and changes in capacity.

	April 2000	April 2001
	Total Number of Places	Total Number of Places
Local authority nursery schools and classes	1,470	1,520
Other local authority centres (eg family/community nursery/centre, local authority managed playgroup)	30	30
Voluntary sector playgroups	24	24
Private day nurseries	633	659
Nurseries at independent schools	0	0
Childminders	0	0

2. Stock of Childcare Places

Places providing care for children aged 0-14, that is, the maximum number of places available, excluding those in Table 1.

	April 2000	April 2001
	Total number of places	Total Number of places
Local Authority managed centres providing daycare for 0-5s	432	492
Voluntary sector playgroups	268	268
Private day nurseries	162	196
Out of School Clubs - places before school	84	84
- places after school, including evening - after 6pm	543	573
- at weekends	0	0
- OOS Holiday play schemes	393	393
Childminders	726	709
Holiday Playschemes, <i>not</i> OOS	126	126
Other = Leisure & Parks Holiday Playschemes	160	160

3. Stock of Suppliers

The number of providers in Dundee city, as at April 2000 and April 2001

Type of Provision	April 2000	April 2001
	Total number of suppliers	Total number of suppliers
LA nursery schools/classes	34	34
Nursery Centres	0	0
Community Nursery	1	1
Private sector day nurseries and 'schools' voluntary sector day nurseries	19	21
Nurseries attached to independent schools	0	0
Family Centres	9	9
Playgroups	11	11
OOSC Club	14	14
Holiday Playscheme	10	10
Childminders	173	167
Other	1	1

4. Stock and training of childcare staff

The total number of qualified and unqualified staff employed in childcare centres, (all categories), whether part time or full time.

	April 2000	April 2001
	Total number of staff	Total number of staff
Qualified	447	460
Unqualified	126	150

A7.0 FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2001/2002

	SURESTART	INFRASTRUCTURE	CHILDCARE NEW PROJECTS	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	PRE SCHOOL DEVEL 124,855.00 & TOPSLICE £100,000	EXCELLENCE FUND 137,800.00
Integrated Service at						
Woodlea	100,000.00					
Charleston	40,000.00					25,000.00
Happyhillock	40,000.00					
Early Intervention Projects	150,000.00					
Pre School Home Visiting	56,000.00					
Parent and Toddler Groups	7,000.00					
Subsidised Childcare	5,000.00					
SEN Provision (0-3)	10,000.00					
Outreach Services	75,000.00		20,000.00			
Health Workers	50,000.00					
Linked Childminding	5,000.00					
Voluntary Sector: Homestart/Sitter Service/Mid						
Craigie Linlathen Under 12's	100,000.00					
Grants Playgroups			20,000.00			
Sports Development Initiative (0-5)	15,000.00					
Pre School Grants					75,000.00	
Refurbishments					20,000.00	
Playgroup Fieldworker					19,000.00	
Additional Staffing					30,000.00	
SEN Provision (Pre School)					60,000.00	
Summer Playschemes					10,000.00	
Out of School Grants			25,000.00			
Support for OSC Network		4,000.00				
Sports Development OSC			12,000.00			
Autistic Summer Playscheme			10,000.00			
Kids Unlimited/Inclusion Grp			39,000.00			
Support for NOF Funded Initiatives		10,000.00				
SEN provision (OSC)			10,000.00			
Development of PSI (including salaries)						100,000.00
Multi Agency Training Strategy			435.00	45,670.00		
Childcare Information Service		15,000.00				
Early Years and Childcare Salaries		168,000.00				
TOTALS	653,000.00	197,000.00	136,435.00	45,670.00	214,000.00	125,000.00

Appendix A8.0

SURE START DUNDEE: SUMMARY OF STRATEGY

