

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 17 May 2004

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF CHILDCARE FUNDING SUPPORT TO DUNDEE SITTER SERVICE AND FAIR PLAY TRAINING

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 360-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to award grants to continue childcare provision provided by Dundee Sitter Service and to pilot a 6 month training package for Out of School Care staff by Fair Play Training.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the contents of this report and approve the award of grants to the Dundee Sitter Service and Fair Play Training as outlined in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be £47080 in the financial year 2004 / 2005. Funding will come from childcare development funding made available to Local Authorities by the Scottish Executive.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals will enrich and enhance the learning and development of young children in Dundee and will enable them and their families to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will contribute towards ensuring that children and their families are effectively supported through childhood, enabling them to make best advantage of future opportunities. The proposals will also further support partnership and collaboration with the voluntary sector in Dundee.

6.0 BACKGROUND

The government is committed to the continued development of high quality childcare services to support parents in employment or training and to provide children with quality care and learning opportunities. An additional emphasis is on establishing partnership approaches across the public, voluntary and private sectors to the provision of services. The Dundee Early Years and Childcare Partnership has benefited greatly from the collaboration of voluntary sector providers who support the provision of a range of service to provide for the diverse needs of families within the city.

6.1 The grants proposed in this report will support the continued provision of a much needed childcare service which offers flexible childcare to working parents and improve the quality of provision within the out of school care sector.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 Provision of Support to Dundee Sitter Service

The Dundee Sitter Service is a voluntary service operating across the City since 1999. This service has played an important part in developing services to meet the needs of families in the city and has been recognised as a potential model for other parts of Scotland. It provides a unique service to parents who require home-based childcare at times of the day when no other services are available as the service is available from 7am to 10.30pm every day of the week. The care offered is flexible and affordable and without this service parents would not be able to continue to work or train. Sitters' duties vary according to individual families' needs and may include taking children to and from school, taking them for walks, to libraries, and feeding, changing and putting children to bed. Demand is high at peak times and the project currently has 15 families on its waiting list. The service charges per family and a sitter may look after up to four children depending on their ages. The funding requested, £46,000, will enable up to 35 families to use the service.

7.2 Provision of Grant Funding to training to Out of School Care Staff

There are currently 20 Out of School Care clubs in Dundee offering care to more than 1000 children throughout the year. Staff employed to work in out of school care clubs may have a diverse range of qualifications, backgrounds and experience but all staff will be expected to meet the new Scottish Social Service Council qualifications criteria for Early Education and Childcare Workers by 2006. In February 2004 the Early Years and Childcare Team launched the Dundee Out of School Care Quality Framework. This framework is clearly linked to the Care Commission Standards and is aimed at both club staff and management committees. To strengthen the implementation and increase the potential of the Quality Framework Document it is proposed that a 6 month pilot training course be delivered to club staff by Fair Play Training. The total cost of this training is £1080.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

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.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
10 May 2004

APPENDIX 1**Dundee Sitter Service****Staff Costs**

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Salaries (incl. NI & Pension) | |
| Manager (point 36) | 11,740 |
| Administrator (point 17) | 6,256 |
| Sitters | 41,930 |
| Cleaner | 250.00 |
| Travel/Subsistence | 900.00 |
| On Call | 200.00 |

Property

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Heat & Light | 250.00 |
| Cleaning | 250.00 |
| Cleaning Materials | 50.00 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | 50.00 |

Administration

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Stationery | 550.00 |
| Printing/photocopying | 125.00 |
| Telephones | 700.00 |
| Postage | 250.00 |
| Advertising/publicity | 50.00 |
| Staff Recruitment | 400.00 |
| Insurance | 225.00 |
| Registration Fee | 715.00 |
| Staff Equipment | 100.00 |
| Capital Equipment | 300.00 |
| Activity Materials | 100.00 |
| Management Fee | 4900.00 |
| Bank Charges | 15.00 |
| Mobile Phones | 250.00 |
| Development Activities | 50.00 |

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|-------------------|--------|
| Total Expenditure | 70,606 |
|-------------------|--------|

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|------------------------------|--------|
| Less Committed Parents' Fees | 24,606 |
|------------------------------|--------|

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Childcare Partnership Funding | <u>£46,000</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Fair Play Training

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|------------------------------|--------|
| 8 x 2hr sessions @ £25/hr | 400.00 |
| Preparation Time 16hrs @ £25 | 400.00 |
| Resources / Administration | 280.00 |

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|--------------|------------------------|
| Total | <u>£1080.00</u> |
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