

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 2007

REPORT ON: PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION 2007/08 - FUNDING UPLIFT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 440-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks to inform the Committee of a funding uplift for pre-school education for 2007/08 from the Scottish Executive and to seek approval of an increase in the rate paid to partner providers for commissioned pre-school education places.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is requested to:

- i) note that the Scottish Executive has agreed to increase the core local government finance settlement to reflect its expectations in terms of an increase in the level of entitlement to free pre-school education; and
- ii) approve an increase in the rate paid to partner providers for commissioned pre-school education places from £1,250 to £1,550 from August 2008 as set out in the advisory floor indicated by the Scottish Executive.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The increase in the rate paid to partner providers will result in additional expenditure of £135,655 in financial year 2007/2008 and £188,853 in financial year 2008/2009 and is fully funded by the increase in the grant settlement.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no sustainability policy issues.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The increased funding will assist equality of access to pre-school education.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive have agreed an increase to the core local government finance settlement to reflect its expectations regarding an increase in the level of entitlement to free pre-school education.
- 6.2 The Scottish Executive indicated an increase in the advisory floor for commissioned pre-school education places from £1,250 in session 2006/2007 to £1,550 in session 2007/2008.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services).

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

9 August 2007

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