

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 21 AUGUST 2006

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUT OF SCHOOL CARE CLUBS AND THE INCLUSION GROUP

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 472-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to Out of School Care clubs, Dundee Out of School Care Network and the Inclusion Group for the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the contents of this report and approve the award of funding as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £40,941 in the current financial year and £19,509 in the year 2007/2008. This will be met from funding made available to the Local Authority for Childcare Strategy. A summary of the proposed expenditure is attached at Appendix 1.

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

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

6.2 There are currently 19 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee with 2 more new clubs planned for the session 2006/2007.

6.3 Dundee Out of School Care Network provides a forum which offers support, advice and networking opportunities for all out of school care clubs in Dundee.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 The Inclusion Group

7.1.1 The Inclusion Group is a Dundee based registered charity established since 1994. The vision underpinning the Inclusion Group's work is "to ensure that all children no matter what their ability could and should play and learn together". Since the start of the Project in January 2001, the Inclusion Group has worked closely with the Out of School Care Network to develop links with individual clubs in which children are to be placed. A great deal of ground work has been done to break down barriers and to change attitudes about working with children with additional support needs. Over the past year, 17 children with additional support needs have accessed Out of School Care provision in 15 clubs in Dundee. There are currently 11 children waiting to be placed.

7.1.2 The group will also facilitate onsite training for club staff over specific issues. This will include observation periods, meeting with staff teams, children and families to raise the awareness of issues faced by children with additional support needs.

7.1.3 The Inclusion Group is supported by the Early Years and Childcare Team as a key voluntary sector partner and a Service Level Agreement, outlining the terms and conditions of funding, is in place. The Team works closely with each of its voluntary sector partners to ensure that outcomes for children and families are clearly agreed and evaluated.

7.1.4 It is proposed to provide additional funding of £19,941 in 2006-7 and £19,509 for 2007-8 to allow the group to support the 11 new referrals in addition to the 25 children already supported. This funding will also support the purchase of changing plinths in 2 Clubs for the use of children in wheelchairs using out of school care provision.

7.2 Support for Out of School Care Clubs

7.2.1 There are currently 19 Out of School Care Clubs in Dundee and 2 more coming on stream before the end of 2006. All clubs are members of Dundee Out of School Care Network which is a fully constituted and well established group.

7.2.2 This proposal seeks approval to award grants of £1,000 to each Out of School Club in the City. This will provide much needed financial support to clubs who are struggling on very tight budgets and will enable them to purchase additional resources for use by children or training for staff.

7.2.3 The Out of School Coordinator provides ongoing support to all Clubs across the City. Each club will provide the Out of School Care Coordinator with a list of their requirements which will then be monitored and supported by receipts.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
Date: August 2006

AW/CAR

Appendix One

The Inclusion Group

Costs	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008
Facilitators (25hrs)	£13,374	£13,775
Management Fees (5% salaries)	£1,444	£1,487
Travel	£300	£309
Manager (5hrs per week)	£3,823	£3,938
2 Changing Plinths - part funded	£1,000	
Total	£19,941	£19,509

The Inclusion Group

2006 - 2007	£19,941
2007 - 2008	£19,509

Support for Out of School Care Support

2006 - 2007	
Grants to 21 Out of School Care Clubs @ £1000 each	£21,000
Total Cost 2006- 2007	£40941
Total Cost 2007-2008	£19509