

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE- 16 JANUARY 2006

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PLAYGROUPS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 50- 2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to provide Childcare Strategy Funding to local Playgroups

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and approve the proposals contained within this report and:

2.1 approve the award of funding to Playgroups as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £1,200. This will be met from Scottish Executive funding made available to the Local Authority for Childcare Strategy.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This proposal will result in increased access to opportunities and the development of skills and knowledge needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This proposal will enhance choice and diversity in early years provision and will contribute to improve links with parents and strengthen partnerships across sectors.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Playgroups offer children opportunities for play following the 3-5 Curriculum Framework. Parents take turns on duty enabling them to spend time with their children and to contribute voluntarily to their community. Children's social and emotional development is promoted and many children meet their nursery and primary school peers for the first time. Over recent years there has been a decline in playgroups largely due to increased numbers of working mothers who require childcare services for larger parts of the day. However the existing groups continue to provide a vital community resource to parents and children within their local area.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 The groups described above are dependent on the support and involvement of parents and in order to make the services widely affordable are often run on very tight budgets.

These groups make a significant contribution to the delivery of Dundee's Early Years and Childcare Strategy and provide choice and diversity of service provision within the City. These proposals have been developed in partnership with members of Dundee Early Years and Childcare Team, playgroup committee members and parents using the groups

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

29 December 2005

AW/CR

Appendix One - Playgroup Funding

Name of Group	Funding Amount Requested	Funding Amount Allocated	Summary of Items
Little Lodgers Playgroup	£303.04	£300.00	Games, threading beads, magnets, home play resources, playmobil
Ferry Playgroup	£458.19	£300.00	Play panels
Fintry Community Playgroup	£302.28	£300.00	£100 ongoing revenue, arts and crafts resources, farmyard
Barnhill St Margaret's	£300.00	£300.00	Trikes, magnetic blocks, popoids, books £100 ongoing revenue
Totals	£1,363.51	£1,200.00	