

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - JUNE 18th 2001

REPORT ON: Development of Little Gym Time Programmes across Early Years Services for Children aged 0-5 in Dundee

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 408- 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.2 This report seeks approval to extend the Leisure and Parks Department, Little Gym Time physical activity programme across local areas in Dundee (with priority on S IP 2 areas) and to further develop the programme to focus on provision for the 0 to 3 age range.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee notes and approves the contents of this Report and approves the award of £64,000 over a three year period.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal will be met from Sure Start funding made available to Local Authorities by the Scottish Executive to enhance the levels of services for children aged 0-3 and their families. A breakdown of the funding per year is as follows:-

August 2001 to March 2002	£15,000
April 2002 to March 2003	£24,000
April 2003 to March 2004	£25,000

A detailed financial outline is appended to this Report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The grant will improve access to 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 provision across the City, improving equality of access and further strengthening Partnership across Departments and sectors.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive has provided Sure Start funding to individual authorities to support the provision of services for children aged 0-3 and their families. The Youth Sports Development Project, managed within the Leisure and Parks Department has established Little Gym Time Programmes within early years settings in SIP 1 areas. These programmes are currently funded by Social Inclusion Partnership funding. The programmes provide an opportunity to promote young children's physical activity, an area recognised as important in terms of promoting health and well being. In addition the work focuses on developing the skills base of early years staff so that they can then take forward the initiative as part of everyday practice.
- 6.2 This work has been acknowledged both locally and nationally with staff from the Leisure and Parks Department, Youth Sports Development Project and early years facilities contributing to conferences and seminars about the successful impact of their work.
- 6.3 The programme takes a multi agency approach, linking and creating partnerships to maximise resources and expertise. It seeks to empower individuals and community groups to enable sustainability and make a real difference. A significant success has been the improved collaboration between the Youth Sports Development Project, the Early Years and Childcare Team and early years service providers across the City.
- 6.4 While the project covers the 0 to 5 age range most of the work in Dundee to date has been developed for use with the 3 to 5 age range and has been limited to groups in SIP 1 areas.
- 6.5 Requests for input from groups outwith SIP 1 areas and from parents and staff wishing further support for children in the younger age range of 0 to 3 years have been received.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 This proposal will extend the project across the City with priority given to SIP 2 areas of Dundee thereby increasing access to the project and the benefits this brings for a greater number of children, parents and staff from a wide range of early years services.
- 7.2 The proposal will build on and further develop and deliver the project city wide with particular emphasis on children in the 0 to 3 age range who are in need or identified as having special educational needs.
- 7.3 There is a significant focus on work to support and enhance the role of parents. The programmes will strengthen bonding between parents and children, provide information and enable parents to participate in play. The training for parents will enhance opportunities for families to sustain an active involvement in their local communities.
- 7.4 In addition the resources, guidelines and training for staff will increase the development of physical skills across all early years services.
- 7.5 All activities will be fully evaluated as part of the overall Sure Start Strategy to measure the impact on staff expertise and commitment, the levels of provision on offer, the views and perspectives of parents and the impact on children's activity levels and well being.
- 7.6 Dundee City Council Leisure and Parks Department will offer expertise, such as the Disability Sports Team, established working partnerships and the use of resources, equipment and materials.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Directors of Leisure and Parks, Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Finance and Support Services.

10.0 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.

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Director of Education

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Date

Appendix 1

Financial Outline

Revenue Costs	(6 Months) Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Coach Mentoring	£4,000	£8,000	£8,000
Volunteer development	£4,000	£4,500	£5,500
Outreach delivery	£4,000	£8,000	£8,000
Admin Costs (stationary, photocopying, telephones, postage)	£250	£400	£500
Equipment	£1,400	£1,100	£1,000
Room Hire	£250	£500	£500
Publications/educational materials	£500	£500	£500
Training, travel & subsistence	£600	£1,000	£1,000
TOTAL	£15,000	£24,000	£25,000