

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 16 JANUARY 2006

REPORT ON: COUNT ME IN, NUMERACY PROJECT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 49-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the continued success of the Count Me In 123 numeracy project which has completed its first year of delivery and to seek approval for the extension of the project to include primary school children (4, 5, 6) and a 16+ project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report which outlines the success of the numeracy project and to approve the introduction of the numeracy projects 4, 5, 6 and 16+.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of this proposal can be contained within the £31,000 external grant received from the Clydesdale Bank Community Partnership Fund.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This proposal will contribute to the development of numeracy skills for primary school age children aged 5-11 years and also learners aged 16+.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The development of this project will provide numeracy and literacy skills for primary school children and those aged 16 and over.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Since September 2004, Dundee City Council's libraries, in partnership with Clydesdale Bank, have been delivering a numeracy project "Count Me In" for pre-school children, which aims to develop their numeracy skills through stories and play.
- 6.2 Fabric bags for babies, toddlers and pre-school children are available for loan from the Central Library and Community Libraries. Bags are borrowed by a variety of groups, including parents, carers, playgroups, childminders, Health Visitors and library staff.
- 6.3 Due to the success of the Count Me In 1, 2, 3 project, it was proposed that the project be further expanded to include numeracy bags and activities for primary school children aged 5-11 years. The project will be called Count Me In 4, 5, 6 and will commence early in the New Year. Numeracy bags containing materials with a theme such as, pets, animals, conservation and the Olympics will be available from the libraries. Parents, carers, childminders, playgroups, nurseries, Child and Family Centres will be able to borrow the bags. Partner organisations working with parent groups eg. Health Visitors, Adult Learning Workers will also be able to borrow the bags.
- 6.4 Library staff and Clydesdale Bank volunteer workers will use the bags for a variety of activities including class visits, story times, special events.
- 6.5 The 16+ numeracy project will create opportunities for learners aged over 16 to improve their numeracy skills.

- 6.6 Packs of resources will be created, containing high quality up-to-date materials with a focus on topics such as personal finance. This will include themes like understanding cashless transactions and using automatic telling machines.
- 6.7 Funding will allow the recruitment of a Development Worker who will work with a range of numeracy resource providers to create Count Me In bags. The Development Worker will then train tutors across the City on the content of the bags in order that they can be used independently.
- 6.8 The numeracy packs will be used by adult learning staff in the delivery of their courses. The Development Worker will also work with local organisations to ensure the numeracy packs are available for community use, e.g. Credit Union.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services), Director of Education in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

Signed: **Stewart Murdoch**
 Director of Leisure and Communities

Date: 9 January 2006