

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 23 OCTOBER 2006

**REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NEW REGISTERED
CHILDMINDERS IN DUNDEE**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 610-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to continue to provide funding to registered childminders in Dundee.

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 £200 funding to childminders.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £1,797 in the current financial year. Funding will come from Childcare Workforce Development Funding made available to the authority by the Scottish Executive Education Department.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This proposal will support the sustainability of privately operated childminder services across the city. In addition it will enhance and develop further partnership working.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals will contribute towards ensuring that children and their families are effectively supported through childhood.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 One of the key tasks outlined in "A Plan for Dundee's Children, 2005- 8" is to, *"Provide services to support parents and carers in balancing their work and family responsibilities"*. Childminders provide a unique home based childcare service to families. They are valued as a key provider of childcare services to children of all ages and particularly to babies and toddlers for whom close relationships and a home setting are recognised to have particular benefits.

6.2 Childminders are now regulated by the Care Commission and are required to meet the National Care Standards. It is therefore important for childminders to supply age-appropriate toys and equipment and also to ensure that necessary safety equipment to meet registration requirements is in place in their homes. All newly registered childminders in Dundee were invited to submit applications for a £200 grant to

support the purchase of essential resources. Nine newly registered childminders applied for this funding.

- 6.3 It is proposed to award £1,797 to 9 local childminders who have recently become registered as child care providers with the Care Commission. A strong partnership approach has been developed between childminders and the Early Years and Childcare Team. All funding awards will be managed and monitored within the agreements signed with each childminder.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 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.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education
Date: 16 October 2006

AW/CAR

Childminder	Date Application Rec'd	Details of Application	Recommendation
No	Date Application received	Detail of items requested	Amount
1	12/06/06	Buggy, craft materials, board games, outdoor equipment book and puzzles.	£200
2	13/06/06	Outdoor equipment, puzzles books, arts and crafts, journal subscription, advertising costs.	£200
3	22/06/06	Pram, cot, fire guard, stair gates, rocking horse, sand and water tray, bike.	£200
4	01/07/06	Outdoor toys, construction toys, pirate ship toy, balls and games.	£199
5	10/07/06	Play house, patio set, outdoor toys.	£200
6	08/08/06	Booster seats, games, arts and crafts, books, advertising materials.	£198
7	20/09/06	Activity centre, car seat, fire blanket, pop up tent, baby monitors, dolls, pram and foot muff, baby toys.	£200
8	28/09/06	Dolls house, train, car ,toy kitchen , dressing up clothes, calendar, play food, small world toys.	£200
9	05/10/06	Car Seats.	£200
		Total	£ 1,797