

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2014

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 252-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to provide funding to third sector partners for the continued delivery of childcare services. The organisations included in this report are Home-Start Dundee and Childcare @ Home.

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 of £60,000 as outlined in Appendix A.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full cost of this proposal is £60,000 in the current financial year 2014- 2015. This will be met from the Education Department's revenue budget.
- 3.2 Funding amounts have been calculated following discussions with each voluntary partner agency. The Department has given full consideration to the continuation and maintenance of meeting childcare and parental support needs across Dundee. This is in line with expectations contained in the Scottish Government's Early Years Collaborative agenda, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities' (COSLA) and the Scottish Government's joint policy document, *The Early Years Framework* and supports Dundee's proposed *Integrated Children's Services Plan 2013 - 2017*.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The third sector plays an important role in providing access to a range of services to support children and families. A key priority identified by Dundee's Integrated Children's Services (ICS) Strategic Planning Group is to build on existing services and resources. Dundee City Council Education Department and its third sector partners have enjoyed mutually supportive and positive partnership arrangements for many years. A shared commitment to working collaboratively to improve and develop services aimed at the well-being, needs and interests of all children and their families is well established. This aspiration is in line with recommendations contained in the Scottish Government and COSLA's *Early Years Framework (2008)* joint policy document which underpins Scotland's *Early Years Collaborative* agenda.
- 4.1.1 A further priority identified by Dundee's ICS Strategic Planning Group is the development of the city's strategy to support and empower parents, namely, "*Being A Parent In Dundee*" (*BAPID*). Home-Start Dundee and Childcare @ Home both provide support and services to children and families in line with the BAPID strategy.
- 4.1.2 Home-Start Dundee and Childcare @ Home personnel have fully participated in the established community-based *Lochee Pathfinder* initiative in the Lochee ward. Both agencies currently work with families in this area of the city.

- 4.2 **Home-Start Dundee** is a voluntary home visiting organisation which works with families who are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child below 5 years of age.
- 4.2.1 Trained volunteers, usually parents themselves, give practical and emotional support to families, often representing a lifeline for many parents who are finding it hard to cope. Home-Start Dundee has a clear aim to empower each parent to take more responsibility in raising their family and to foster positive relationships with their children.
- 4.2.2 Home-Start Dundee reports that over the past year they have supported 105 children together with 55 parents.
- 4.2.3 A high number of referrals for Home Start Dundee's assistance relate to families who reside in the DD2 postcode area of the city. This postcode includes the Lochee ward where the city has developed the Lochee Pathfinder initiative.
- 4.2.4 This proposal seeks to provide a total funding of £30,000 in 2014 - 2015 to secure the continued training of volunteers and to support services provided by Home-Start Dundee.
- 4.3 **Childcare @ Home** provides a home-based sitter service for parents working unsocial hours, such as during evenings and at weekends. Formerly known as Dundee Sitter Service, this agency has been in operation since 1999. It was established by One Parent Families Scotland in conjunction with Dundee City Council and this model of wrap around flexible childcare has been and continues to be copied and emulated in other areas of Scotland.
- 4.3.1 The service aims to provide affordable, quality home-based childcare for families mainly on a low income who are working or are in education, at times when no other childcare provision is available to them. The service also provides a limited respite care service linked to parental income. In 2013 - 2014 Childcare @ Home provided home based care to 35 families (58 children) to allow parents to undertake employment or training for employment.
- 4.3.2 A city-wide service, Childcare @ Home support families in the Lochee ward where the Lochee Pathfinder initiative is established. It is proposed to award £30,000 to Childcare @ Home in 2013 - 2014 to allow them to continue to deliver childcare services to parents on days and at times when other childcare providers do not operate. In addition, to Pilot 2 year old and parent provision in Charleston area of Dundee in partnership with other agencies involved in the Lochee Pathfinder initiative
- 4.4 The funding proposals for each of these agencies will allow services to continue to enrich and enhance the learning, development and wellbeing of young children. The funding will also support and empower families and enable them to play a full part in society. This in turn will facilitate Dundee's Integrated Children's Services in fulfilling the *Getting It Right For Every Child* (GIRFEC) agenda, develop locally Scotland's *Early Years Collaborative* and address the demands of the *Early Years Framework* policy document.
- 4.4.1 The work of each of these two agencies is supported by the Education Department's Early Years Team. The Early Years Team works closely with third sector partners to ensure that the services they provide are of a satisfactory standard.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Social Work and Head of Democratic and Legal Services.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

MICHAEL WOOD
Director of Education

MW/LG

9 June 2014

APPENDIX A

Voluntary Partner	Breakdown 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015	Total funding
Home-Start Dundee	Funding to continue service delivery	£30,000
Sub total		£30,000
Childcare @ Home	Funding to allow the continued delivery of childcare services at unsocial hours (evenings and weekends) to enable parents to access employment or study towards employment. Pilot 2 year old and parent provision in Charleston area of Dundee in partnership with other agencies involved in the Lochee Pathfinder initiative	£30,000
Sub total		£30,000
TOTAL		£60,000



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

Part 1: Description/Consultation

Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT)?		Yes X	No ☐
Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?		Yes ☐	No X
Date of Assessment: May 2014		Committee Report Number:	
Title of document being assessed: Provision of Financial Support to Voluntary Sector Partners			
1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed (If yes please check box) ☐		This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? (If yes please check box) X	
2. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.		Two Third Sector partners have requested funding to help them to continue to deliver services to children under 5 years of age and their families. These services help parents to access employment, training and support with parenting skills.	
3. What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?		Vulnerable families can improve outcomes for their children by parenting more effectively and by gaining employment to improve the financial status of the family.	
4. Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.		• The Early Years Framework • Equally Well • Pre-birth to 3 • Getting It Right For Every Child • ICS Strategy for Dundee • Being A Parent In Dundee Strategic document	
5. Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.		No These services are available to the whole community and therefore do not impact negatively on protected characteristic communities.	
6. Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment. (e.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc)		• Lesley Gibb, Education Manager • Lina Waghorn, Head of Service, Early Years, Primary, Communications & Culture	
7. Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy? (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)		No. Protected Characteristics Communities are equally eligible to seek these services.	

Part 2: Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	X	☐	☐	☐
Gender	X	☐	☐	☐
Gender Reassignment	X	☐	☐	☐
Religion or Belief	X	☐	☐	☐
People with a disability	X	☐	☐	☐
Age	X	☐	☐	☐
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	X	☐	☐	☐
Socio-economic	X	☐	☐	☐
Pregnancy & Maternity	X	☐	☐	☐
Other (please state)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 3: Impacts/Monitoring

1. Have any positive impacts been identified? (We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)	Available to all families who have a child under 5 years of age and/or are seeking childcare to allow them to take up employment or training for employment. Parents are empowered and supported to take responsibility for their family.
2. Have any negative impacts been identified? (Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)	None
3. What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts? (e.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. See Good Practice on DCC equalities web page)	N/A
4. Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome? (If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)	N/A
5. Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended? (If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required. Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.)	NO.
6. How will the policy be monitored? (How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.)	Evaluation of the services delivered will continue with: • Full regular reports from both agencies sent to the Education Department. • Visits/meetings from Education department Development Officers and the Education Manager • Quality assurance meetings to discuss developments and outcomes.

Part 4: Contact Information

Name of Department or Partnership	Education Department
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Type of Document	
Human Resource Policy	☐
General Policy	☐
Strategy/Service	X
Change Papers/Local Procedure	☐
Guidelines and Protocols	☐
Other	☐

Manager Responsible	Author Responsible
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Signature of author of the policy:	<i>Lesley Gibb</i>	Date: 26 May 2014
Signature of Director/Head of Service:	<i>Michael Wood</i>	Date: 26 May 2014
Name of Director/Head of Service:	Michael Wood	
Date of Next Policy Review:	March 2015	