

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 25 JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 199-2012

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 2012 - 2013. 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 demands and expectations contained in the Scottish Government and the Council of Scottish Local Authorities' (COSLA) *Early Years Framework* joint policy document and supports Dundee's proposed *Integrated Children's Services Plan 2012 - 2015*.

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 as stated in their *Integrated Children's Services Plan 2010 - 2012* is to "build on and link existing services and resources and develop a shared vision of working together with a shared commitment to improve services aimed at the well-being, needs and interests of all children". This aspiration is echoed by the recommendations contained in the Scottish Government's *Early Years Framework* policy document. Partnership arrangements between the Education Department and local voluntary sector agencies have been successfully established for several years.
- 4.1.1 A further priority identified by Dundee's ICS Strategic Planning Group is the development of the city's strategy to support parents, *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 voluntarily participated in recent meetings and seminars to establish the *Total Place Dundee* community-based 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 report that over the past year they have supported 79 families who have at least one child under 5 years of age.
- 4.2.3 Approximately 50% of the families Home-Start Dundee currently support reside in the DD2 postcode area of the city. This postcode includes the Lochee ward where the city is trialling the *Total Place Dundee* community led initiative.
- 4.2.4 This proposal seeks to provide a total funding of £30,000 in 2012 - 2013 to secure the continued training of volunteers and to support services provided by Home-Start Dundee.
- 4.2.5 Home-Start Dundee aims to recruit more volunteers to meet increased demand from local families with vulnerable children.
- 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 2011 - 2012 Childcare @ Home provided home based care to 56 families (82 children) to allow parents to attend employment or training for employment.
- 4.3.2 A city-wide service, Childcare @ Home support families in the Lochee ward where *Total Place Dundee* is being established. It is proposed to award £30,000 to Childcare @ Home in 2012 - 2013 to allow them to continue to deliver childcare services to parents on days and at times when other childcare providers do not operate.
- 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 proposals will also support 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 and in addressing the demands of the *Early Years Framework* policy document.

- 4.4.1 The work of each of the above projects 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 and that identified outcomes for children and families are agreed and evaluated.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website: www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equipact/.

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

MICHAEL WOOD
Director of Education

12 June 2012

APPENDIX A

| Voluntary Partner | Breakdown 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013 | Total funding |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Home-Start Dundee | Funding to continue service delivery and further increase the number of volunteers to support vulnerable parents and families | £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. | £30,000 |
| Sub total | | £30,000 |
| TOTAL | | £60,000 |