

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 JUNE 2008

PAYMENT TO PARTNER PROVIDERS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from members of Cabinet for the minimum level of payment to Partner Providers for academic session 2008/9.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council will be entering into a new Service Level Agreement with thirteen Partner Providers of pre-school education in the voluntary and independent sector for academic session 2008/9.
- 2.2 In the academic session 2007/8 payment to Partner Providers for a fully loaded place was £1,477. Payment is paid pro-rata depending on the sessions offered.
- 2.3 In addition to the payment per place, Partner Providers also receive an allocation for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and resources.
- 2.4 Children in the pre-school year can access 5x 2.5 hr sessions per week. Three year old children become eligible for a part-time pre-school education funded place in the term after their third birthday.

3. ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/9

- 3.1 The recommended advisory level of payment per place to Partner Providers for academic session 2008/9 is £1,638.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is sufficient funding within the Educational and Social Services Department budget to meet these costs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As of 1 April 2002, the Standards in Scotland Schools etc Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to provide pre-school education in either a local authority nursery or within Partner Providers of pre-school education.
- 5.2 Service Level Agreements are in place with the Council's Partner Providers of pre-school education.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1** Service Level Agreements are in place for all Partner Providers which sets out contract compliance arrangements. The quality of service provided is externally monitored through the Care Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 8.1** The provision of early education and childcare is consistent with community planning aspirations and objectives.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1** It is recommended that Members of Cabinet:
- (i) approve the level of £1,638 per place for Partner Providers; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GS/KG/SR
26 May 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, Tel: 01563 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR