

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 MAY 2010

PAYMENT TO PARTNER PROVIDERS

Report by Executive Director of Educational & 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 2010/11.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council will be entering into a new Service Level Agreement with 9 Partner Providers of pre-school education in the voluntary and independent sector for academic session 2010/11. In academic session 2009/10 the level of payment per place to Partner Providers was £1,687 per fully loaded place.
- 2.2 Children could previously have access 5 x 2.5 hour sessions per week. Three year old children became eligible for a part time pre-school education funded place in the term after their third birthday.

3. ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11

- 3.1 At Cabinet on 10 March 2010 Members approved a change to the Early Education Admissions Policy for ante and pre-school education. Children who are three years of age will now be entitled to a place the month after their third birthday.
- 3.2 Partners will be paid per fully loaded place for the number of weeks in a term based on the number of children who are eligible and likely to be given a place in that term, regardless of when they start in that term.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Due to the likely increase in payments to Partner Providers, as a result of the change in Admissions Policy, it was agreed at Cabinet on 10 February 2010 that an additional £30,000 would be allocated to the department to meet additional costs.
- 4.2 It is proposed to increase the level of payment per place by 1% to £1,704.
- 4.3 There is sufficient funding within the Educational and Social Services Department budget to meet the overall payment per place in academic year 2010/11.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As of 1 April 2002 the Standards in Scotland Schools etc Act 2000 placed a due on local authorities to provide pre-school education in either a local authority nursery or in a Partner Provider 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.
- 6.2 Partner Providers which were inspected in academic session 2009/10 all received positive inspection reports, with the exception of one partner. This Partner's Service Level Agreement was terminated in December 2009.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 8.1 Provision of early education and childcare is consistent with community planning aspirations and objectives.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Members of Cabinet:
 - (i) approve the level of £1,704 for payment to Partner Providers; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services
KG/SR
6 May 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Scottish Executive Letter 2 July 2007.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR