

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 21 APRIL 2010

EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE FUNDING TO EXTERNAL AGENCIES 2010-11

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 allocation of funding to Early Education and Childcare external organisations in financial year 2010/11.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Cabinet on 18 March 2009 funding was approved for financial year 2009/10 for the undernoted organisations:

- £70,087 to support out of school care services to September 2009 and return to Cabinet with the outcome of the review of the funding formula;
- £6,078 to Ochiltree Bus Group;
- £57,290 to Homestart East Ayrshire;
- £94,202 to the Avenue Project;

- 2.2 On 16 September 2009 approval was given to the financial allocation to the ten Out of School Care groups in East Ayrshire based on a review of the funding formula. This approved a further £55,137 to support out of school care groups until 31 March 2010.

- 2.3 It was also agreed that a further phase of the review would be carried out.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 FUNDING FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICES

There are currently 8 providers of out of school care services delivering a service in sixteen locations. Over 900 families access services in:

1. Bellfield Out of School Care
2. Crosshouse Out of School Care
3. Greenmill Out of School Care
4. Lainshaw Lions
5. Rascals'
6. Yipworld

7. Bellsbank Adventure Playground incorporating the following services

- a. Mauchline Out of School Care
- b. Patna Out of School Care
- c. Bellsbank Adventure Playground

8. PEACE incorporating the following services

- a. Annanhill Out of School Care
- b. Dunlop Out of School Care
- c. Gargieston Out of School Care
- d. Loanhead Out of School Care
- e. Onthank Out of School Care
- f. Silverwood Out of School Care
- g. St Andrew's Out of School Care

All out of school care services currently in receipt of funding have received positive Care Commission Inspection reports.

A further review of the funding formula has been carried out and specifically the criteria which allocated funding in respect of small settlements. In the current funding formula this meant that a small settlement allocation was given to:

- Dunlop Out of School Care
- Crosshouse Out of School Care
- Patna Out of School Care
- Bellsbank Adventure Playground

Specific consideration has been given in a second phase of the review to whether this small settlement allocation should be revised to only reflect areas in the 0-15% data zones. The definition of a small settlement used is a settlement of less than 3,000 of a population.

If this criteria was to change to a small settlement in deprived areas only it would impact specifically on Dunlop Out of School Care and Crosshouse Out of School Care. The impact on Dunlop Out of School Care would be a loss of £5,223 however this is part of the PEACE group which will gain some resources for other criteria therefore the overall loss to PEACE would be £2,000. This notwithstanding, there will still be a potential impact on the service in Dunlop.

Crosshouse Out of School Care would lose £4,972 and it could prove to be difficult for the group to continue to deliver services.

The other two services would not be affected as they fall within the definition of an area of deprivation.

Dunlop supports 8 children before school and 12 after school. Crosshouse support 6 children before school and 9 after school. It is proposed not to take forward this proposal, in recognition of the impact on the services. There are no other criteria which it is considered could be reviewed within the context of the current funding formula. The overall allocation of funding to Out of School Care Groups and the formula itself will be routinely kept under review.

The appendix to this report sets out the proposed funding in respect of 2010/11 for the range of Out of School Care Groups in East Ayrshire. In addition to funding for Out of School Care there are nine locations which deliver a breakfast club provision as part of their Out of School Care Service. Out of School Care Breakfast Club costs are projected as £20,000 for

2010/11, subject to uptake. This £20,000 is in addition to £69,000 from Fairer Scotland Funding.

3.2 SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY EARLY YEARS GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

There is no pre-school provision in Ochiltree. Children from Ochiltree generally attend Auchinleck Nursery School and since 2000/01 parents from Ochiltree have organised transport through the Ochiltree Nursery Bus Group and funding sought to support this through grant funding. In 2009/10 funding of £6,078 was allocated to the group. The outgoing Committee has received three quotes from bus companies for academic session 2010/11, the cheapest of which is £6,550. In terms of governance arrangements, the new Committee of parents will be established over the summer. It is therefore proposed that funding in principle is agreed subject to a grant application at the start of next academic session.

3.3 SERVICES TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE FAMILIES

(a) Homestart East Ayrshire

Homestart East Ayrshire is a voluntary organisation providing support to families with children under three years of age. In the calendar year 2009, they supported 36 families comprising 110 children. This is a reduction from 69 families in 2008 and 190 children.

The reduction is due to a number of factors, namely:

Due to funding uncertainty going into 2009/10 no new referrals were sought or volunteers matched to families. This had an impact into the first quarter of 2009/10.

Funding issues have also impacted on the Co-ordinators workload and sourcing funding and preparing applications has affected the time available to promote the service to referrers. The Board is aware of this issue and has now taken on greater responsibility for seeking and securing funding.

The Scheme also reports that some families have multiple issues which require longer term support which is affecting the total number of families able to be supported in any one year.

This service compliments existing provision and primarily supports families who are experiencing stress, isolation or difficulties in managing family life. It reflects the network of provision in East Ayrshire with a focus on prevention, in line with the Early Years Framework. In financial year 2009/10 Homestart was awarded £57,290. It is recommended that they are awarded £57,863 in 2009/10.

One of the issues for Homestart in the past has been its reliance on funding from the Council. The Board of Trustees has made it a priority to source and secure alternative funding. In February 2010 they secured £7,218 from Children in Need for financial year 2010/11. The

Board has appointed an Independent Fundraising Consultant on a no grant, no fee basis.

(b) Avenue Childcare Services

The Avenue Childcare Services is located in North West Kilmarnock and provides a daycare service for children and a sitter service. A three year Service Level Agreement is in place until 2011. There is a balance of provision between families referred through either Social Work Services or Health and those families requiring daycare or sitter services to support work or training. The main reason children are referred is linked to mental health issues, children with additional supports needs and issues around child development. Children referred in respect of under three years of age all go through the East Ayrshire Council Admission's Policy.

For the period April 2009 to March 2010 there were 109 families with 156 children using the service. This has been a year on year increase since 2006/7. Fifty of these families comprising 81 children were referred. This equates to 52% of all children. Ninety Seven of the children are under three years of age.

The last Care Commission inspection in 2009, graded the service very good across all indicators evaluated.

It is proposed to increase funding for financial year 2010/11 to £95,144 based on a 1% inflationary uplift.

(c) Coalfield Community Transport Scheme

The Coalfield Community Transport Scheme provides transport to young children aged 0-5 years who have been referred for a place at Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre by Social Work, Health or Psychological Services. Children attend from Cumnock and surrounding communities i.e. New Cumnock, Lugar and Logan, Auchinleck, Catrine, Muirkirk, Mauchline and Drongan.

For the period April 2009 to March 2010 there were 68 children transported to Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre.

The Executive Director identifies the service provided as good value for money.

Formerly funded through the Fairer Scotland Fund and Sure Start, the service was brought into departmental funding arrangements in financial year 2009/10.

The level of funding is £26,000. In order to regularise the arrangements, Cabinet is asked to approve £26,000 for 2010/11.

A Service Level Agreement is in place for this provision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Funding is available to support the recommendations contained in this report.

5. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The development of Childcare Services is reflected in the Delivering Community Regeneration theme of the Community Plan.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 All services funded adhere to Following the Public Pound.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to approve:

- (i) funding to Out of School Care groups for 2010/11;
- (ii) £6,550 to Ochiltree Bus Group for academic session 2010/11, in principle, subject to the appropriate grant application;
- (iii) £57,863 to Homestart for financial year 2010/11; and
- (iv) £95,144 to Avenue childcare Services for financial year 2010/11
- (v) £26,000 to Coalfield Communities Transport for financial year 2010/11; and
- (vi) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

18 March 2010
KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Avenue Childcare Services Annual Report
- 2. Homestart Evaluation

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

APPENDIX 1**OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICES 2010/11**

	Name of Service	2009/2010	2010/2011
1.	Bellfield Out of School Care	£4,529.70	£5,386.50
2.	Crosshouse Out of School Care	£9,348.15	£9,626.40
3.	Greenmill Out of School Care	£7,262.85	£2,815.05
4.	Lainshaw Lions	£12,498.15	£10,449.60
5.	Rascals	£9,521.00	£6,820.80
6.	Yipworld	£5,670.00	£5,670.00
	TOTAL	£48,829.85	£40,768.35

7.	Bellsbank Adventure Playground		
a.	Mauchline Out of School Care	£5,949.30	£2,173.50
b.	Patna Out of School Care	£15,269.10	£10,469.55
c.	Bellsbank Adventure Playground	£11,865.00	£11,865.00
	TOTAL	£33,083.40	£24,508.05

8.	PEACE		
a.	Annanhill Out of School Care	£2,002.35	£2,817.15
b.	Dunlop Out of School Care	£6,903.00	£6,930.00
c.	Gargieston Out of School Care	£721.88	£735.00
d.	Loanhead Out of School Care	£4,399.50	£4,582.20
e.	Onthank Out of School Care	£9,059.40	£8,801.10
f.	Silverwood Out of School Care	£4,013.10	£4,422.60
g.	St Andrews Out of School Care	£590.36	£2,620.28
	TOTAL	£27,689.59	£30,908.33

GRAND TOTAL		£109,602.84	£96,184.73
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