

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 22 MARCH 2005
PEACE OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICES

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek committee approval from Members of the Education Committee for additional funding to PEACE in financial year 2004/05.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Education Committee approved a report on 23 March 2004 regarding School's Out : A Framework For The Development Of Out of School Care. The report indicated to Committee that a funding formula had been developed to support out of school care services.
- 2.2** The allocation of funding to out of school care services is normally considered through the Childcare Partnership using the funding formula.
- 2.3** PEACE currently provide services to approximately four hundred families in East Ayrshire.

3. PEACE OUT OF SCHOOL CARE SERVICES

- 3.1** There have been a number of concerns regarding PEACE out of school care services. These concerns have centred around the overall management of the service.
- 3.2** At a PEACE Management Committee held on 18 January 2005, it was agreed that a new management structure including revised conditions of service for staff should be put in place along with revised policies and procedures to support sustainability and to ensure sound corporate governance.
- 3.3** As part of the proposal presented to the PEACE Management Committee, it was recommended and agreed that the out of school care services operating in New Farm Primary School and Silverwood Primary School would require to close. This was due to the very small numbers of children attending and therefore the lack of viability for these services.
- 3.4** The Council commissioned Keith Miller Associates to support PEACE to implement their new structure, to ensure sound corporate governance in relation to the Council's funding to PEACE.

- 3.5** Due to the impact on families using New Farm and Silverwood, PEACE were invited to consider the merging of both services and to consider the financial viability of pulling the services on the site of Silverwood, which currently has the largest numbers of children attending.
- 3.6** This piece of work has now been concluded and based on 14 children attending each day, there would be a deficit of £2,660.24 once costs and income have been taken into account. This deficit is up until the end of June 2005.
- 3.7** In order to retain this provision from August onwards with income based on a minimum of 18 children per day, the provision would start to become viable without a required additional subsidy over and above the funding formula from the Council through the Childcare Partnership.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In financial year 2004/05, the Council has provided £54,934 to PEACE through the Childcare Partnership and Local Committee.
- 4.2** The deficit funding up until the end of June 2005 of £2660.24 can be met from the current childcare strategy funding available within the Council.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The provision of out of school care is in line with the national Childcare Strategy, Schools Out and the Improving Opportunities theme of the Community Plan.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** Members of the Education Committee are asked to:
- (i) approve funding of £2660.24 to PEACE out of school care services; and
 - (ii) note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/JP
8 March 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : KAY GILMOUR