

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005

FUNDING FOR EARLY YEARS PARTNER PROVIDERS

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members of the Education Committee for the payment per place for Partner Providers to deliver pre-school education and care.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council currently has Service Level Agreements with 15 Partner Providers of pre school education in the voluntary and independent sector.
- 2.2 In the academic year 2004/05 the payment to Partner Providers was £1011.00 per fully loaded place i.e. 5 sessions per week. Payment is paid pro rata depending on the sessions offered and is in line with the minimum advisory level set by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.3 Children in their pre school year can access 5 x 2.5 hour 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. FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06

- 3.1 The recommended minimum rate set by the Scottish Executive, in their letter of 30 March 2005, for the academic session 2005/06 for 5 x 2.5 sessions is £1,037.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost associated with this can be met from Departmental resources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As of 1 April 2002, the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000, placed a duty on local authorities to provide pre-school education in either local authority nurseries or with 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. POLICY

- 6.1 Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) approve the minimum advisory level of £1,037 for Partner Providers;
and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

4 May 2005
KG/JA/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Early Years), Tel: (01563) 576185.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR