

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE - 27TH OCTOBER 2005

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE PROVISION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Northern Area Committee of the provision of out of school care services across East Ayrshire including challenges facing the sector and service gaps.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 1998 green paper "**Meeting the Childcare Challenge; A Childcare Strategy for Scotland**" set out the Government's vision of "good quality, affordable, accessible childcare for 0-14 year olds in every neighbourhood"
- 2.2 Local authorities were directed to establish Childcare Partnerships to bring together key stakeholders to audit the supply and demand of childcare and act as an advisory body to the Council in planning the development and expansion of services. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership was established in 1998.
- 2.3 An audit in 2000 highlighted the need for a strategy for the development of out of school services and Scottish Out of School Care Network was commissioned to develop this.
- 2.4 Successful applications to New Opportunities Fund and the development of the Childcare Strategy Funding Formula supported growth in the sector from 7 to 16 services.
- 2.5 In February 2003 the Scottish Executive launched "**School's out**" Framework for the Development of Out of School Services which asks the Childcare Partnership and local authority to;
- Map current provision, and;
 - Review services and develop a three year plan for continued expansion of OSC in particular for older children and young people, vulnerable children and those who have additional support needs.

The outcome of this was submitted to the Scottish Executive in September 2004.

3. CURRENT PROVISION

- 3.1 The majority of out of school care is provided by groups as set out in paragraph 3.2. Childminders in East Ayrshire also provide around 350 out of school care places per day. A small number of places are available through one private and two voluntary sector Sitter Services which offer care in the child's own home to meet the needs of shift working parents or those in training.

3.2 Out of School care groups.

Town	Service	Location	Management	Places
Kilmarnock	PEACE Onthank	Onthank Primary	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 56 Pm 56 Hols 56
	PEACE Gargieston	Gargieston Primary	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 16 Pm 55 Hols 55
	PEACE Annanhill	Annanhill Primary	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 20 Pm 40 Hols 40
	PEACE St Columba's	St Columba's Primary	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 30 Pm 55 Hols 55
	PEACE Silverwood	Silverwood Primary	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 20 Pm 40 Hols 0
	PEACE Shortlees	Shortlees Community Education Centre	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 30 Pm 0 Hols 0
	Bellfield OSC	Bellfield Primary	Workers Co-operative	Am 45 Pm 45 Hols 45
	Beechwood Nursery	Private premises Dundonald Rd	Private Company	Am 16 Pm 16 Hols 16
	Ideal Start Nursery	Private premises Crookedholm	Private Company	Am 6 Pm 6 Hols 6
	The Galleon Centre	Public premises Titchfield St	Trust	Am 0 Pm 0 Hols 180
Crosshouse	Crosshouse OSC	Crosshouse Nursery building	Voluntary Management Committee	Am 24 Pm 24 Hols 24
Stewarton	Lainshaw Lions	Lainshaw Primary	Workers Co-operative	Am 55 Pm 55 Hols 55
	RASCALS	Netherrobertland Primary	Voluntary Management Committee	Am 16 Pm 45 Hols 20
Dunlop	PEACE Dunlop	Dunlop Village Hall	Voluntary Management Committee **	Am 32 Pm 32 Hols 40
Cumnock	Yipworld	Own premises Barrhill Rd Cumnock	Company Limited by Guarantee	Am 0 Pm 72 Hols 72
	Greenmill	Greenmill Primary	Voluntary Management Committee	Am 0 Pm 32 Hols 40
Bellsbank	Bellsbank Adventure Playground	Own premises Dalcairney Rd	Company Limited by Guarantee	Am 0 Pm 48 Hols 48
Sorn	Sorn OSC	Village Hall	Voluntary Management Committee	Am 0 Pm 24 Hols 0
TOTALS	18 Services	School 10 Village Hall 2 Own bdl 4 Comm Ed Ct 1 Public bdl 1	VMC = 5 WC = 2 CLG = 2 T = 1 PC = 2	Am 398 Pm 645 Hols 752

** All PEACE services are managed by a single voluntary management committee.

4 SERVICE GAPS

- 4...1** All schools which did not have access to out of school care services were audited in 2003-04. Returns indicated insufficient levels of demand to sustain new services in most areas.
- 4.2** Returns from Darvel and Kilmaurs indicated borderline sustainable levels of demand and these areas will be re-audited in 2005-06.
- 4.3** Mauchline Primary school is scheduled for major refurbishment in 2005-06. This will take account of the need for community facilities which will also be suitable for out of school care. The new build Galston campus will also include facilities suitable for out of school care. When both sites are completed, officers will re-audit for demand and undertake work to identify and support providers.
- 4.4** Muirkirk has a consistent low level of unmet need for childcare to support parents in employment. Working for Families is supporting the development of a service delivered by Yipworld, currently at premises in Cumnock, while Care Commission registration is finalised for premises in Muirkirk.

5 OLDER CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

- 5.1** Working for Families has supported the North West Youth Centre to develop TeenCare projects in the Northwest and the South area of Kilmarnock. Both services provide care for older children and young people whose parents are in employment.
- 5.2** A Pooled Budget comprising of Changing Children's Services Funding and Childcare Strategy has been established to support vulnerable children and children with additional support needs to access their local out of school care service. Where a child has additional support needs the budget can meet the cost of extra staff or specialist equipment, parents in employment pay the standard charge for out of school care. Where referrers are of the view that a vulnerable child may benefit from access to out of school, the budget can meet the standard charges.
- 5.3** As part of the Childcare Partnership portfolio of proposals to the Big Lottery, NCH Lisalanna has applied for funding to employ four peripatetic out of school care workers to assist children with additional support needs to access local out of school care services. Childcare Strategy monies will provide match funding.

6 CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

- 6.1** The out of school care supplier base is predominantly voluntary sector. Ayrshire Enterprise Business Gateway undertook Business Health Checks which identified the key issues for providers, these are;
- Fragile management systems – voluntary sector services have difficulty in attracting and retaining committee members. Many organisations are constituted bodies which places personal liability on committee members and can deter involvement. Employment law, regulatory changes and growth of services can make this a complex and demanding task. Parents who do become involved indicate that on top of family and work commitments, the responsibilities of managing a service can be a heavy burden.

- Keeping fees affordable – keeping fees at an affordable level in the face of rising overheads is a constant struggle for services can mean services are financially fragile and unable to build reserves.
- Costs of holiday care – as this is available for 10 hours each day, usually for most of the school holidays, costs are high.

7 SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- 7.1** The Council has established an Out of School Hours Childcare Business Support Worker post to assist providers in addressing issues of sustainability. Services have been supported to change legal status as a means of protecting members and encouraging robust financial management.
- 7.2** A local Out of School Care Network has been established and this allows services to share common concerns and identify good practice.
- 7.3** A Funding Formula has been developed for the disbursement of Childcare Strategy funding. The Formula is even handed and transparent and, as allocations can be calculated in advance, supports effective financial planning. The priorities of the Community Plan are reflected in the Formula.
- 7.4** The out of school care workforce is due to register with the Scottish Social Services Council in 2006-07. It will be a requirement of registration that workers are either qualified or are working towards a qualification. Workforce Training and Development support from the Council and Childcare Partnership has enabled workers to access qualifications and training opportunities.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** Planning for continued development of childcare is a feature of the Improving Opportunities theme of the Community Plan.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1** It is recommended that Members of the Northern Area Committee:

- (i) note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/DMcA
10 October 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Government Green Paper 1998 "Meeting the Childcare Challenge ; A childcare Strategy for Scotland
2. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership Childcare Audits Report 2000
3. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership Early Education and Childcare Plan 2000
4. "Inspiring Children and Young People" East Ayrshire Council Children's Services Plan
5. "School's Out" February 2003 Scottish Executive framework for the development of out of school care services.
6. East Ayrshire Council and Childcare Partnership – School's Out Review of Provision and Future Action Plan.

Members wishing further information should contact Dorothy McAvoy Childcare Partnership and Development Officer 01563 554956.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT