

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 3 APRIL 2001**

#### **PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2001-2002**

##### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the Education Committee of the funding arrangements for Pre-School Education in 2001/2002.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The government has set a target of providing universal Pre-School and care for every three year old by 2002 and has emphasised that this must be done in partnership with parents and with providers in the voluntary and private sector.
- 2.2** As in previous years, Pre-School funding will be distributed by way of two specific grants: grant per place for the children in their Pre-School year and Ante-Pre-School year (3 year olds) and the Development Fund, primarily to support the creation of new places for three year olds, staff development and curriculum development.
- 2.3** A reports has been presented to Education Committees regarding the approved rate on an annual basis.

### **3. BREAKDOWN OF THE GRANTS**

#### **3.1 Grant Per Place**

The rate at which Pre-School grant is paid to voluntary and private HMI accredited providers of Pre-School education is recommended at a minimum rate of **£940** per fully loaded place which reflects the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive.

#### **3.2 Development Grant**

In addition to the grant per place, funding will also be made available to the Council under Section 23 and 25 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1996 to assist in the development of new places for three year old children across the sectors. This will be the final year that the Development Grant will be available to local authorities.

- 3.3** Funding from April 2002 will be contained within the GAE allocation to East Ayrshire. There is currently a national group looking at the criteria to be used in determining a formula.
- 3.4** At present, the Council has formal Service level Agreements with 15 HMI accredited providers of Pre-School education and care in the voluntary and private sector. The table below provides a breakdown of the current uptake of provision in East Ayrshire across the sectors.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Fully Loaded Place</b>	<b>Other Sessions</b>
Pre-School	1235	5
Ante Pre-School	618	80
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>1853</u></b>	<b><u>85</u></b>

<b>Private/Voluntary</b>	<b>Fully Loaded Place</b>	<b>Other Sessions</b>
Pre-School	43	6
Ante Pre-School	138	134
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>181</u></b>	<b><u>140</u></b>

- 3.5** For the autumn and spring terms 2001/02, a further expansion of places for children in their Ante-Pre-School years will be explored in local authority establishments and with HMI accredited providers of Pre-School education in the voluntary and private sector.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Costs associated with this funding of pre-school education places will be met from the two grants set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The provision of Pre-School education in local authority and HMI accredited providers in the private and voluntary is in line with both government and Council Policy.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** Service Level Agreements are in place with the council's partner providers of Pre-School education.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**7.1** It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) agree that commissioned places with the Council's partner providers of Pre-School education be paid at the recommended rate of £940 per fully loaded place in the financial year 2001/02; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

JA/KG/SB  
13 February 2001

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Childcare Strategy for Scotland, May 1998
2. Planning Early Education and Childcare – Guidance Documents 1999, 2000, 2001.
3. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership Early Education and Childcare Plans – 1999-2000, 2000-2001.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Janie Allen, Principal Officer, Pre-5 Services, Tel: (01563) 576185.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – KAY GILMOUR**

**AGENDA**