

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2000

OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Members of the Northern Area Local Committee on the position of Out of School Hours Childcare in the Northern Area, and to notify Committee of the likely submission to a later Committee for funding from Lainshaw Lions.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members will recall that at the meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee on 8 June 2000, Committee agreed to support the bid to the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund for £15,000 for the Out of School Childcare groups in Kilmarnock and the Northern Area – namely BASICS, Onthank, Bellfield and Dunlop.
- 2.2** This bid has been successful and the groups will share the grant according to their identified needs.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1** The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) is working alongside East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership to establish a long term strategy for the development of Out of School Childcare and a local network of Out of School Childcare groups in East Ayrshire.
- 3.2** In addition, SOSCN have provided training sessions for existing groups and new groups on business planning, employment practices and development planning for the purposes of applications to the New Opportunities Fund.
- 3.3** Dunlop Out of School Care Group has submitted an application to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to provide additional childcare places for children up to 14 years and a breakfast club. The outcome of this application will be known in October 2000.
- 3.4** Nether Robertland Rascals and Lainshaw Lions Out of School Care Groups are also considering a joint application to NOF to provide more childcare places, which through their business plan, should also secure the existing core service.
- 3.5** However, Lainshaw Lions are currently running with a deficit of £3,000 as the number of children using the service has fallen. There are currently 20 children using the service, which may close if the group do not secure the finance, required to meet the day to day running costs.

3.6 The group is intending to make an application in October to the Local Committee. Committee is therefore asked to approve in principle the consideration of this application.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposed application to the Northern Area Local Committee from Lainshaw Lions will be for £3,000.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The support and development of Out of School Childcare is in line with Government and Council Policy as described in the Childcare Strategy for Scotland and East Ayrshire Childcare Early Education and Childcare Plan 2000-2003.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Northern Area Local Committee:

- (i) note that a future application from Lainshaw Lions Out of School Childcare Group will be submitted;
- (ii) note the progress being made in the support and development of Out of School Childcare in the Northern Area and;
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

18 August 2000
JA/SB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Government Green paper "Meeting the Childcare Challenge: A Childcare Strategy for Scotland".
2. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership Early Education and Childcare Plan 2000-2003.

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, HEAD OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT.