

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2000

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CHILDCARE

Report by the Director of Education

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise Members of actions being taken to support, sustain and develop Out of School Care provision in the Kilmarnock and Northern areas and to seek agreement to allocate £15,000 from the Social Inclusion Challenge fund to the proposed Out of School Care consortium.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** There are currently a number of out of school care groups operating in Kilmarnock and the Northern Area, some of which are experiencing difficulties in establishing financial sustainability, developing optimal management arrangements and/or progressing their development plans.
- 2.2** The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has been commissioned to work with existing groups in East Ayrshire to develop an innovative approach to future service provision and funding requirements.
- 2.3** There has also been an expressed need to consider the development of an East Ayrshire wide framework for out of school hours childcare.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** The SOSCN proposal is to rationalise and restructure the existing groups to become part of an East Ayrshire-wide network and thereafter develop a consortium bid to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to be submitted by October 2000. A range of funding opportunities will be explored in order to match fund the bid to the NOF and finance future developments. The new network will offer a package of support to groups on for example business planning, management structures, training and employment opportunities and the creation of new places.
- 3.2** Those groups which are experiencing financial, management or development problems have been consulted and have indicated interest in coming within the “umbrella” of the new network. Other groups are being contacted and all will be offered the opportunity to be involved in the network.

- 3.3** While the new arrangements are being developed, interim financial support of £36,000 is required to ensure the immediate future of the following groups:
- BASICS
 - Onthank Out of School Care
 - Bellfield Out of School Care
 - Dunlop Out of School Care
- 3.4** A funding package is currently being prepared and members are asked to endorse a £15,000 grant from the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund to ensure the continuation and development of the above projects.
- 3.5** The Kilmarnock South and Northern Area Local Committees have been consulted about the proposals and are fully supportive of the bid to the Challenge Fund.
- 3.6** The Kilmarnock North Local Committee on 11 April, whilst endorsing the Social Inclusion Early Action Plan requested an update on the future of out of school care provision.

The Committee were informed of the current progress and steps being taken to secure a range of funding, principally utilising the NOF, to sustain and develop out of school care on 23 May 2000. It is considered that the steps being taken to ensure the future development of out of school care will ease the concerns expressed by members of the Local Committee. A progress report will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 19 September 2000.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In order to sustain the current childcare places and give the groups identified at 3.3 the opportunity to develop a consortium bid to the NOF in October 2000, a minimum of £36,000 is required.
- 4.2** To enable an appropriate funding package to be secured a £15,000 grant is requested from the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund.
- 4.3** The total financial allocation to the Challenge Fund, by East Ayrshire Council for 2000/2001, is £65,000. The £15,000 grant identified at point 4.2 can be fully met from within the above total

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposal is consistent with the Government's Childcare Strategy, the Early Education and Childcare Plan and Council's Social Inclusion approach.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) agree to grant £15,000 from the Social Inclusion Challenge Fund to ensure the continuation of Out of School Care groups identified at Section 3.3;
- (ii) request the Director of Education finalise the funding package required to sustain existing out of school care provision in the Kilmarnock and Northern areas;
- (iii) request that the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group of the funding allocation; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Education

30 May 2000
JA/SB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. The Green Paper " A Childcare Strategy for Scotland"
- 2. East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership Early Education and Childcare Plan 2000/2003

Members wishing further information should contact Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education, Tel. (01563) 576104 or Janie Allen, Principal Officer Pre-5 Services, Tel: (01563) 576185.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: MARGARET BURNELL

AGENDA