

ITEM 15



COUNCIL CABINET

26 April 2005

Director of Education

Approval of Grants for New Childcare Places

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the applications for childcare start up grant aid to:
 - Pride Park Day Nursery, 2 Royal Scot's Way, Pride Park, Derby: three year revenue grant of £12,000 and one off capital grant of £5,000
 - Sinfin Community Childcare Ltd, Sinfin Community Enterprise Centre, Sheridan Street, Sinfin, Derby: three year revenue grant of £15,000 and one off capital grant of £7,900.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The criteria for awarding childcare start up grants have been previously agreed by Cabinet on 18 May 2004.
- 2.2 All applications meet the agreed criteria and have been endorsed by the Early Years and Childcare Service funding appraisal panel. This has representation from a range of organisations within the private, voluntary and statutory sectors.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The creation of these new childcare places falls within the SureStart Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006, previously reported to Cabinet on 18 May 2004. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership strategic plan for 2004-2006 can be accessed at <http://ngfl.derby.gov.uk/llc/EarlyYears>.

- 3.2 Pride Park Day Nursery is a private limited company, established in September 2004. The nursery currently provides full day care for children aged three months to eight years and is registered for 91 children. 30 of these places have been funded by the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. The nursery is located in the centre of Derby on Pride Park. This is a pocket of disadvantage but the location means the nursery provides a service for children from various disadvantaged wards. The funding will enable 16 of the current places to be used to provide an after school service for the direct locality and a holiday club service accessible to children citywide. These will be available to children aged 5 to 11 (Appendix 2).
- 3.3 Sinfin Community Childcare Limited (SCC) is a limited company, limited by guarantee, with not for profit aims. It is located in an area of disadvantage. The organisation currently provides full day care for children aged three months to eight years and is registered for 70 children. 44 of these places have been funded by the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. The funding will be used to fund 24 of the 40 new out of school childcare places being created to provide breakfast, after school and holiday childcare. These will be available to children aged 5 to 11 (Appendix 3).

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. Parents requiring childcare from the providers concerned could have been signposted to other providers across the city. This would lead to children having to travel and the care would not necessarily be in the area most convenient for the parents. Other childcare providers may not have the capacity to deal with the increased demand.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 2 – Pride Park PDN summary of application

Appendix 3 – Sinfin Community Childcare (SCC) summary of application

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The SureStart Unit has allocated Derby City Council £376,131 to create new childcare provision during the financial years 2004-2006. This includes capital monies to expand playgroups of £77,000 (disadvantaged) and £26,546 for other areas. The full details for this were reported to Cabinet on 18 May 2004.
- 1.2 Of £148,004 revenue funding available to spend in areas of disadvantage, £61,972 has already been committed and 210 places will be created.
- 1.3 Of £81,389 revenue funding available to spend in other areas, £32,410 has already been committed and 242 places will be created.
- 1.4 Of £43,192 capital funding available for areas of disadvantage only, £23,228 has been committed and 96 places will be created.

Legal

2. Funding agreements approved by Derby City Council's legal division will be signed by the providers before they can draw down any of the funding.

Personnel

3. A number of jobs in the statutory, private and voluntary sectors will be created by the development of new childcare places. The Early Years and Childcare Service will encourage recruitment and training within the direct locality to assist with the regeneration of areas and sustainability of providers.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Access to new place funding is open to applications from all childcare providers within the city. Successful applicants must demonstrate in the application process that they are committed to inclusion.
- 4.2 A proportion of the funding is specifically targeted at areas of disadvantage as a means of reducing the gap in childcare provision between disadvantaged areas and others. This is intended to ensure that childcare is not a barrier to parents taking up employment opportunities and therefore should have a direct impact on reducing child poverty.

- 4.3 The applicants all have equal opportunities policies in place.
- 4.4 The applicants will be encouraged and supported to recruit from under represented staff groups in particular men, those with disabilities and those from ethnic minority groups.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of **a stimulating and high quality learning environment, a prosperous, vibrant and successful economy and shared commitment to regenerating communities.**
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of **raising educational achievement and improving customer service in the city centre and locally.**

Appendix 2

EYDCP Childcare Place Funding Summary Sheet

Project name: Pride Park Private Day Nursery

Area of disadvantage: Yes (Arboretum)

Amount requested:	£10,000	Year one
	£ 2,000	Year two
	£	Year three
	£12,000	Total Funding Request

Additional Capital request £ 5,000

Number of places created and weeks per year it will run.		Places	Weeks	3 Weeks in Summer Y/N?
	Before School only			
	After School only	16	39	
	Before and After			
	Holiday only	16	13	Yes
	All year round			
	Wrap around care			
	Total places	16		

Charges: £2.50 per hour for both after school & holiday club

Post Title	Hourly Rate	No. of hours/week
OOS Supervisor	£6.25	17.5 out-of-school & holiday full-time
OOS Playworker	£5.25	17.5 out-of-school & holiday full-time

Posts created:

Comments on the application:

- Pride Park is located in a pocket of disadvantage and the direct locality has limited after school childcare provision identified by a childcare audit undertaken by the Early Years and Childcare Service.
- The nursery has received numerous requests from existing parents to provide a holiday club for siblings aged five and over and requests from a large local employer (Egg) for this.
- The nursery opened in September 2004 and trades as a limited company.
- The nursery is currently registered for 91 full day care places for children aged three months to eight years. 30 of these were funded by the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. The nursery is accessed by children from across the city including children from disadvantaged areas.

- The nursery would like to use 16 of its current registered places to provide an afterschool club (term time, 3pm - 6:30pm) for children attending local schools in Wilmorton and Alvaston. The holiday club will be available during all school holidays (7:30am until 6:30pm) and will be accessed by children from all over the city. These will be available to children aged five to 11+ years.
- Capital monies are required towards the cost of the outside play at the nursery. Revenue funding will be used to cover salaries and general overheads over a three year period.
- The £2.50 hourly charge for both the afterschool club and holiday club is a moderate hourly charge for childcare within the city. The hourly charge is very flexible and not offered by many providers who offer pricing based on fixed sessions. This should make the childcare more accessible and affordable to parents.
- The location of the nursery is well positioned to provide childcare for parents citywide from disadvantaged and other wards. Development of an out of school service will provide a continuity of care for users of the nursery to include siblings of school age.
- The nursery has Neighbourhood Nursery status and has developed links with organisations that assist people with childcare costs, for example Jobcentre Plus and Inland Revenue, to support parents to access working tax credit.
- The nursery's long-term aim is to work in partnership with a local school to provide an out of school service on a school site as part of the Extended Schools Initiative.
- The nursery is committed to providing quality, affordable childcare. The nursery is currently undertaking an approved quality assurance scheme.
- The owners have had previous experience of running a breakfast and holiday club and are aware of the need to promote the nursery and all services they may offer.
- The application was taken to a formal appraisal panel of the Early Years and Childcare Service on 21 March 2004 and they recommended maximum grant funding of £12,000 (revenue), £5,000 (capital).

Appendix 3

EYDCP Childcare Place Funding Summary Sheet

Project **name:**

Sinfin Community Childcare Ltd (SCC Ltd)

Area of disadvantage: Yes (Sinfin)

Amount requested:

£13,250

£ 1,750

£

£15,000

Year one

Year two

Year three

Total Funding Request

Additional Capital request

£ 7,900

Number of places created and weeks Per year it will run.

	Places	Weeks	3 Weeks in sum Y/N?
Before School only			
After School only			
Before and After			
Holiday only			
All year round	40	51	Yes
Wrap around care			
Total places	40(24 funded)		

Charges:

Breakfast £4 (7:30-9am)
 After school £5.25 (3:15-5pm), £6.25 (3:15-5:30pm)
 £7.50 (3:15-6pm)
 Holiday Club £20 per day. Will offer flexible morning and afternoon sessions at reduced pricing

Post Title	Hourly Rate	Number of hours
OOS Supervisor	£7.50	30 out-of-school & 40 holiday
Playworker Yr 1	£5.50	25 out-of-school & 40 holiday
Playworker Yr 1	£5.50	17.5 out-of-school & 40 holiday
Playworker Yr 2	£5.50	25 out-of-school & 40 holiday

Posts created:

Comments on the application:

- Sinfin is an area of disadvantage and has limited out of school childcare provision identified by a childcare audit undertaken by the Early Years and Childcare Service.
- SCC Ltd was established two years ago and was formed from a small 26-place nursery originally set up in 1996. SCC Ltd trades as a limited company, with not for profit aims. The current larger nursery opened in March 2004.

- The nursery is currently registered for 70 full day care places for children aged three months to eight years. 44 of these were funded by the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. The nursery is accessed by children mainly from the direct locality and 70% of the staff are from Sinfin.
- SCC Ltd has been providing an out of school service to the area on a small scale (approx 16 children) using its existing registration due to the sudden closure in May 2004 of an established out of school club in the area.
- The demand from the three local schools means a minibus is now required to transport the children more efficiently and will allow them to increase the number of children they take.
- An additional room has become available at the centre where the nursery is located. This will allow them to apply to OfSTED for an increased registration for 40 new out of school childcare places. This will provide a breakfast, afterschool and holiday club service to children aged five to 11+ years.
- The capital monies are required to refurbish the new room and provide a new outside play area to be used by all children accessing the nursery. The revenue funding will be used to cover salaries and general overheads over a three year period.
- The proposed charging policy offers flexible sessions and is moderate to low when compared to other providers within the city. Fees can be paid weekly to make childcare more affordable.
- The development of a more extensive out of school service will provide continuity and consistency of childcare for the area for children aged 0 to 11 years.
- The nursery has Neighbourhood Nursery status, has developed links with organisations who assist people with childcare costs, for example Jobcentre Plus and Inland Revenue, who support parents to access working tax credit.
- The centre offers additional support to lone parents in the area and has training facilities.
- The nursery is committed to providing quality, affordable childcare. Its recent OfSTED inspection assessed the nursery as offering 'good' childcare. The nursery is currently undertaking an approved quality assurance scheme.
- The application was taken to a formal appraisal panel of the Early Years and Childcare Service on 21 March 2004 and they recommended maximum grant funding of £15,000 (revenue), £7,900 (capital).