

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Social Work Services and Director of Education and Cultural Services

Council Meeting: 8 February 2007

Subject: Scottish Executive Funding for Children's Services – Additional Grant Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide Members with information on additional grant funding being provided to the Council by the Scottish Executive in 2006/07 for Children's Services.

2. Background

- 2.1** On 12 January 2007 the Minister for Education and Young People made an announcement regarding additional funding to be used to support children's services. The total additional funding across Scotland is £12.825 million and West Dunbartonshire has been allocated a grant of £328,000.
- 2.2** This funding is to be spent by 31 March 2007.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Minister made recommendations as to what this funding should be used for as follows:
- Small scale play equipment for providers of pre-school and out of school care services, including those operated by partner providers from the voluntary and private sectors;
 - Small scale equipment for foster/kinship carers;
 - Staff training to promote capacity building and service continuity;
 - Other action to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.
- 3.2** The Scottish Executive requires Councils to report to them on the use of the funding by the end of May 2007.
- 3.3** In conjunction with the Director of Education and Cultural Services an expenditure plan has been identified as follows:

Proposed uses of funding	
Education - small scale play equipment for pre-school and out of school	£100,000
Social Work - foster carers / kinship carers for small scale equipment (including children affected by drug misuse in their families)	£30,000
Social Work – financial assistance to Child Protection Committee to improve outcomes for vulnerable children	£30,000
Social Work/Education – staff training to promote capacity building and service continuity	£20,000
Social Work/Education - Residential Care Costs (including spend to effect early rehabilitation)	£80,000
Social Work - Contribute to costs associated with service provided by Cornerstone/One Plus	£68,000
Total	£328,000

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues associated with this grant allocation.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Other than the requirement to spend the additional funding allocated there are no financial implications, as the expenditure will be fully funded by additional Scottish Executive grant to the Council.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The main risk relates to the need to account for this expenditure properly and to report on the use of the funding to the Scottish Executive in May 2007. If this does not happen there is a risk that the Executive may “claw-back” some or all of the funding. In order to mitigate against this risk the department will ensure that the report to the Executive has a full costed analysis of the uses of the funding.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Scottish Executive has provided an additional £328,000 of funding to West Dunbartonshire Council to support children’s services.

7.2 This additional funding is welcomed and a draft expenditure plan has been agreed in conjunction with the Director of Education and Cultural Services.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the above report and to agree on the expenditure plan noted at 3.3.

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Appendices: No appendices

Background Papers: No background papers

Wards Affected: All wards