

**To:** Education Policy Board

**On:** 5 March 2015

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**Report by:** Director of Children's Services

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**Heading:** Distribution of funding to support services for children and families - pre-five voluntary sector grants 2015/16

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Renfrewshire Council has maintained its commitment to supporting playgroups and parent and toddler groups in the pre five voluntary sector.
  - 1.2. An allocation of £10,000 to support the pre-five voluntary sector is proposed in the education policy board report 'Distribution of Funding to Support Services for Children and Families – Funding Allocation for 2015/16' which is being presented to this policy board meeting. This allocation is in line with previous funding levels.
  - 1.3. The appendix to this report outlines the overall grant allocation of £8,850 to the pre-5 voluntary sector from the total allocation of £10,000. The sum of £1,150 remains to be disbursed and will be used to allocate funds to late applications and any new groups.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The education policy board is asked to approve the proposal for grant funding as detailed in the appendix attached to this report.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1. The contribution of the voluntary sector to early years and childcare activities such as playgroups and parent and toddler groups is highly valued. The pre-five voluntary sector grant enables playgroups and toddler groups to contribute to the provision of quality services for children under five.

- 3.2. On 6 March 2014, the education policy board approved the allocation of £10,000 of grant funding to support individual pre-five voluntary sector providers during financial year 2014/15. Of this allocation, £6,000 was approved by the education policy board on 6 March 2014. The director of education and leisure services approved the allocation of £2,850 to groups who applied during the course of the financial year as follows:

<b>Name and Group</b>	<b>Award</b>
Lochwinnoch Playgroup	£750
Barshaw Toddler and Toddler Plus	£600
Tweedie Tots, Linwood	£500
Howwood Baby and Toddler Group	£500
Thumbs Up Thursday playgroup	£500

This left a balance of £1,150 for year 2014/15.

- 3.3. A separate report to this education policy board entitled 'Distribution of Funding to Support Services for Children and Families – Funding Allocation for 2015/16' recommends the continued allocation of £10,000 to the pre-five voluntary sector to support individual pre-five voluntary sector providers during financial year 2015/16.
- 3.4. The applicants being presented for consideration in the appendix to this report for pre-five voluntary sector grants do not receive any other source of grant funding, such as pre-school education partnership funding.
- 3.5. Assessments have been carried out on each applicant to evaluate how the application meets the grant criteria detailed in paragraph 4, of this report, how it contributes to the community plan objectives and how it adds value to the current services.

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#### **4. Grant Criteria**

- 4.1. The existing criteria for disbursing pre-five voluntary sector funding are as follows:

Each group must:

- be a voluntary organisation promoting and/or providing pre-five services;
- provide a flexible service which takes account of the needs of children, parents and local communities; and
- ensure that service provision is delivered within an equal opportunities context.

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#### **5. Applicants for Grant Assistance**

- 5.1. Applicants presented for consideration for funding are detailed in the appendix attached to this report. The proposed allocations continue the support given during 2014/15.
- 5.2. All applicants being presented for funding meet the set criteria and have been subject to satisfactory financial checks and officer reports.

- 5.3. The proposals detailed in the appendix attached to this report result in a total allocation of £8,850 leaving the sum of £1,150 to be disbursed from the overall allocation of £10,000 for pre-five voluntary sector grants.
- 5.4. Grants under £1,500 will be approved by the director of children's services using delegated authority. Any award greater than £1,500 will be presented to future policy boards for approval.

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## **Implications of this report**

### **1. Financial Implications**

Funding for these proposals is contained within allocated resources

### **2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**

None.

### **3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Children and Young People             | - Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people.                   |
| Community Care, Health and Well-being | - Earlier intervention will lead to healthier outcomes for children.               |
| Empowering our Communities            | - Local services will benefit children, young people and members of the community. |
| Safer and Stronger                    | - The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents and children.    |

### **4. Legal Implications**

None.

### **5. Property/Assets Implications**

None.

### **6. Information Technology Implications**

None.

### **7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because there is no change to the criteria for allocating funding and the proposed allocations continue the support given during 2014/15.

### **8. Health and Safety Implications**

None.

### **9. Procurement Implications**

None.

## 10. Risk Implications

- All organisations are required to submit a statement showing expenditure against agreed purpose of the award.
- Recommendations are made based on knowledge of each applicant group and their contribution to enhancing opportunities for residents of Renfrewshire.

## 11. Privacy Impact

Children's Services hold financial information on all groups.

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### List of Background Papers

- (a) Distribution of funding to support services for children and families-funding allocation for 2015/16, education policy board, 5 March 2015.
- (b) Distribution of funding to support services for children and families-funding allocation for 2014/15, education policy board, 6 March 2014.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Children's Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Mary Gill, Partnership Support Officer, 0141 618 5684 [mary.gill@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk](mailto:mary.gill@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk)

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*Children's Services*  
*MG*  
*20 February 2015*

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**Renfrewshire Council Children's Services**  
**Distribution of funding support services for children and families - pre-five voluntary sector grants 2015/16**

<b>Pre-5 Voluntary Sector Grant Application 2015/16 Ref</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>2014/15 Award</b>	<b>Requested Award 2015/16</b>	<b>Recommendation Award 2015/16</b>
P5-1	Howwood Playgroup	To cover general running costs.	£750	£1,000	£750
P5-2	Langbank Playgroup	To support with a support worker salary, SPPA insurance, hall rent and contribution towards a healthy snack. Trips and outings.	£750	£2,750	£750
P5-3	Langbank Under 3s	To support the ongoing running costs of the group, rent and SPPA Insurance including contribution to external trainer fee for physical activity sessions which continue to be very successful.	£500	£500	£500
P5-4	Lochwinnoch Playgroup	To support the activities of the group and general running cost.	£750	£1,000	£750
P5-5	Ralston Playgroup	To support running costs	£600	£600	£600
P5-6	Johnstone Castle Mother & Toddler	To support running costs	£600	£600	£600
P5-7	Tweedie Tots Toddler Group	To support with the cost of rent	£500	£500	£500
P5-8	St Columba Playgroup	To support with the cost of rent and heating.	£600	£750	£600
P5-9	Johnstone Teeny Tots	To support the cost of rent.	£700	£700	£700
P5-10	Barshaw Toddler and Toddler Plus	To support the cost of rent	£600	£600	£600
P5-11	Rowan Street Playgroup	To support the cost of rent	£750	£1,000	£750
P5-12	Barsail Playgroup	To support running costs	£750	£1,500	£750
P5-13	Thumbs Up Thursday	To support the cost of rent	£500	£500	£500
P5-14	Howwood Baby and Toddler	To support the cost of rent	£500	£500	£500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£8,850</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£8,850</b>