

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: Policy and Resources (Community Development Sub Committee)	Subject: Request for Funding from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Pre School Playgroups Association
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 3rd October 1996	Ref: MC/NJ

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee to consider the funding request submitted by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth branch of the Scottish Pre School Playgroups Association (SPPA).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Prior to local government re-organisation the Cumbernauld branch of SPPA received an annual grant of £3,600 from the former Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council. The grant, although applied for and administered by the Cumbernauld branch was used to assist playgroups and mother and toddler groups in both Cumbernauld and Kilsyth to meet administration costs.
- 2.2 This grant was awarded to the Cumbernauld branch and in turn the two branch committees then allocated grants to the individual playgroups/mother and toddler groups. The Kilsyth branch awarded a grant of £50.00 to each of eight playgroups/mother and toddler groups and the sum of £50.00 was retained at branch level to meet administration costs.

- 2.3 The Cumbernauld branch however, allocated individual grants on a needs analysis basis. Consideration was given to the number of children catered for and the number of sessions operated. Priority was also awarded to those groups which catered for children with special needs and also those required to pay rent for premises. In addition, funds were also retained at branch level to assist in paying playgroup fees for children, considered by health visitors to benefit from a playgroup place, and whose parents were on a low income and could not meet playgroup fees.
- 2.4 Individual playgroups and mother and toddler groups submitted a funding application and a copy of their organisation's accounts to the branch committee in order to apply for this funding. This application procedure provided an important and valuable monitoring opportunity for the branch committee since it enabled them to ensure that individual groups were operating effectively, providing quality care and development for children, adhering to constitutional procedures and operating sound financial controls.
- 2.5 On an annual basis those financial monitoring procedures required by Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council were complied with and a list of the individual playgroup grants awarded and details of the number of children catered for was submitted to the Council.
- 2.6 In addition to the above grants, playgroup and mother and toddler groups were eligible to apply on an individual basis for grant aid to Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council. These grants however, were only considered for the purpose of purchasing equipment.
- 2.7 Individual organisations were also eligible to apply to the Regional Council for funding through the Council's Community Grants Scheme, Pre Five Voluntary Sector Grants Budget and in the case of playgroups, the annual playgroup grants awarded by the Education Department.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In this current financial year, North Lanarkshire Council has supported the Strathclyde Pre School Playgroups Association by awarding a revenue grant of £24,543.44. This umbrella organisation represents the local branch committees throughout the former Strathclyde area and employs 4.5 Area Organisers plus one Divisional Co-ordinator in North Lanarkshire. The grant was approved to meet these staffing costs plus a contribution to regional costs. This grant did not include an element for allocation to individual playgroups.
- 3.2 Individual playgroups and mother and toddler groups may now apply to North Lanarkshire Council for funding from the Interim Community Grants Scheme and the appropriate Education Department grants to voluntary organisations' schemes.
- 3.3 When reviewing and considering the annual grants to voluntary organisations in March of this year however, and when considering the commitment to fund those eligible organisations in 1996/97 to a level comparable to 95% of the 1995/96 award from the former authorities, the Council did not consider this award from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council to the local SPPA branch.

4. DISAGGREGATION OF BUDGETS

- 4.1 North Lanarkshire Council inherited the disaggregated grants to voluntary organisations' budget from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council and this budget includes the sum previously awarded annually to the Cumbernauld SPPA. This budget is currently within the Miscellaneous Services Budget.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee approve the award of £3,420 to the Cumbernauld Branch of the SPPA for allocation to playgroups and mother and toddler groups within the Cumbernauld and

Kilsyth areas. This award represents 95% of the annual award previously granted by the former Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council and would fulfil the Council's expressed aim to fund voluntary organisations in 1996/97 at a comparable level to 95% of the amount awarded in 1995/96 by the former authorities.

M Casley
Ap. Chief Executive