

To: Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee	Subject: Interim Community Grants Scheme Grants To Playschemes - 1998/99	
From: Chief Executive		
Date: 26 May 1998	Ref	CE/012/001/002

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Sub Committee of proposals to fund Playschemes operating during 1998/99.

2.0 Background

2.1 The budget allocation to support playschemes is included in the Interim Community Grants Scheme annual allocation. In previous years, £31,050 has been set aside to fund playschemes. The Sub Committee is reminded of the ongoing review of the Interim Community Grants Scheme and recommends a continuation of the current practice. The recommendation to support playschemes for 1998/99 has been made on this basis.

2.2 In considering request for financial assistance to Playschemes during 1996/97, the Sub-Committee agreed to adopt a formula which would ensure that the level of grant award would reflect the level of service provided.

2.3 The Sub-Committee is reminded of the details of the formula:-

- Grant award is based on a point allocation system where points are allocated per session. One session being not more than 4 hours, with a maximum of 2 sessions per day being funded.
- A further allocation of points would be applied to reflect certain circumstances
- Playschemes catering for less than 50 children - 1 point per session
- Playschemes catering for 50 children or more - 2 points per session
- Playschemes catering for children under 8 years - 20 points
- Playschemes integrating children with special needs - 30 points
- Total points for all playschemes is then divided into budget allocation to give a pence per point figure. The grant award therefore equals total points and pence per points.

2.4 During the last two years it has been felt that for most playschemes the application of the formula has ensured that grant levels reflect the level of service provided. It is however evident that playschemes which provide a service solely for children with special needs are disadvantaged as they incur significant additional costs through the provision of transport and employment of support workers and escorts. It is therefore suggested that for playschemes which solely provide places for children with special needs additional funding support is awarded to reflect additional costs.

2.5 The Council is in receipt of 40 applications for financial assistance to provide activities during the Summer, October 1998 and Easter 1999 school holidays.

2.6 As with previous years the Committee is being asked to consider grant awards for the summer period and noting the level of provision for October and Easter periods which will be brought to a future meeting for further consideration.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Sub Committee

- a) approve the alteration to the formula to further support playschemes for children with special needs as detailed in part 2.4 of this report.
- b) approve grant award to playschemes operating during Summer 1998 as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- c) otherwise note the contents of this report.


Pp Chief Executive