

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
20 AUGUST 2008**

SUBJECT: NURSERY STAFFING

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval to adjust the allocation of Classroom Assistant hours in Council Nursery establishments.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D1 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as Education Authority within the terms of the relevant legislation with regard to nursery, primary, secondary, further, community education and Lifelong learning.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee approves the increase in allocation of Classroom Assistant hours in Council Nursery provision from 30 hours per week to 35 hours per week with effect from August 2008.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the Best Value Review of Pre-5 provision, a revised staffing allocation formula was established which includes the allocation of Teachers, Senior Nursery Nurses, Nursery Nurses or Classroom Assistants, depending upon the roll of the establishment.
- 3.2 It has become apparent that this allocation mechanism has an anomaly in as much as a Nursery is allocated 35 hours per week of Nursery Nurse staffing but only 30 hours per week of Classroom Assistant staffing. This position not only disadvantages those Nurseries with Classroom Assistant allocations but also places unacceptable demands upon the staff to undertake the required duties within the allocated time.
- 3.3 The situation can be resolved simply by altering the staffing allocation for Classroom Assistants to ensure that 35 hours per week is built in to the formula. This would incur an annual cost of £22,000 which can be found from the existing Pre-5 budget allocation.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

This proposal meets the aims of the service Improvement Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

This proposal would incur an annual cost of £22,000 which can be met from existing Pre-5 budget provision.

(d) Consultations

A selection of Primary Head Teachers have been consulted and are in agreement with these proposals. Personnel Services have been consulted and are in agreement. Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, has been consulted and is in agreement with the financial implications of these proposals. The Senior Management Team of Educational Services has been consulted and is in agreement with these proposals.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee approves the increase in allocation of Classroom Assistant hours in Council nursery provision from 30 hours per week to 35 hours per week with effect from August 2008.

Author of Report: Alistair C. Farquhar, Head of Educational Resource Services

Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/
20 August 2008/Nursery Staffing