

13. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DRAFT STRATEGY

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Margaret Macadam (and the Early Childhood Education Strategy Team)
Corporate Plan Output: Community Liaison, Assistance and Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the draft Early Childhood Education Strategy, detailed in the attached document. This strategy has been developed by an officer/elected member working party, with representation as follows:

Bill Binns (Property Asset Officer)
Lyn Campbell (Children's Advocate)
Ingrid de Meyer (Community Development Adviser, Fendalton)
Denise Galloway (Community Development Adviser, Sockburn)
Tony Gemmill (Community Advocate, Fendalton)
Sally Latham (Community Development Adviser, Childcare, and group convenor)
Margaret Macadam (Senior Social Policy Analyst)
Sally Thompson (Councillor)

The draft strategy has been developed as a means of implementing the Council's Early Childhood Education Policy (adopted in September 1998). The policy and the strategy were informed by the findings of the Early Childhood Education Review 1998, which included extensive consultation. Advocacy Teams have recently been consulted on the draft strategy. The draft strategy, along with any comments from Community Boards is scheduled to be presented to the Community Services Committee on November 29, with a view to seeking its adoption at Council's December meeting.

The draft strategy clarifies the Council's role in Early Childhood Education. It does not propose major changes to current funding arrangements. It aims, however, to provide clear guidance on the decision-making processes, with a view to ensuring consistency and equity in dealing with applications from service providers.

Recommendation: That the draft Early Childhood Education Strategy be endorsed.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the draft Early Childhood Education Strategy be endorsed with the following provisos:

1. That Council negotiate a lease with ECE Services in Council owned buildings.
2. That Council liaise with the Christian Community Childcare Association regarding support of Management Committees.
3. That the eligibility criteria also refer to hours of operation and the provision of trained ECE staff.