



Scottish **Arts** Council

CFO name: WEE STORIES	Reference number (GMS): G200801068
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Lead officer's recommendation

(Wee Stories) WS is a strategically important organisation that delivers well on Scottish Arts Council Aims 1, 2 & 3. They consistently produce high quality work and draw large audiences. There are financial issues which require to be addressed given there current deficit projections for 05/06. The lead officer would recommend a Scottish Arts Council programme of support for WS.

Given the high degree in which WS meets Scottish Arts Council Aims (particularly Aim 1) the lead officer has scored WS **High** overall.

Under standstill I would recommend support for their application. I would also recommend that the following development areas requiring further investment are supported under standstill and optimum in 08/09:

- A Creative Working Space £ 5,000 (contribution)
- Extending the Artistic Director's knowledge of Sign Language £ 5,000
- Development Training for performers in the Wee Stories Style £12,000
- Project for new development team £ 50,000

Assessment:	High		
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Areas of concern:

- Creating a financially stable situation.

A meeting with the company to be organised to look at their finances. A programme of support from Scottish Arts Council to be arranged.

A fundraising strategy to reflect targets which will address the financial issues (by end of July 06).

Development issues:

- Board development to include financial and legal expertise.

WS to work with Arts & Business.

- Creation of company reserves
- Enhanced capacity for fundraising required.

Company Manager to be funded to attend a fundraising course.

Lead Officer: ANGELA HOGG

Date:25 November 2005

Print name:

Decision and authorisation

CFO name: WEE STORIES

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Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem

Category for support	Essential		
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WS has achieved significant artistic standards and is much in demand in Scotland. It has demonstrated potential to move into a more commercial market, but needs to ensure that such ventures do not put the company's finances at risk. The company has learned from its experience, but might still benefit from some form of mentoring on the business side.

The company plays to significant numbers of audience and delivers high quality experiences.

WS forms a key part of the provision of work for children and families.

Under all three scenarios this company would be supported, including an uplift beyond inflation in 2007/08 under a standstill scenario.

Decision authorised: David Taylor

Head of Department

Date 1.12.05

Print name:

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario			
CFO name: Wee Stories		Reference number (GMS): G200801068	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Wee Stories is led by an artistic director supported by regular collaborators and it is this team that should be supported. The work is distinctive and of high quality. The company achieves high artistic standards and has potential for greater exploitation of its productions. It has worked internationally and has developed good national collaborations including repeated visits to London's Barbican. It forms a part of the successful raft of companies working the field of children's and young people's theatre.</p>			
<p>Recommendation authorised:</p> <p>Head of Department Date 14.02.06 Print name: David Taylor</p>			

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Wee Stories		Reference number (GMS): G200801068	
Category for support	Flexible		
<p>Agree with the recommendation for flexible funding status – for two years from 07/08</p>			
<p>Decision authorised:</p> <p>Group Head Date 14.02.06 Print name: Jim Tough</p>			

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Wee Stories		Reference number (GMS): G200801068	
Category for support	Flexible		
Agreed as per Manager/Group Heads recommendations.			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton		Date 06 February 2006	

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Wee Stories		Reference number (GMS): G200801068	
Category for support		Flexible	
Approved flexible funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendations			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment