

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 March 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Update of Full Rollout of Breakfast Clubs in School Session 2019/2020
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the rollout of breakfast clubs across all primary schools in school session 2019/2020
- ◆ provide a progress update on the full pilot initiative and the potential financial and personnel requirements arising

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the update on full rollout of pilot breakfast clubs across all primary schools be noted;
- (2) that the initial evaluative findings on the full programme be noted;
- (3) to note that monitoring of uptake rates continues along with further surveys of stakeholders to identify and share areas of good practice; and
- (4) that the proposed 2020/2021 costs and funding arrangements, as detailed in section 9, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Nationally, the introduction of breakfast clubs has mainly been driven by the need to tackle poverty and close the equity gap. Evidence based research has shown that a proportion of pupils are not eating breakfast and are arriving at school hungry, which can have a negative impact on their wellbeing, learning and behaviour.

3.2. In considering the tackling poverty agenda, the Council set out to initially introduce up to 40 pilot breakfast clubs in our primary schools during 2018/2019, with plans to move to full roll out starting from August 2019.

3.3. The pilot clubs, introduced between April 2018 to June 2019, operate in primary schools and run daily from 8.15am - 8.45am. A key principle was that clubs be promoted as freely accessible to all. The purpose being to:-

- ◆ provide a free healthy breakfast allowing a good start to the school day
- ◆ enhance the opportunity for effective learning and improved attendance
- ◆ meet the social needs of children and improve social skills
- ◆ improve school relations with parents

- 3.4. The existing breakfast clubs run by schools (pre pilot) had an average daily uptake of 23 children. During the initial pilot period, the additional breakfast clubs established by the Council had a slightly higher average uptake rate of 26 children in attendance per day in term 1. This increased to an average of 35 children in attendance per day in term 2.
- 3.5. It is recognised that not all children may attend 5 days per week, therefore, in term 3 Education Resources identified the actual head count of children attending breakfast clubs over the week. This number totalled over 1,500 children, averaging at around 43 children per club.
- 3.6. Since the start of the new 2019 school session, the Council has been rolling out a free breakfast service to the remainder of our primary schools and has removed any charges made to parents whose children were attending the long standing existing Council breakfast clubs.
- 3.7. 36 free breakfast clubs were introduced between August 2019 and November 2019, with 1 further school, Blacklaw Primary School, going live on 17 February 2020. Breakfast clubs operate in 98% of our primary schools with only 3 schools where the service has still to be established – Calderwood, East Kilbride, Machanhill, Larkhall and St Mary's, Lanark. This has been due to matters around recruitment of staff or volunteers who are available to start working at this earlier time. This is being looked at to find a resolution.

4. Levels of Uptake and other Data

- 4.1. A census was taken last term and, from the returns received, some of the findings so far are provided below.
- 4.2. Although not having a direct management responsibility over the breakfast clubs, Head Teachers have been instrumental in helping to shape the clubs in different ways depending on the wider community needs of the children.
- 4.3. The main points have been summarised in Appendix 1.
- 4.4. Since the rollout of breakfast clubs began in April 2018 the increase in uptake is shown below:-

Pupil Uptake Rates during Term 1 2019/2020	Average daily uptake of children attending a breakfast club	Average head count of children attending a breakfast club over the week
Pre pilot information	23	-
Last school session 2018/2019	35	43 (1,500 in total)
So far:		
<u>Total Position</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>50</u>
Existing clubs - pre pilot	38	57
Phase 1 - opened 2018/2019	39	58
Phase 2 - opened 2019/2020	21	34

5. Feedback

- 5.1. Last year, surveys were undertaken in a sample of 12 schools involving staff, pupils and parents. During this school session, there have been a further 43 individual visits to breakfast clubs enabling an evaluation of the wider rollout, and the beginning of good practice sharing.
- 5.2. Parental and Pupil Feedback:
In the feedback received from parents with children attending the clubs, the majority were grateful for the opportunity the club offers, including allowing them to get to work or helping with finances. Other examples given were that children were now eating breakfast when previously this was not the case at home.
- 5.3. Responses from parents with children not attending breakfast clubs included wanting to have breakfast at home with their child or difficulty with transport. The expansion of 'toast and go' during 2019/2020 is a feature designed to help address this matter.
- 5.4. Pupils described how they enjoyed being with friends, being able to chat with them more as they were in school earlier, and making new friends at the club. Previous feedback from pupils on food choice led to changes to the menu.
- 5.5. There was also some observation that the volume of traffic at 9am was less chaotic as some parents were dropping their children off earlier for the breakfast club.
- 5.6. Head Teacher Feedback: - Impact on wellbeing and learning
From the Head Teacher responses received, there was a general increase in concentration, readiness to learn or improved learning but this was in a small number of pupils at the time. Feedback reported that a small number of children attending the breakfast club now had improved attendance/timekeeping, with schools also sensitively adopting other ways to provide breakfast for latecomers where necessary.
- 5.7. The parents that volunteered all tended to have jobs and so offered to help on their day off or could only volunteer every fortnight due to shift work.
- 5.8. It was noted that in terms of demographics, access of the provision is mixed in relation to socio economic background and not solely those who are in receipt of Free School Meal entitlement.
- 5.9. Schools reported that advertising of the breakfast club takes place through various mediums including newsletters, social media, parent events, and also by the use of specific soft targeted and discreet conversations with families in order to encourage participation where it is believed access to the club could be beneficial. More time is required to encourage some families.
- 5.10. The set-up of the clubs vary in each school ranging from the opportunity to sit with friends in a calm environment, having the opportunity of enhanced social inclusion, participating in activities including art and small games, and for a smaller number through more physical activities before breakfast is served. This is at the discretion of the school.
- 5.11. A number of schools have introduced alternative methods of service such as having a quicker service available at 8.45am for those that may arrive by school transport (Toast and Go). Also some were offering leftover toast to minimise wastage and catch any pupils arriving beyond 8.45am.

- 5.12. Some schools had a breakfast club 'board' where the children's work was displayed encouraging attendance and participation.

6. Other Considerations

- 6.1. The Council has established a relationship with external organisations including the Machan Trust in Larkhall and a local church in Greenhills, East Kilbride. It is envisaged that a partnership approach continues with both of these organisations to aid in the delivery of breakfast clubs.
- 6.2. Engagement with the third sector continues through for example, the Machan Trust, and this has resulted in a 'lessons learned' review in terms of their approach, particularly in respect of volunteer canvassing. Senior pupils support the programme in a few clubs by volunteering their time.
- 6.3. Where there are out of school care providers operating in the morning via a let in school premises (normally starting earlier than 8.15am), these arrangements are continuing and the Council's free breakfast service is running alongside it.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. The next steps are as follows:-
- ◆ continue to seek to establish a breakfast club for the remaining 3 schools
 - ◆ continue with further evaluation work with parents, children and staff to fully explore and identify good practice and barriers to uptake
 - ◆ Continue to explore new marketing materials to raise awareness of the programme and the benefits, and seek to increase the number of parent volunteers or senior volunteers from neighbouring high schools
 - ◆ consider the potential to offer parent volunteers and senior pupils the opportunity to undertake a recognised qualification in volunteering
 - ◆ continue to progress and be informed by practice across South Lanarkshire Council and share this with Head Teachers

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. The employee requirements during 2019/2020 to cover the breakfast clubs from August 2019 was estimated at 800 hours per week. Actual hours have increased to 1,000 hours per week.
- 8.3. The additional hours being worked by both support staff and facilities staff are currently all temporary and were agreed by the Executive Director (Education Resources) and Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), in conjunction with the Head of Personnel, in order to ensure this new initiative could be implemented.
- 8.4. As the pilot continues to bed in and the trend of increasing pupil numbers settles over the coming school session, it will then be possible to provide a firmer picture as to the average level of employee hours required to operate the clubs each week. At that point, consideration can be given to making the allocation of hours to employees permanent.
- 8.5. It should be noted that there may always be a fluctuating employee position in response to parental demand for breakfast clubs and the needs of any individual ASN children, therefore both Education and Community and Enterprise Resources may have to adjust staffing levels accordingly.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The funding required during 2019/2020 to cover the costs of breakfast clubs while rolling out to full implementation from August 2019 was estimated at £680,000. Actual costs are changing as breakfast clubs continue to open and pupil numbers continue to rise. Close monitoring of spend will continue over the remaining course of the school session.
- 9.2. As part of the investment on addressing child food poverty (Summer Holiday Programme and Breakfast Clubs) the Council's 2020/2021 budget totals £1.330m.
- 9.3. Allowing for assumptions for pay award, together with an estimated increase in pupil uptake, it is anticipated that the expenditure for the 2020/2021 breakfast club initiative can be managed within the £0.955m available, after budget of £0.375m is allocated to the summer holiday club programme.
- 9.4. Evaluation and costs of the project will continue to be monitored and reviewed including changes in uptake rates. Any further costs into future years will be considered as part of the Council's budget strategy as appropriate.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 10.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. Other Implications

- 11.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 12.1. An equality impact assessment had been undertaken. This initiative also assists with the Fairer Scotland agenda.
- 12.2. Consultation with stakeholders has been ongoing and used to help inform future service provision.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

31 January 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Support communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resource Committee 27 November 2018 – Update on pilots for Breakfast Clubs and Summer Programme Provision
- ◆ Education Resource Committee 7 May 2019 – Proposal to Expand the Pilot Rollout of Breakfast Clubs

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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**Evidence based research findings
(School Session 2019/2020 Term1)**

In overall terms the following information has been gathered:

- Almost 5,600 children attended breakfast clubs, which equates to an uptake rate of 25% of the whole school roll.
- This equates to 18,500 breakfasts served per week.
- The average number of children accessing a club over the week is 50 and the average number of days attended per week is 3.
- The uptake rate is broadly the same no matter whether activities are provided or not. (24% v 26%)
- 67% of all clubs have children with ASN attending.
- 24% of all clubs have volunteers assisting
- Around 30% of clubs operate a 'toast and go' arrangement, for example for those coming in by school transport.
- Average Free School Meal entitlement (FME) is 19% of the whole school roll. Within the breakfast club the average FME is 18%.

For those clubs which have been in operation since last session (Phase 1):

- Uptake rate of 25% of the wider school population.
- The average number of children accessing a club over the week is 57 and the average number of days attended per week is 3.
- The uptake rate is broadly the same no matter whether activities are provided or not. (22% v 25%)
- 68% of all clubs have children with ASN attending.
- 16% of all clubs have volunteers assisting
- Around 13% of clubs operate a 'toast and go' arrangement for those coming in by school transport.
- Average Free School Meal entitlement (FME) is 18% of the whole school roll. Within the breakfast club the average FME is also 18%.

For those clubs created this school session (Phase 2):

- Uptake rate of 27% of the wider school population.
- The average uptake of the number of children accessing a club over the week is 34 and the average number of days attended per week is 3.
- The uptake rate is broadly the same no matter whether activities are provided or not. (23% v 29%)
- 50% of all clubs have children with ASN attending.
- 15% of all clubs have volunteers assisting
- Around 47% of clubs operate a 'toast and go' arrangement for those coming in by school transport.
- Average Free School Meal entitlement (FME) is 17% of the whole school roll. Within the breakfast club the average FME is slightly higher at 18%.

For those clubs which were already in existence and for which any previous fee charged to parents has been removed:

- Uptake rate of 25% of the wider school population.
- The average uptake of the number of children accessing a club over the week is 57 and the average number of days attended per week is 3.
- The uptake rate is broadly the same no matter whether activities are provided or not. (23% v 26%)
- 80% of all clubs have children with ASN attending.
- 38% of all clubs have volunteers assisting
- Around 47% of clubs operate a 'toast and go' arrangement for those coming in by school transport.
- Average Free School Meal entitlement (FME) is 25% of the whole school roll. Within the breakfast club the average FME is 23%.