

Report

Report to: **Education Resources Committee**
 Date of Meeting: **24 April 2018**
 Report by: **Executive Director (Education Resources)**
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject: **New Initiatives – School Holiday Lunch Clubs**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to

- ◆ advise Committee of the new initiative to pilot school holiday lunch clubs, to commence in 2018/2019
- ◆ seek approval to increase the establishment for the duration of the pilot

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the arrangements to pilot school holiday lunch clubs within Neighbourhood Planning Areas, as detailed in the report, be approved.
- (2) that the requirement for additional staffing hours, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, for Active Breaks/Youth Group Workers and a temporary post of Youth Worker, for the lunch club provision, be approved

3. Background

3.1. On 28 February 2018, the Executive Committee considered a report on the Overall Position of the Revenue Budget 2018/2019 and Savings Proposals. This report proposed a number of New Initiatives for 2018/2019, one of which was to develop pilot Holiday Lunch Clubs.

3.2. In 2018/2019, £0.225 million has been allocated to develop pilot Holiday Lunch Clubs in primary schools within the Neighbourhood Planning Areas (Strutherhill; Whitlawburn and Springhall; and the Burnbank, Udston and Hillhouse areas).

3.3. It is acknowledged that the school summer holidays can be a challenging time for low-income families: children who benefit from free school lunches often miss meals and go hungry once their school closes for the holidays. The Welsh Local Government evaluation of the Food and Fun Holiday Enrichment Programme 2016 states '*Missing meals, a sedentary lifestyle and social isolation in the school holidays reinforces existing health inequalities and undermines the success of free school lunch policies.*'

3.4. The school holiday lunch clubs aim to prevent children going hungry in the summer holidays and improve children's health and promote learning through a programme of fun and engaging activities.

3.5. This report provides information on the proposed pilot for school holiday lunch clubs (Section 4), and the evaluation process on the pilot (Section 5).

- 3.6. Section 6 details the financial implications of the pilot in 2018/2019. The results of the pilot will shape the format proposed going forward. Section 7 confirms the employee implications for the pilot.
- 4. Pilot Programme of School Holiday Lunch Clubs**
- 4.1. It is proposed that an initial pilot be introduced during the summer holidays in 2018. This would cover the 4 weeks of July and the first 2 weeks in August and involve 4 establishments.
- 4.2. The Council will use internal resources to create pilot clubs in 3 (of the 9) primary schools in the 3 Neighbourhood Planning Areas. Udston Primary School and Glenlee Primary School in Burnbank, Udston and Hillhouse and St Anthony's Primary School in Whitlawburn and Springhall. The aim is to create a hub arrangement where children from all schools in the local area would congregate in the one place. This would minimise the fixed costs of the venture, and would also assess whether children would be willing/able to travel to the hub.
- 4.3. For the fourth establishment, the pilot will explore the option of supporting a local charitable organisation to deliver a holiday lunch club in Strutherhill Neighbourhood Planning Area. As understanding the current working arrangements of breakfast clubs and working with the community are key components of the pilot, this will allow the Council to compare the cost effectiveness and efficiency of Council and third sector delivery models.
- 4.4. Information from other councils who provide this type of service during the holiday period indicates that the inclusion of activities helps to increase the uptake and ensures it is not portrayed as being about lunch provision only.
- 4.5. As a result, the proposal is that the club would last for 4 hours (suggested 10am to 2pm) on each weekday (Monday to Friday) and would include activities which could range from various sports to arts and crafts. It may also include an element of reading for pleasure to maintain momentum in terms of attainment during the holiday period. Lunch will be served at some point over the 4 hour period, and will be dependent on the activities involved.
- 4.6. The Youth, Family and Community Learning Service will lead the programme in order to ensure appropriate support continues through the holiday period for children who require it. The costs of the pilot include a youth worker, for a 1 year fixed contract. This would be reviewed if a full rollout is approved. The Youth Worker will be required to liaise with schools, set up and adjust the programme as required, plan, develop and oversee the activities being provided and support the evaluation of the pilot.
- 4.7. It is proposed that the menu would be the same as the current term time school menu.
- 4.8. The projected uptake is based on information received from other councils who run holiday lunch clubs – an estimate of 65 children per club has been assumed. At this level, it requires 4 Active Breaks/ Youth Group Worker (on a ratio of 1:17), who can manage activities over differing age ranges.
- 4.9. As part of the pilot, there will be no transport or school crossing patroller provision assumed. As this service is open to all, and is not a core service, the assumption is that parents/carers will be required to take their children to the Holiday Lunch Club – the pilot will identify whether the lack of transport/crossing patrollers is a barrier to attendance.

- 4.10. The proposal is for the full Holiday Lunch Club to run over the School Holiday periods throughout the year: 6 weeks in Summer, 1 week in October and 2 weeks at Easter. However, the results of the pilot will shape how this is taken forward.
- 4.11. Once the pilot is complete, the results will be reported back to Committee and will include the uptake levels and the impact on costs moving forward. It will allow proposals to be formed on whether it is appropriate to provide the service in all schools. The results of the pilot will influence the number of schools involved in the full rollout.
- 4.12. The proposed timeline is shown below:-
- Pilots in each Neighbourhood Planning Area July/August 2018
 - Initial evaluation and feedback to Executive Committee November 2018
 - If approved, full roll out of Holiday Lunch Clubs commence Spring Break 2019

5. Evaluation Process for Pilot Holiday Lunch Clubs

- 5.1. It is anticipated that the pilot project would provide information on demand/attendance, accessibility (including ASN children), transport requirements/requests, suitability/success of activities, any transport requests, success/attendance at rural versus urban schools and capacity issues across the cluster areas and whether the children we want to benefit are actually attending. A key component of the evaluation will be feedback gathered from the children and families. This feedback will be central to the long-term strategy and roll out.
- 5.2. This will allow a full proposal to be formed for the financial year 2019/2020, including how many establishments the Holiday Lunch Clubs would operate in, and the capacity of each.
- 5.3. An initial evaluation will be carried out in September 2018, with feedback to Executive Committee in November 2018 and a firm proposal will be made to Executive Committee in February 2019, including recommendations for the full rollout commencing Spring Break 2019.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. As detailed in section 4.2, the pilot is based on holiday lunch club provision in each of the Council's 3 Neighbourhood Planning Areas. The pilot costs also include the appointment of a Youth Worker on a 12 months fixed term contract as detailed in section 4.6. The total predicted cost for the pilot initiative is £0.068m.
- 6.2. There remains scope within the budget allocation of £0.225m to extend or change how this service is being provided, collating the experience gained over the summer period. This would enable the provision to be scaled up, as required, and provides flexibility around uptake levels.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. The pilot has assumed that there will be 4 Active Breaks/Youth Workers in each hub (school). These will be provided by Education Resources or South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd, dependent on the activity being organised.
- 7.2. The pilot will identify the correct mix and number of staff required and will form part of the feedback.
- 7.3. Catering and cleaning staff will be required to support this venture and the staffing requirements for this will be presented to the Community and Enterprise Resources for approval.

7.4 The employee implications for running the pilot are detailed in the table below:-

Post (Education)	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Total Annual Costs	Total Gross Cost inc on costs 30.3%
Active Breaks/ Youth Group Worker	12 posts @20 hours*	Grade 1 Level 1-4	Scp 20 – 31	£8.74 - £10.28	£18,878.40- £22,204.80	£24,598.08- £28,932.85
Youth Worker	1 post	Grade 1 Level 1- 4	Scp 20 - 31	£8.74 - £10.28	£15,949.63 - £18,759.97	£20,782.37 - £24,444.24

*3 schools involved in the clubs, 4 Active Breaks/Youth Group Worker for 4 hours per day, 5 days per week for 9 weeks of the school holidays - Easter, Summer and October.

8 Risk and Sustainability

8.1 When the proposals are further developed, details of all parties involved who will supply foods etc, including roles and responsibilities, will be passed to the Risk and Insurance Section to allow final consideration of insurance requirements.

9 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1 The work on completing equality impact assessments is currently underway.

9.2 The requirement to complete a strategic environmental assessment is being considered.

9.3 Consultation with stakeholders will take place during the pilot phase in order to help inform any proposed roll out.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

27 March 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation, and supporting aspiration
- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

- Executive Committee – 28 February 2018 - Overall Position of Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Savings Proposals

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

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

Anne Donaldson, Head of Education (Inclusion)

Ext: 4452 (Tel: 01698 454452)

E-mail: anne.donaldson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk