

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>27 November 2018</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Update on Pilots for Breakfast Clubs and Summer Programme of Lunch Clubs</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on:-
  - the piloting of Breakfast Clubs across a number of primary schools and
  - the Programme provision which took place during the summer holiday period.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that, in relation to breakfast clubs:-
  - ◆ the progress of the rollout programme to date be noted
  - ◆ the next steps in continuing to evaluate breakfast clubs in schools, including monitoring of the clubs opened during this term, be noted; and
  - ◆ to note that a report on the final evaluations will be presented to committee in May 2019, with a view to full rollout from August 2019.
- (2) that, in relation to the summer programme:-
  - ◆ the main findings of the programme, which operated over the summer period, be noted
  - ◆ to note that work is being undertaken to prepare an implementation plan that would widen the initiative across South Lanarkshire; and
  - ◆ to note that the proposed implementation plan will be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration and funding approval.

## 3. Background

3.1. In line with the Council's approach to tackling poverty, the introduction of breakfast clubs has been driven by concerns that a proportion of pupils are not eating breakfast and arrive at school hungry, which impacts negatively on their wellbeing and learning. In addition, it is acknowledged that the school holidays can be challenging for families on low incomes as children who benefit from free school meals can often miss meals and go hungry.

3.2. Breakfast clubs are wider than providing catering as it can provide a calm environment before school, which helps pupils to arrive on time and be ready to learn when the formal school day begins, and also offers the opportunity to develop social skills.

- 3.3. The aim of the summer programme is to prevent children going hungry during school holidays, improve health and promote learning through fun and engaging activities.
- 3.4. On 24 April 2018, the Education Resources Committee agreed:-
- the initial rollout of breakfast clubs to 5 schools during April to June 2018, before scaling up to 40 schools during school session 2018/2019 (Appendix 1)
  - the creation of a pilot summer holiday lunch club programme in Udston Primary School and Glenlee Primary School (Burnbank, Udston and Hillhouse) and also St Anthony's Primary School (Whitlawburn and Springhall) creating a hub arrangement where children in the local area can come together.
- 3.5. The next section of the report provides some initial feedback on both of these pilots and information on next steps.

#### 4. Update on Breakfast Clubs

- 4.1. The 5 phase 1 schools involved in the initial rollout began after the Easter Break in April 2018. In phase 2, another 35 were planned for opening on a phased basis between August to October 2018.
- 4.2. Information from the first 5 schools that have been in operation for several months and a sample of 4 of the more recently opened service clubs was captured using a variety of methods including parent and pupil surveys, staff discussions, on site visits and meetings with Head Teachers. Some of the findings are highlighted below:

#### 4.3. Uptake Rates

The schools who provided breakfast before the pilot rollout had an average uptake of 23 children. Within the pilots, we are beginning to see an increase in numbers, with current daily averages, as at 12 October 2018, shown in the table below:

Primary Schools	School Roll	Free School Meal as % across whole school	Average Daily Breakfast Club Numbers	Free School Meal as % across breakfast club
<b>Phase 1</b>				
Castlefield, East Kilbride	130	37%	23	13%
Rigside, Lanark	65	42%	10	22%
Robert Owen Memorial, Lanark	337	17%	36	9%
St Blane's, Blantyre	228	25%	28	7%
St Bride's, Cambuslang	307	18%	23	11%
<b>Phase 2 – Sample of visits</b>				
Kirkfieldbank, Lanark	43	26%	14	36%
St Kenneth's, East Kilbride	487	9%	86	50%
St Cadoc's, Cambuslang	127	26%	12	21%
St Ninian's, Hamilton	220	30%	32	13%

- 4.4. The average number of pupils attending ranges from 5 in Gilmourton to 86 in St Kenneth's Primary Schools. At this time the total average number of daily pupils is 26, slightly above the average of the clubs already in existence prior to the rollout in April 2018.
- 4.5. There were 4,500 breakfasts served in phase one schools between April to June, and 28,000 breakfasts served across all pilot schools between August and October 2018.
- 4.6. **Staffing**  
The involvement of School Support and Facilities staff, which is a key factor for delivery of the service in this initiative, has been very positive. Currently, we have adequate numbers of staff to ensure all pupils wishing to attend can do so. However, in 3 of the 40 schools – Bothwell Primary, St John the Baptist Primary and Carstairs Junction Primary, work is continuing with central personnel to identify staff through the usual recruitment campaigns undertaken during the year, including ensuring we have adequate staff to deal with any winter staff absences.
- 4.7. It has been reported that having good staff who already know the children, with one of the school support assistants acting as team leader, is helping to ensure a smooth operation of the breakfast clubs.
- 4.8. **Initial Impact**  
6 of the schools visited reported that there has been a positive impact on late coming and an increase in concentration in class for some pupils, while others commented that it is too early to measure any effect on learning at this stage in the pilot.
- 4.9. **Parents**  
Of the 65 parent surveys returned, feedback was positive and included comments such as:-
- ◆ grateful for this help in the current financial climate
  - ◆ fantastic help in the mornings/replacing paying for childcare
  - ◆ children now eating breakfast where previously this was a struggle at home
  - ◆ socialising with friends in a warm and safe environment
  - ◆ 3 of the 65 indicated they prefer their children to eat at home
- 4.10. **Pupils**  
Feedback from pupils shows the majority enjoy the breakfast and healthy food on offer and like the social interaction with friends.
- 4.11. **Machan Trust, Larkhall**  
As part of the pilot, the Council agreed to support charitable organisations providing breakfasts currently within the South Lanarkshire area. A visit to one of the 4 breakfast centres run by the Machan Trust showed there were slight differences in the food offered and a high success rate of volunteers, with only one paid member of staff per centre. Further discussions and the sharing of experiences will continue between both parties.
- 4.12. **Barriers to Access**  
A small number of parents stated they wanted the club to start earlier, while some others wanted the club to start later/stay open longer due to school transport arrival times.

- 4.13. Some schools, particularly in the rural area, feel transport is a barrier to access as children arrive too late to participate. However, in one rural school, a quicker 'toast to go' scheme has been introduced where toast is ready for pick up on arrival.
- 4.14. 2 schools suggested extending the breakfast club time to 9.00am so that those arriving on school transport could still have the opportunity to have some food prior to school starting.

## **5. Further Consideration and Next Steps**

- 5.1. Before the final evaluation and further report to the Executive Committee in April 2019, the next steps are to:-
- ◆ continue to promote and monitor uptake levels, including further consideration on how to encourage those who could benefit from attending but who are currently not.
  - ◆ consider the creation and operation of a cover pool/standby staff list to ensure we are prepared for the winter months and to deal with increasing numbers attending.
  - ◆ continue to monitor and evaluate the staffing requirements, including the level of volunteers
  - ◆ liaise with staff and Head Teachers about evidence of success and promotion strategies to encourage as many people as possible to attend.
  - ◆ continue to consider where there are barriers to accessing breakfast clubs and how we can creatively reduce or remove this, particularly around transport.
  - ◆ enter into dialogue with voluntary sector organisations which have existing provision in some schools in order to identify how they can be involved in any Council agreed full rollout programme from August 2019. This will include consideration to standardising opening times and menu items.

## **6. Update on Summer Programme**

- 6.1. The target group for enrolment in the clubs was being in receipt of free school meal entitlement and of living within the area. In addition, some families were targeted through school, social work and other partners. Parents were then invited to an information session and completed a registration form to confirm their interest.
- 6.2. The programme ran for six weeks during the summer holidays and feedback was gathered from all stakeholders including the young people, families, Head Teachers and staff involved using a variety of methods including face to face, written evaluation and video feedback.
- 6.3. The clubs ran from 10am to 2pm with a breakfast bar and lunch services both included within the day.
- 6.4. **Uptake Rates**  
Up to 65 places were available in each club with the actual numbers accessing the provision shown in the table below:

<b>Summer Programme held in:</b>	<b>Numbers accessing</b>	<b>% uptake</b>
Glenlee Primary, Hamilton	45	69%
Udston Primary, Hamilton	56	86%
St Anthony's Primary, Rutherglen	42	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>73%</b>

6.5. **Staffing**

The clubs were supported by a lead worker, a number of other youth workers and volunteers, and facilities staff. After discussion with young people, the range of activities provided included Sportworx, drama, music, dance, arts and crafts.

6.6. Over time, staff got to know the young people and their parents and this helped to build positive relationships that can be nurtured further.

6.7. **Initial Impact**

Staff reported positive feedback from both parents and the young people. There was evidence of some children gaining more confidence and of an increasing willingness to try different food over the relaxed lunch environment. A number of ASN children accessed the clubs and staff were able to provide additional support to allow participation in activities.

6.8. Young people also accessed accredited learning opportunities while taking part in the holiday provision. This took the forms of Hi-5 awards and Dynamic Youth Awards.

Summer Programme held in:	Numbers Achieving Awards	%
Glenlee Primary, Hamilton	42	93%
Udston Primary, Hamilton	52	93%
St Anthony's Primary, Rutherglen	37	88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>92%</b>

6.9. **Young People**

Overall feedback from young people has been very good, commenting on the variety of activities on offer and the opportunity for social interaction.

6.10. **Parents**

It was reported by parents that the main benefits were that the clubs gave their children the opportunity to meet new friends, stay in a routine, engage in healthy activities including having a healthy lunch, and provided one to one support and encouragement. It also kept children away from sitting alone on computers and ipads. It also provided a means to meet other families in the local community.

6.11. **Machan Trust, Larkhall**

As part of the pilot, the Council agreed to continue to support charitable organisations providing summer programmes currently within the South Lanarkshire area and conducted a visit to the summer club run by the Machan Trust. Some of the main findings were a similar range of activities were on offer, however no accredited courses were available, the club ran for a 4 week period over the summer, a small nominal charge was levied on parents and the numbers attending were higher.

6.12. **Barriers to access**

Due to the speed of implementation, the targeting of places to those most in need could be improved. Also, after initial high interest, this dropped off following community perceptions on these clubs being for the less well off.

### 6.13. **Further Consideration and Next Steps**

The next steps include:

- ◆ an evaluation and costing of delivery models which could be rollout out further throughout the South Lanarkshire area.
- ◆ an evaluation of the processes to identify and target those in most need and who would benefit from free access.
- ◆ consulting with young people to ensure activities on offer are relevant.
- ◆ consideration to the establishment of longer term relationships with parents and families.
- ◆ preparation of an implementation plan to be presented to Executive Committee for consideration and funding approval.

## **7 Employee Implications**

- 7.1 As described within this report previously, estimated numbers suggested around 60 school support assistants would be required to support the first rollout of this initiative. A further report to Committee will confirm final estimated numbers after considering winter absence, further potential expected growth, attendance and on the proposal for a full rollout to all schools from August 2019.

## **8. Financial Implications**

### 8.1. **Breakfast Clubs**

In the previous reports considered by the Education Resources Committee on 24 April 2018, the total predicted cost for the breakfast club pilot initiative was estimated at £97,000. This figure will increase as it is expected we may require some additional staff to cover the increase in the number of children attending and to have adequate cover in place over the winter months.

### 8.2. **Summer Programme**

Total costs were identified as approximately £70,000.

- 8.3. Both of these pilot initiatives will spend less than the budget allocation of £225,000 each, however, as reported within the Council's Financial Strategy paper presented to Executive Committee on 15 August 2018, any remaining underspend will be carried into next financial year and used to support the further rollout of these initiatives from the next financial year 2019/20.

## **9. Other implications**

- 9.1. **Insurance:** The Council's Risk and Insurance Section have advised that adult presence from Parent Councils would be covered by the Public Liability cover currently in place for Parent Councils. The Council's own Public Liability policy will cover adult volunteers from Parent Councils. In relation to adult presence from volunteers, they will be covered by the Council's insurance arrangements, subject to PVG checks being undertaken, adequate training and supervision arrangements etc. In terms of supervision, this may be either the Head Teacher or a designated School Support Assistant.
- 9.2. When the proposals are further developed, details of all parties involved who will supply food etc., including roles and responsibilities, will be passed to the Risk and Insurance Section to consider final arrangements of insurance requirements.
- 9.3. As part of the pilot process the issue of sustainability will be considered as a factor in the overall evaluation.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

10.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken.

10.2 Consultation with stakeholders will continue in order to help inform any future proposed roll out.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

7 November 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
- Education Resources Committee 24 April 2018 – New Initiatives: Breakfast Clubs/School Support
- Education resources Committee 24 April 2018 – New Initiatives: School Holiday Lunch 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:-

Lynn Sherry, Head of Education

Ext: 4475 (Tel: 01698 454475)

E-mail: [lynn.sherry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.sherry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)