

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	5 December 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Summer Holiday Provision 2023 - Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the successful delivery of South Lanarkshire's provision during the Summer of 2023 for children, young people and their families.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) to note the breadth and scale of delivery through the 2023 funded summer programme;
- (2) to note that the Council has delivered this programme in partnership with a variety of third sector partners and organisations.

3. Background

3.1. The Scottish Government announced in June 2023 that £4m of funding (previously £10m in 2022) would be distributed to local authorities to target delivery of a summer 2023 holiday programme offering coordinated access to activities, childcare and food for children age 5 to 14 from low income families.

3.2. The criteria for targeting the fund was aimed at school age children age 5 to 14 from low income households. Around 9 in 10 children living in poverty are from households with one or more of the priority family characteristics identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, therefore, 85% of this funding was intended to be targeted at children and young people from the priority family groups below:-

- ♦ children from lone parent families
- ♦ children from ethnic minority families
- ♦ children from families with a disabled adult or child
- ♦ children from families with a young mother (under 25)
- ♦ children from families with a child under 1 year old
- ♦ children from larger families (3+ children)

3.3. 15% of the funding could be used flexibly to reach other children, including under-fives and older children, who would benefit from access to free holiday childcare, food and activities and would be determined at local level. Local discretion could include, but was not limited to:-

- ◆ children from other low-income families
- ◆ care experienced children and young people
- ◆ Young carers
- ◆ children in need of protection
- ◆ children supported by a child's plan
- ◆ children with ASN
- ◆ children who have undergone significant transitions, for example, starting in ELC, primary or secondary school

- 3.4. This funding was added to existing Council Funding and enabled the continuation of South Lanarkshire Council's summer holiday "spectacular summer sessions" provision, developed and overseen by the Youth, Family and Community Learning Service.
- 3.5. Indication of Scottish Government funding was received on 16 June and formally confirmed on 5 July 2023. Provision began on 3 July 2023. Due to the significant reduction in government allocation to local authorities of 60% from the previous year, the decision was taken to run summer hubs for a period of 2 weeks in each location, with the exception of one hub that was run by the Machan Trust for a 6 week period, with the government monies paying for the building/janitorial fees etc. and an allocation towards running costs.
- 3.6. In addition, the wider Youth, Family and Community Learning Service (Universal Connections) offered summer holiday provision 6 days per week, including evenings and weekends for the six week summer holiday period.
- 3.7. An Enhanced Summer Provision Fund was also made available to community and voluntary organisations to provide targeted programmes across the four localities within South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. This report provides an overview of the summer provision and the impact on children, young people, families and communities.

4. Summer Provision 2023

- 4.1. Spectacular Summer Session hubs were successfully delivered across the four South Lanarkshire localities in the following key locations: Halfmerke Primary; West Mains Primary; Douglas Universal Connections; Craigbank Primary; St Paul's Primary; St Mary's Primary; Cairns Primary; Neilsland Primary; St Athanasius Primary; Burgh Primary and Greenburn School.
- 4.2. All hubs had a number of ASN children provided for within the main programme, with school support staff providing additional staffing. Two hub locations specifically provided support to children and young people with additional support needs- West Mains School (provision over 2 weeks) and Greenburn School (every Wednesday).
- 4.3. Enrolment in the hubs was primarily targeted at low-income families in line with the Scottish Government guidance and referrals for targeted children were sought from Head Teachers as well as partners such as Social Work Family Support Hubs, Kinship Carers and Kear Campus Primary bases. Despite the extremely short time frame, meetings and communication took place with Head Teachers and partners within their communities to help identify families who would most benefit from this programme. Parents/carers were disseminated information first and foremost by Headteachers

prior to the start of the programme followed by all other referral agencies to gauge their interest on the potential benefits for their children and young people.

- 4.4. In excess of **705** children and young people were registered for the Spectacular Summer Sessions provision. Of these, **620** children and young people accessed the hubs with:
- ◆ **121** children and young people identified as having additional support needs
 - ◆ **42** children and young people identified as being in Kinship Care / Care Experienced
 - ◆ **570** children and young people identified as being from Low Income Families
- 4.5. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Officers from Kear Campus worked in partnership with the Summer Sessions alongside hub staff to support children who attend Kear Campus Primary bases to engage with the activities within identified Summer Sessions locations.
- 4.6. In addition to the Summer Hubs, programmes of activities for the targeted children were provided by Universal Connections, Pathfinders and wider Youth, Family and Community Learning Service provision and voluntary sector provision.
- 4.7. Utilising good practice identified from previous years, young people directly took ownership of the 2-week programmes within each location, fully engaging in planning the activities that they wished to participate in. This helped to ensure that programmes were tailored to the needs of children and young people, with recognition given to the voice of those young people with additional support needs. As part of the programme of delivery, several external partners were involved in the delivery of inputs to further embed educational input. Partners included Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Active Schools and NHSL.
- 4.8. Children and young people participated in a range of themed activities over the 6-week period that included Health and Wellbeing, Make your own Kind of Music, Community Olympics, STEM, Talent Festival, Animal and Space week.
- 4.9. Activities also included arts and crafts, imaginative play, cooking, music, sports days, outdoor play, culminating in an end of hub talent show / award ceremony which family members were invited to attend. To complement the provision, a bank of resources and equipment such as Silent Disco, Playhouses for imaginative play, STEM materials, supersized outdoor games, playmats, VR Headsets were made available.
- 4.10. The opportunity to engage with and involve the Third Sector and partners in the delivery of the Enhanced Summer Fund has proven to be a tremendous success, supporting delivery within local communities, which has encouraged wider participation, resulting in greater numbers benefitting from the provision.

5. Voluntary Sector Provision

- 5.1. Voluntary partners went through an application process and evaluation was carried out by each individual project. All programmes were open to young people with ASN with some specifically providing ASN provision.
- 5.2. Appendix 1 provides a list of 53 different projects run by 44 individual organisations. This demonstrates a range of uniformed, faith based, sport and voluntary sector organisations who aimed to deliver a range of opportunities and activities to young people who fell within the Scottish Government criteria. (refer to paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3)

- 5.3. 30% of South Lanarkshire's Scottish Government funding was allocated to these organisations. The total participants who accessed summer holiday provision through the voluntary sector was 5,131, with 608 (approximately 12%) identified as having additional support needs.

6. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service Centres and Projects

- 6.1. During the Summer holiday period, comprehensive and inclusive educational programmes of activity for young people were also delivered in the Universal Connections Centres across South Lanarkshire. These included activities such as: music events; arts and crafts; sports; excursions; outdoor learning; food related activity; STEM; strategy gaming, drama and music learning and family learning.
- 6.2. 1,203 children attending Youth, Family and Community Learning centre/project provision met the Scottish Government priority characteristics. Of these, 115 had additional support needs and 32 were in Kinship care.

7. Evaluation and feedback

- 7.1. Evaluation took place for the Summer Hubs with parents as well as the children who attended, through use of google forms, dialogue, feedback forms, photographs and emails.
- 7.2. Feedback from parents of children who accessed the Summer Sessions Provision included the following.
- ♦ *'The Summer hub has been a lifeline for our family this year, my child has complex needs and this provision has given some respite to our family and afforded our child to have an enjoyable experience during the Summer Holidays. Thank you! '*
 - ♦ *'My Granddaughter finds it difficult to interact and make friends with other children, but to our pleasant surprise she has made friends and has grown a new found confidence, we can't thank you all enough for the difference you have all made possible for this little girl'*
- 7.3. Overall feedback from young people has been very good, commenting on the variety of activities on offer and the opportunity for social interaction. Comments included:-
- ♦ *'I enjoy playing with my friends, playing outside and playing with all the toys'*
 - ♦ *'I wasn't bored and there was lots to do, I wish it was on longer'*
 - ♦ *'I made lots of new friends, the staff were really nice'*
 - ♦ *'I go every year and I hope it's on again next year'*

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. Education Resources enlisted its own staff to work over the summer period e.g. Youth, Family and Community Learning Service staff, Support Services and Facilities staff (kitchen, janitorial and cleaning). Rates of pay were consistent with that established in previous summer programmes.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. Funding of £228k was made available from the additional monies provided by the Scottish Government for summer holiday provision, together with Council funding of £143k. This total funding of £371k was used for resources, to cover the costs to run the summer activities (council staff costs) and to engage external organisations and

the Third sector to be involved in and support individual local programmes, thereby enhancing the level and range of provision across the authority area.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications in terms of the recommendations in this report.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the recommendations in this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function of strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

12.2. Consultation on the programme will be carried out with all appropriate stakeholders including children, young people, families, staff and partners, to ensure that needs are identified and met.

Carole McKenzie

Executive Director (Education Resources)

14 November 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

♦ Education and learning: Inspiring learners, transforming learners and strengthening partnerships

Previous References

♦ Education Resources Committee – September 2022

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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Appendix 1 - List of Voluntary Sector Partners who benefited from Scottish Government Holiday Provision funds.

Cambuslang/Rutherglen Area

- Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Trust SCIO
- Burnside Blairbeth Church
- Cambuslang Football Academy
- Cambuslang Football Club
- Cambuslang Rangers F.C.
- Circuit youth project
- Fernhill soccer school
- James Aiton Parent Council
- Shhh Studios
- Springhall and Whitlawburn Youth Development Team
- The Ohana Club
- Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre

Clydesdale Area

- Biggar Youth Project SCIO
- Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill Resilience Group
- Carmichael Babies and Toddlers
- Carmichael Community Council
- Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust
- Healthy Valleys
- WATIF (Woolfords Auchengray and Tarbrax Improvement Foundation)

East Kilbride/Strathaven

- 25th East Kilbride Guides
- 2nd East Kilbride Boys' Brigade
- 8th Clyde (St Vincent de Paul) Scout Group
- Ek82 handball club
- Girlguiding
- Girlguiding Scotland
- Mossneuk Parish Church
- The Village Centre
- Waist Not Want Not

Hamilton/Blantyre/Larkhall/Uddingston

- Blameless Children's Charity
- Blantyre Soccer Academy
- Hamilton Rugby Club
- Hillhouse Link Tenant and residents
- Hyper Cyber Youth Project
- Larkhall Baptist Church
- Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Youth Club
- Supporting Our Community
- Terminal One Youth Centre
- The Machan Trust

South Lanarkshire Wide

- cambuslang out of school care project
- Circle
- COVEY

- East Kilbride Sea Cadets
- GOTO - step in
- GOTO - step up
- Hamilton Academical WFC
- Jnr Street Project
- Radworx
- REACH Lanarkshire Autism
- Special Needs Adventure Playground
- Supporting Autism In Lanarkshire
- The GIVIT Youth Recovery Service
- THE PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
- The Street - SNR