

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 May 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources) Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Proposal to Expand the Pilot Rollout of Breakfast Clubs (August 2019)
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the provision of breakfast clubs on a pilot basis and the proposals to expand the pilot roll-out in all primary schools from August 2019
- ◆ advise on the financial and employee implications which arise from the full rollout from August 2019 and seek approval to add posts to the Education establishment

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1)** that the evaluative findings of the pilot breakfast club programme be noted;
- (2)** that planning for the expansion of the pilot rollout of breakfast clubs within all primary schools be endorsed to ensure implementation from August 2019;
- (3)** that the proposed costs, including employee implications required to meet the expansion of the pilot rollout of breakfast clubs, identified at 6.1, be endorsed and referred to the Executive Committee for approval.

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. In line with the Council's approach to tackling poverty, the introduction of school breakfast clubs enables children to eat a healthy breakfast in a safe environment before the start of the school day.

3.2. The Children's Food Trust identifies the main aims of breakfast clubs as follows:-

- ◆ provision of food at the start of the day
- ◆ improving pupils' education
- ◆ meeting the social needs of children and improving social skills
- ◆ improving school relations with parents

- 3.3. Attending a breakfast club can lead to an increase in pupils arriving at school early, improved attendance, and children being more ready to learn when the formal school day begins.
- 3.4. It is also worth noting that the Scottish Government Poverty and Inequality Commission's report recognises the role of local authorities and the third sector in tackling the impact of poverty related factors in communities. Breakfast clubs are one way of helping families in this context.

4. Update on Breakfast Club Provision including 2018/2019 Pilot Programmes

- 4.1. Before the pilot programme began there were more than 40 breakfast clubs already in existence in schools. These were supported and delivered in a range of ways including through Facilities Services, volunteers and third sector organisations.
- 4.2. The Education Resources Committee on 27 November 2018, noted that the historical average daily uptake was 23 and that this increased to 26 as part of the pilot programme (+13%). It was agreed to give further consideration to the rollout of breakfast clubs to 40 other schools during 2018/2019.
- 4.3. The Council's evaluation through parental and pupil surveys indicated positive feedback with examples of increased concentration in class, improvements in attendance and a drop in the level of late comings for some children.
- 4.4. Further promotion of the pilot programme was introduced through school websites, social media, twitter and lettering of parents. Where appropriate, Head Teachers also made direct contact with parents in an attempt to encourage participation.
- 4.5. Since the last update provided in November 2018, the average daily uptake rate has increased by 9 children from 26 to 35 pupils (35%). Prior to the rollout pilot, the average daily uptake rate was 23, therefore the full increase in the average number of children attending breakfast clubs is currently 12 (52%). The daily uptake ranges from 6 pupils in Gilmourton Primary School, Strathaven to 86 pupils in St Kenneth's Primary School, East Kilbride. The number of breakfasts served daily has increased from 1,050 to 1,450. Information on each school can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.6. Discussions with voluntary sector organisations such as the Machan Trust in Larkhall have continued to look at different models of delivery. It is worth noting that one school in East Kilbride a Council breakfast club is running and a private out-of-school care provider is also in operation.
- 4.7. A flexible approach has been taken to meet local circumstances in individual schools. For example, in rural areas where a large number of pupils all arrive by school transport later than 8.15am, the operation of a turnaround breakfast service 'toast n go' still enables children to have breakfast, before the start of the school day.

5. Expansion of the pilot of breakfast clubs for all primary schools

5.1. Proposed primary Schools with no access to a Breakfast Club

In terms of planning for the implementation of an expansion of the pilot for breakfast clubs, the following actions have been taken.

- 5.2. Support Services Co-ordinators have begun making contact with parents to advise on the intention to offer a free breakfast club from 8.15am – 8.45am in order to gauge likely uptake levels.

- 5.3. Both support services and facilities services employees have been approached to identify the availability of staff to work extra hours each day. Facilities Services were incorporating the additional work within their shift patterns, however, as a result of the success of the pilot in terms of a significant increase in numbers of children attending in some schools, there will be a requirement for some additional hours in larger breakfast clubs.
- 5.4. It is envisaged that all remaining schools will begin to provide breakfast clubs from August 2019.
- 5.5. **Schools with existing Breakfast Clubs**
For schools with existing breakfast clubs, operating in conjunction with facilities services, discussions have begun to assess requirements including the removal of any charge made to parents.
- 5.6. **Working in partnership with Third Sector Organisations**
For schools with existing breakfast clubs operating via a third sector organisation, meetings are being held with each to consider an appropriate approach including possible partnership arrangements.
- 5.7. The Council's engagement with the third sector such as the Machan Trust, will enable Education Resources to look at 'lessons learned' in terms of the approach.
- 5.8. **Out of School Care Providers**
Where there are out of school care providers operating in the morning via a let on school premises, meetings are being arranged to advise of the position and consider, for example how such organisations can co-exist with any required Council Breakfast Club provision.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. Employee implications for the expansion of the Pilot are detailed below. These posts will be on a temporary basis initially:

Post	Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Salary	Total Gross Costs inc on costs 30.3%
School Support Assistants	193 x 45mins per day	Grade 1 Level 1-3	20-27	£9.32 - £10.33	£1,550 - £1,718	£389,833 - £432,079
Facilities Assistant (Cook in Charge)	6 x 1 hour per day	Grade 1 Level 1-4	20-31	£9.32 - £10.96	£2,065 - £2,429	£16,146 - £18,987
Facilities Assistant (Catering)	61 x 1 hour per day	Grade 1 Level 1	20	£9.32	£2,065	£164,154

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. During 2019/2020 the costs of continuing with the existing breakfast clubs and the extension of the pilot from August 2019 is estimated at £680,000.
- 7.2. This allows for staff and food costs, and also the removal of any charges historically made to parents in those clubs previously in existence before the pilot rollout began.

- 7.3. The Council's Budget for 2019/2020 includes an allocation of £400,000 for the roll out of the initiative. The estimated spend is £280,000 more than the budget and reflects the higher uptake levels experienced so far, and the consequent requirement for additional catering employees, food costs and school support assistants. This will be confirmed after the extension of the pilot takes place.
- 7.4. The Executive Committee on 13 March 2019 noted the financial position in terms of an underspend in terms of the budget for Holiday Lunch Club and it is proposed to offset the cost associated with the pilot rollout of Breakfast Clubs within this overall budget. It is envisaged that this budget shortfall can be managed during 2019/2020 by utilising the cumulative projected underspend in Holiday Lunch Clubs and breakfast clubs since the introduction of the pilot. Any further requirement for costs for in respect of Breakfast Clubs will be reported back to Committee.
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1. This contents of this report will require to be approved by Executive Committee in respect of staffing levels, (including catering staff employed by Community and Enterprise Resources and funding requirements).
- 8.2. The factors associated with risk and sustainability of the expansion of Breakfast Clubs will be assessed during the pilot rollout during 2019/20.
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1. This report recommends a change to existing practice, therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken.
- 9.2. Trade Union colleagues have been consulted and updated in regard to the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.3. Consultation with stakeholders has been ongoing and used to help inform future service provision.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

16 April 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

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

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resource Committee 27 November 2018

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, Support Services and School Estate

Ext: 5620 (Tel: 01698 455620)

E-mail: lynn.sherry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk