

# Report

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

Subject:	<b>Summer Holiday Programme Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the rollout of the summer holiday programme which took place during the 2019 summer holiday period, and proposals for the future delivery of the summer holiday provision.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the delivery and impact of the 2019 summer holiday lunch programme be noted;
- (2) that the recommendations in paragraph 7 of this report on the delivery of summer holiday programme for 2020, which continues to reflect the needs of local communities, and in the locations detailed in appendix 1, be approved; and
- (3) that the proposed costs for 2020/2021 and funding arrangements, as detailed in paragraph 9, be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In line with the Council's approach to tackling poverty, the introduction of the summer programme lunch club pilot has been driven by concerns acknowledging that school holidays can be challenging for families on low incomes as children who benefit from free school meals and are at risk of missing meals and going hungry.
- 3.2. The aim of the summer programme is two-fold, to prevent children going hungry during school holidays and to improve health and wellbeing through active learning, fun, and engaging activities over the summer holiday period.
- 3.3. On 13 March 2019, the Executive Committee approved the proposed planned rollout for summer 2019 and the associated level of funding required, with 13 clubs being delivered utilising the same model of delivery.
- 3.4. This report provides an update on the summer provision during 2019, the impacts experienced and the plan for the roll-out for summer 2020.
- 3.5. The Council acknowledges that what has been achieved thus far has been through partnership activity with volunteers and staff across a number of different resources, and voluntary sector partners, that were involved in the delivery of the summer provision.

#### **4. Summer Holiday Programme 2019**

- 4.1. 13 clubs were delivered during the summer of 2019 which was an increase from 4 the previous year.
- 4.2. The clubs ran from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday, during the 6 weeks of the summer holidays with a breakfast bar and lunch service both included within the day. This allowed a period of time where staff and young people engaged socially, where everyone was able to reflect on the previous day and discuss what was working well, what activities, if any, should change as well as gaining an insight into their overall health and wellbeing, confidence and self esteem, including out with the programme.
- 4.3. Enrolment in the clubs was primarily targeted at those in receipt of free school meal entitlement and living in the surrounding communities. Meetings took place with Head Teachers and partners in their communities to discuss the planned programme content and to help identify families who would most benefit from this programme. Parents/carers were then invited to an information session prior to the start of the programme to gauge their interest on the potential benefits for children and young people.
- 4.4. Utilising good practice from the first year of the pilot, young people directly took ownership of the programmes in each school, naming the programme to personalise the experience whilst 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 due cognisance given to the voice of those young people with additional support needs (ASN).
- 4.5. During the programme, staff got to know young people and their parents/carers and this helped to build positive relationships that are being nurtured further to allow for a wider range of activities in future summer holiday lunch clubs, and to encourage the uptake of volunteering for parents, carers and other members of the community.
- 4.6. The Machan Trust received an element of funding to assist with the existing delivery of holiday lunch club provision in the Larkhall area. This provision was Larkhall wide and included Ashgill, Netherburn and Stonehouse, and was not via the targeted school model. This year, in line with the Council's approach, it was offered free of charge.
- 4.7. Another 3 voluntary sector partners were actively engaged in delivering the programme. These partners were:-
  - ◆ Healthy Valleys which delivered for the area of Rigside and Coalburn in Clydesdale
  - ◆ Blantyre Youth Development Team (Terminal One) which delivered for the area of St Joseph's and Auchinraith in Blantyre
  - ◆ Hamilton Information Project for Youth (HIPY) which delivered for the area of Our Lady's and St Anne's and Woodside in Hamilton

The Youth, Family and Community Learning Service staff (YFCL) were proactive to ensure all partners had knowledge of the Council's Child Protection procedures, knowledge of the Awards available for young people, received training and the provision of resources in the lead up to the commencement of summer lunch club programme.

- 4.8. As part of the programme of delivery, a number of external partners were involved in the delivery of inputs to further embed educational input. Partners included City of Play, Forest Friends, ScotRail (Railway Safety), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, The Dog's Trust, Libraries, Regen:FX and the NHS.
- 4.9. *Childsmile - Health*  
An example of this was the Child Smile Initiative, in partnership with NHS staff from the Public Dental Service. This was delivered across all the 13 areas and looked at improving oral hygiene of all participants and the importance of maintaining a daily tooth brushing routine. Each young person, with the support from staff and the child smile nurses, engaged in daily tooth brushing at the club after breakfast and lunch. The initiative also provided every young person with a free tooth brush and toothpaste.
- 4.10. *Play, safety and outdoor learning*  
Bespoke to the Clydesdale area, inputs included Railway Safety. Specific to the Crawforddyke Summer Lunch Club programme was the Forest Friends Scotland and City of Play. Forest Friends were granted funding from Awards for All to deliver outdoor holiday sessions, with this funding primarily directed to children living in the Crawforddyke area due to Crawforddyke Primary School having an excellent outdoor natural play area.
- 4.11. *Disability and inclusion*  
A number of additional support needs (ASN) young people attended the summer lunch club provision who required more tailored support. Young people, some with acute support needs, were able to access provision due to the recruitment of school support staff with appropriate training, provided through Support Services.
- 4.12. *Family Learning*  
Family learning was also a feature within clubs this year including grown up days where young people presented their work and experiences to parents / carers and dignitaries. The Gruffalo workshop and arts and crafts days also included family involvement while highlighting the wider role of supporting literacy through the involvement of parents/carers.
- 4.13. *Training and Support*  
To prepare staff ahead of summer lunch club delivery, all were given appropriate training including Child Protection, Health and Safety, Hi5/Dynamic Youth Award, and use of initial paperwork for referred young people.

## **5. Participation Rates and Achievements**

- 5.1. The total number of participants was 668, an increase of 525 from the previous year of 143.
- 5.2. As with the previous year, the Hi-5 Award, where a young person chooses a challenge and completes a minimum of 5 hours of activity, was promoted. 483 participants completed their challenge and accomplished the award. All of these young people will receive a certificate showing the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level and credit points at local awards ceremonies.
- 5.3 A total of 9,534 meals were provided across the duration of the programme.

## 6. Impact of provision

- 6.1. It was reported by parents of both existing provision and new provision 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 technology, avoided isolation during the summer, and provided a means to meet other families in the local community. In addition, many parents expressed a wish to contribute their time if the clubs were repeated and a volunteer programme is being developed in partnership with peers for parents, carers and wider community members, as well as access to certificated ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) short courses.
- 6.2. Overall feedback from young people has been very good, commenting on the variety of activities on offer and the opportunity for social interaction.
- 6.3. Young people returning to school after the summer were conveying positive examples of their experiences and the impact of the programme. Head Teachers and parents have reported that several of the children who had participated in the Summer holiday programme were more settled and engaged with their schooling more readily and quickly than in previous years. This has demonstrated that a recurring consequence of the provision is the impact of the continuity of a positive learning environment during the holiday period as this was shown to be the case during the first year of delivery.
- 6.4. Staff reported positive feedback from both parents and young people. There was evidence of some children gaining more confidence and of 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 appropriate support to allow participation in activities. For 2 families in particular, both of whom had children with complex ASN, the club has really helped them to interact with peers and assisted with their transition back to school in August 2019.
- 6.5. Some of our more vulnerable families who participated in the programme, engaged less with Social Work during the summer break, the club being seen as a positive contributory factor. Those families with children who have significant ASN have stated the club acted as a form of respite for parents.
- 6.6. Staff feedback has been extremely positive regarding working within the Summer Lunch Teams, evaluations citing the dynamics between school support staff, YFCL staff and YFCL volunteers worked very well. School support staff have shown a keen interest in supporting the Summer Holiday Programme again next year in 2020.

## 7. Recommendations for summer 2020 delivery

- 7.1. Exploring practice in other authorities provided the opportunity to gain an understanding of both the delivery models and challenges faced. Central to the success within South Lanarkshire has been the principle of the experience being a learning experience in all aspects of learning – social, emotional, curricular and personal. This fact has been picked up by a number of authorities visited, with one Council now looking to embed the Hi-5 Award, with a number of other local authorities seeking to visit South Lanarkshire to explore good practice here.
- 7.2. When considering the model for 2020 delivery, account has been taken of the evidence based research from other local authorities and other work in schools for early years' provision, and what the Council can provide for young people throughout South Lanarkshire. In summary, the changes to be considered and agreed are:-

1. Develop the hub model serving the wider community rather than delivery through local primaries (see appendix 1)
2. Given the first class primary school estate within South Lanarkshire with access to gyms, dining and external play, it was felt appropriate to continue delivering the summer programme from primary schools.  
(It is noted that other authorities used other buildings such as leisure facilities or community halls, however, the recommendation is to retain what has worked well so far in our school buildings)
3. Use of the YFCL events bus to provide a 'pop up' lunch hub in the rural or hard to reach areas. The South Ayrshire delivery model utilised a vehicle to engage with the community to deliver lunches.
4. Stock food items within Universal Connections on site activities in order to help remove the stigma of visiting food banks. This development is in line with East Lothian's Community Larder Project that draws on the experience of East Lothian's Foodbank in developing a pantry model.

7.3. It is proposed the hubs would operate from the same general geographical location thereby maintaining the connection to the areas of highest deprivation within the Council. The hubs can accommodate around 850 places per day based on current staffing ratios. Steps will be taken to assess the level of uptake at each hub and the benefits which accrue from young people attending, as well as identifying any areas for improvement including the views of families as described in para 7.4.

7.4. Engagement with families continues to be a key factor and information will be shared with them in the lead up to operation of the 2020 summer holiday programme.

## **8. Employee Implications**

8.1. Employee implications have been considered on the basis of planned delivery model during 2020. Given there is still capacity for further summer hub places to be occupied, the budgeted staffing complement for 2019, approved by the Executive Committee in March 2019, will remain in place for the 2020 provision.

8.2. Youth, Families and Community Learning(YFCL) staff, School Support Services staff and Facilities staff will continue to support the delivery of the 2020 programme. Third Sector organisations who supported the 2019 provision will be re-engaged for 2020 as they are best placed to assist in meeting both need and scale of delivery, in addition to now being experienced in delivery and trained to do so.

8.3. In addition to the staffing required, volunteers were also trained and utilised throughout each of the 4 localities. The YFCL volunteer programme has been pivotal in supporting buy in from communities and providing additional opportunities for people to increase their employability potential. This will be expanded to include new volunteers during 2020.

8.4. In summary, all avenues will continue to be explored to identify appropriate numbers of staff to enable each hub to run successfully and to provide a daily meal.

8.6. As the pilot continues and with the expected uptake in numbers to increase, it will then be possible to give consideration to making the allocation of hours to employees permanent, where appropriate.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. Total costs for the 2019 programme including staffing, transport for rural areas, certificate programme registration, property costs such as cleaning/janitorial supplies, voluntary sector support to deliver, resources and food are identified as approximately £375,000. This includes a full time member of staff to support staff training, lead in planning phase and a post programme evaluation phase.
- 9.2. As part of the investment on addressing child food poverty (Summer Holiday Lunch hub Programme and Breakfast Clubs), the Council's 2020/2021 budget totals £1.330m.
- 9.3. It is proposed that the anticipated expenditure for the 2020 summer programme, allowing for assumed pay award, will be maintained within the existing spend level of £375,000. This will allow the remaining budget of £955,000 to be used to assist with the increasing number of children currently now participating in breakfast clubs.

## **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 has been undertaken. This initiative also assists with the Fairer Scotland agenda.
- 12.2. Consultation with stakeholders will continue in order to help shape and inform any future service provision.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

13 February 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
- ◆ Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity

## **Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee – 13 March 2019

## **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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Table 1 - 2020 Summer Holiday Programme Provision

Appendix 1

2020 Summer Holiday Programme Provision	
Area	Provision location 2020
<b>Hamilton</b>	St Cuthbert's Primary
	Our Lady and St Anne's PS
	St Joseph's Primary
<b>Cambuslang /</b>	Loch Primary
<b>Rutherglen</b>	Cairns Primary
	Burgh Primary
<b>East Kilbride</b>	Crosshouse Primary
	East Milton Primary
	Heathery Knowe Primary
<b>Clydesdale</b>	St Athanasius Primary
	Coalburn Primary
	Carnwath Primary
<b>Larkhall</b>	Craigbank Primary