

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>31 August 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Summer Sessions Provision and Scottish Government Funded Enhanced Summer Programme 2021 – Interim Update Report</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an interim update on the delivery of South Lanarkshire's '*Sensational Summer Sessions*' provision and of the Scottish Government funded Enhanced Summer Programme 2021 in South Lanarkshire.

## 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 2021 enhanced summer programme;
- (2) to note that the Council has delivered this programme with a variety of Third Sector Partners and organisations; and
- (3) to note that a more comprehensive report will be presented at the November Committee meeting providing a detailed evaluation as to the impact of the South Lanarkshire Enhanced Summer Provision Fund 2021 on children, young people, families and communities.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. A report was presented to the Education Resources Committee on 1 June 2021 outlining plans for the continuation of the Council's sensational summer sessions and the provision of additional enhanced experiences across the summer in line with the Scottish Government's 'Get Into Summer' funding, the main aim of which was to help improve the wellbeing of children, young people and their families, over the summer period, who have been disproportionately affected during the pandemic and might not otherwise have access to activities and wider support, during the school holidays, allowing them to socialise, play and reconnect within their local communities.
- 3.2. The enhanced provision allowed for the expansion of the "Sensational Summer Sessions" to include young people aged 12 to 17 and their families, with the additional support of the voluntary sector partners located in local communities, as well as the wider Youth, Family and Community Learning Service (Universal Connections), over 6 days per week, including evenings and weekends.

- 3.3. As a result of this approach, 83 projects were funded through the Enhanced Summer Provision Fund supporting uniformed, faith based, sport and voluntary sector organisations aiming to deliver a variety of opportunities and activities to over 2,500 children, young people and families.
- 3.4. This report provides an initial overview of the summer provision and the impact on children, young people, families and communities. The full evaluation process will commence at the beginning of September whereafter a future report will provide a more detailed impact of the overall summer provision within the Council, in line with the reporting timescales set by the Scottish Government.

#### **4. Summer Programme 2021**

- 4.1. 14 “Sensational Summer Sessions” clubs were successfully delivered across South Lanarkshire during the summer holiday period. The clubs ran from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday, during the 6 weeks of the summer holidays with a breakfast and lunch service both included within the day.
- 4.2. Enrolment in the clubs was primarily targeted at those in receipt of free school meal entitlement, living with mental health, isolation, bereavement, anxiety, and financial difficulties, 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 disseminated information by the Head Teachers prior to the start of the programme to gauge their interest on the potential benefits for their children and young people.
- 4.3. In addition, people known to services were approached to directly offer places in the clubs and, this year, links were also made with Kinship Families ensuring further targeted engagement with young people who are looked after by family, friends or in their community.
- 4.4. Utilising good practice from previous years, 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.
- 4.5. 4 voluntary sector partners were actively engaged in delivering the Sensational Summer Sessions programme. These partners were:
- Healthy Valleys which delivered for the area of Rigside and Lanark in Clydesdale
  - Blantyre Youth Development Team (Terminal One) which delivered for Blantyre area
  - Hamilton Information Project for Youth. (HIPY) which delivered for the Fairhill/Laighstonehall area in Hamilton
  - Machan Trust which delivered for the area of Larkhall.
- 4.6. To ensure all partners had knowledge of Council Child Protection, COVID Procedures and knowledge of the Awards Programme, training and provision of resources in the lead up to the summer lunch club, an induction was provided by Youth, Family and Community Learning Service staff (YFCL) and Education Resources Central HQ staff.

- 4.7. In excess of 750 children and young people were registered for the Sensational Summer Sessions provision and accessed the Sensational Summer Session provision with over 100 children and young people identifying as having additional support needs. This does not include Universal Connections, KEAR and wider YFCL provision, or voluntary sector provision, which as stated above, will be reported on at a future Education Resources Committee.
- 4.8. As part of the programme of delivery, a number of internal and external partners were involved in the delivery of inputs to further embed educational input. Partners included Go Fresh Van, Forest Friends, Terminal One Climbing Wall, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, The Dog's Trust, Story Telling through Libraries, sports activities through Active Schools, Regen:FX, Petting Zoo, Inflatables, Healthy 'n' Happy, Cambuslang Community Council (Cambuslang Welcome Wall development), Cuningar Loop (design 'keep out' posters) and Linear Construction to give safety talks, Community Police, and the piloting of the Community Wellbeing Line.
- 4.9. Children and young people participated in a range of themed activities such as
- "Get Into Summer" (start of the summer programmes) to decide activities,
  - "We're in it together" about friendships, imaginative play, messages in a bottle etc.,
  - "Make a wish!" about inventing own superhero powers, positive images, positive thought and strengths, who are your superheroes in your life etc.,
  - "Harry Potter" imaginative play, scavenger hunts, play acting and roleplay, positive spells to help people, build confidence and be creative
  - "Community Olympics" identified their own meaning for each Olympic Ring, Hama Bead Olympic logos, dance sessions, Olympic challenges including race and team games, sports and imaginative, created your own medal etc.
  - "Perfect Staycation" what they loved about their community, navigation and coordinate games from where they live, treasure hunts, camping activities, bug hunts (understanding the fauna) and looking after the environment
  - "End of summer" talent shows, galleries of artwork and camp fire songs
  - "Jurassic week" learning about dinosaurs, making volcanoes, nerf wars, movie day
  - "Science week" make your own flying car, STEM activities such as magnet making, magnet maze, secret code writing
  - "Animal week" animal origami, animal masks, jungle banner
  - "Space week" making solar systems (paper mâché planets), non-bake baking flying saucers, rocket art (moon sand in a bottle)
  - Active Schools sessions in each club on a weekly basis
- 4.10. Each of the locations was supported by the Go Fresh Van and Mascot, Paula Pineapple, providing frozen yoghurt ice-cream to support outdoor activities.
- 4.11. Within Halfmerke, Heathery Knowe, St Athanasius' PS and KEAR YFCL, there was a dedicated programme for children with more complex additional support needs that ensured they were able to equally participate in the themed activities.
- 4.12. To complement the provision, a bank of resources and equipment such as Silent Disco, Playhouses for imaginative play, STEAM materials, supersized outdoor games, playmats, circus resources, VR Headsets, extreme sports equipment and a portable football pitch that will also aid future years' planning and delivery, both for the Council and voluntary sector partners.
- 4.13. As well as the delivery of activity programmes, free personalised support such as the provision of passes to leisure services including swimming and ice-skating passes, and access to tennis, in addition to outdoor learning activities through South

Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust. A number of children and young people have been identified as benefitting from health and fitness activities and were provided with ACE passes and junior gym passes, to support and encourage them to continue participation in these activities. This has been supported by all partners involved in the delivery of Sensational Summer Session activities.

- 4.14. The opportunity to engage with and involve the Third Sector and partners in the delivery of the Enhanced Summer Programme has proven to be a tremendous success, supporting delivery within local communities, which has encouraged a wider participation, resulting in greater numbers benefitting from the provision. The success of this will be reflected in the full evaluation report in November.
- 4.15. This will ensure the delivery of creative, powerful, innovative and inclusive experiences for targeted young people and their families, across South Lanarkshire, in line with the Enhanced Summer Programme recommendations.

## **5. Evaluation and Feedback**

- 5.1. As part of the fuller evaluation, all participants and parents will receive a Google form to complete. Below is a selection of feedback that has been recorded from young people, parents/carers and staff as part of the ongoing feedback during the sensational summer session provision:

"I think this has been a great opportunity for my foster-son. It gave him interaction with peers and helped him with his social skills and peer relationships". **Foster parent**

"Good afternoon just a email to say thank you so much for running this for the kids this year my son who has autism ... I haven't had any challenging behaviour; he is so happy going to his school with some of the fantastic staff I can tell you what a joy I've had with my daughter with this break so from the bottom of my heart thank you." **Parent**

"The staff were amazing, helpful and just all-round nice". **Parent**

"Can't wait for next year!" **Young person**

"Groups were okay, but sometimes I wanted to play with people in other groups and I couldn't". **Young person**

## **6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. None

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. Funding was made available from both the Council's own budget for the continuation of the Sensational Summer Sessions (£380k) and from additional monies provided by the Scottish Government (£882k) for enhanced and additional summer delivery. This was used for resources, and to cover the costs to run the summer activities (council staff costs) and to engage external organisations to be involved in and support individual local programmes, thereby enhancing the level of provision across the authority area.
- 7.2. Information on actual full spend is still being quantified and will be provided within the detailed report to be presented to the Education Resources Committee in November 2021.

## **8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

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

## **9. Other Implications**

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

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

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. 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

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

9 August 2021

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- Support communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation, and supporting aspiration
- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational
- Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities

## **Previous References**

Education Resources Committee – 1 June 2021

## **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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