

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 5 March 2013

School Holiday Respite/Playschemes for Disabled Children and Young People

Item number	7.2
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council outcomes	CO1 , CO2 , CO3 , CO4 , CO5 , CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

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Executive summary

School Holiday Respite/Playschemes for Disabled Children and Young People

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current position within the respite playscheme service and to highlight the positive changes planned for both 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Recommendations

To recommend that the Education, Children and Families Committee agree:

1. That all disabled children and young people are entitled to receive up to 6 weeks of service per year by 2014/15
2. That children attending St Crispin's and Braidburn Schools receive an entitlement of 6 weeks service from April 2013
3. From August 2013 new pupils at Oaklands school receive a 6 week allocation to ensure equity with other children and families
4. That Council officers begin preparations to undertake a tendering process in 2013/14 for respite playschemes to ensure compliance with EU legislation.

Measures of success

- All children and young people with a disability will be entitled to 6 weeks of respite playscheme service by April 2014.
- The service continues to meet the needs of parents/carers who have a disabled child evaluated through parental engagement.
- Families feel more supported during this time and this will be measurable
- The City of Edinburgh Council award contracts upon completion of a tendering process to experienced and competent providers.

Financial impact

The current budget for this service is £456,000. This will be increasing to £506,000 in 2013/14 and £812,000 for 2014/15 as a result of additional funding from the Council through the Early Years Change Fund.

Equalities impact

This service area has a large degree of relevance to equalities, diversity and human rights and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) will be carried out. Due regard is being paid to the findings of the consultation responses, and these will continue to underpin the development of this service area in the future. The EQIA report will be available on the Council's website.

There is a need to:

- Incorporate an equalities perspective throughout the tendering process
- Ensure children and young people from black and minority ethnic and other protected groups are supported to access our service
- Ensure systems are in place to monitor access to our service
- Ensure providers continue existing work to encourage a more balanced equality profile of staff across the staff in this service area
- Ensure activities undertaken within the service reflect the diversity of children and young people accessing them.

Sustainability impact

There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

Extensive consultation and engagement has taken place prior to the service being developed and will be ongoing during the planned tendering process. The range of consultations includes:

- July 2012 all children and young people attending the summer service were asked their opinions of the service. This was undertaken in partnership with the Commissioning Team and involved designing a consultation for young people with a range of disabilities.
- August 2012 all parents and carers and siblings of children with a disability were consulted on the Commissioning Plan which included the school holiday respite service.
- October 2012 all parents and carers of children attending the summer service were asked their opinions of the service and to provide feedback on specific aspects of service development.
- Each service provider undertook their own consultation after the summer service to ascertain how they could develop future delivery.

In addition to the above there are positive links and partnership working within various aspects of the playscheme delivery, for example; training offered and delivered by NHS Lothian.

Background reading / external references

None

School Holiday Respite/Playschemes for Disabled Children and Young People

1. Background

- 1.1 Support to Children and Young People oversee the delivery of the School Holiday Respite (playscheme) service. This service supports families who have a child with a disability who may; struggle with the change in routine during the school holidays; not be able to access any locally based or mainstream services; may enter into crisis and possible family breakdown due to being unable to cope with their child's challenging behaviour and who become isolated due to a lack of services able to support their disabled child.
- 1.2 The services provide structure and routine and are set up to reflect the length of the school day. Staff are highly knowledgeable and experienced and are able to offer consistency in behavioural strategies and communication strategies which support the child and the family. The service also ensures children with a disability are able to take part in age appropriate activities which are fun, challenging, with peers and socially inclusive.

Current Position

- At present approximately 400 children and young people with a disability receive a service. This ranges from between 1-12 weeks of service per year.
- There is a current disparity in access to provision based on which Special School a child attends. Pupils attending Oaklands School can access up to 12 weeks of service whilst a pupil at Braidburn School can access only 2 weeks.
- The service is set up to offer a range of provisions which include; autism spectrum disorder, complex health care needs, challenging behaviour, outdoor activities and residential camps and access to an adventure play venue, The Yard.
- Children must be aged 5 and be eligible to have started school to receive a service and can remain until they turn 18 and continue to remain in full time school education.

- Parents and carers contribute towards the cost of the service, including transport, by paying £25 per week if they are in receipt of income support and £45 per week if they are in employment.
- These services are planned and delivered by a range of voluntary and private organisations.

2. Main report

2.1 There are significant changes planned for this service area and include, for 2013/14:

- an increase in service delivery for children and young people attending St.Crispin's and Braidburn Schools from 3 weeks of service to 6 weeks of service. This will take effect in 2013.
- All other providers will continue to provide the existing level of service delivery for 2013, but this will increase in 2014.
- a tendering process which will look at increasing and improving service delivery for 2014/15 and will involve ongoing consultations with parents and carers and potential providers within the market.

2.2 For 2014/15 there are further developments planned which include:

- Awarding the contracts upon completion of the tendering process
- Increasing the service capacity to offer 6 weeks of service to those children and young people who want it
- Bringing the allocation to new children at Oaklands School in line with all other children and young people with a disability across Edinburgh.
- Working with providers to offer:
 - Wrap around childcare attached to the existing service to support parents and carers in work, training or education
 - Drop in family swim sessions at pools based within Edinburgh's Special Schools
 - More locally based services which support community development and help parents and carers to develop local informal networks of support.

3. Recommendations

To recommend that the Education, Children and Families Committee agree:

- 3.1 That all disabled children and young people are entitled to receive up to 6 weeks of service per year by 2014/15
- 3.2 That children attending St Crispin's and Braidburn Schools receive an entitlement of 6 weeks service from April 2013.
- 3.3 From August 2013 new pupils at Oaklands school receive a 6 week allocation to ensure equity with other children and families.
- 3.4 That Council officers begin preparations to undertake a tendering process in 2013/14 for respite playschemes to ensure compliance with EU legislation.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P1. Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
Council outcomes	CO1. Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities CO3. Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances CO4. Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO5. Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities CO6. Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	1. Outcomes and Priorities

Appendix 1

OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES

Our aim is to ensure that all services we commission help us to achieve the Council's and the Edinburgh Children's Partnership's outcomes for children and young people in Edinburgh. These align with national outcomes, the single outcome agreement, and respond to internal and external (inspection) evaluation findings.

Edinburgh's outcomes are:

- Outcome 1. Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed
- Outcome 2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making positive contribution to their communities
- Outcome 3. Our children at risk or with a disability have improved life chances
- Outcome 4. Our children and young people are physically and emotionally well
- Outcome 5. Our children are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities
- Outcome 6. Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality

[Extract from 'Children and Families Service Plan 2012-15](#)