

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 6 October 2015

## Breakfast Club Review

Item number	7.9
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

### Executive summary

Breakfast Clubs were historically developed to provide a healthy breakfast for vulnerable children and have continued to develop to include larger proportions of children whose parents/carers use this provision to support their work or training. The aim is to have a breakfast club in every school. Good progress is being made in achieving this objective with breakfast clubs now established for 55 out of 88 schools. The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the current landscape of Breakfast Clubs delivered in schools across the city and how they may continue to develop in response to the needs of families who live and work in Edinburgh.

### Links

Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P1</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO2</a> , <a href="#">CO4</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO3</a>

## Breakfast Clubs Review

### Recommendations

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The Committee are requested to:

- 1.1 Note the report.
- 1.2 Note the continued success in providing breakfast clubs and the Council's aspiration to have a breakfast club in every school.

### Background

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- 2.1 Breakfast Clubs were originally developed in schools to support a healthy start to the day for vulnerable children, whilst promoting attendance, punctuality and a 'readiness to learn'. More recently Breakfast Club places have been in increased demand by parents who are working or in training.
- 2.2 The Council has used three budgets to fund its Breakfast Club provision. The budget from Schools and Community Services has funded a programme of 26 Breakfast Clubs. Supporting Children and Young People (SCYP) has provided funding for two targeted breakfast clubs for vulnerable children. These operate separately from schools and are run by two voluntary organisations. Community Learning and Development (CLD) delivers one targeted breakfast club which is managed from a community centre. Providers of targeted breakfast clubs have been encouraged to apply for funding from the new Council grant process from April 2016 onwards. Three additional schools provide their own funding to deliver a Breakfast Club in their own premises (see Appendix 1).
- 2.3 The aim is to have a breakfast club for every school. This will support the Council's objectives in:
  - 2.3.1 Ensuring children, particularly vulnerable children, have a positive and healthy start to the day.
  - 2.3.2 Breakfast Clubs align themselves and give added value to the affordable childcare agenda.

### **Fact Finding Activity**

- 3.1 The activities undertaken during the course of the fact finding activity included the mapping of provision across the city and an audit of information from all Breakfast Clubs across the city.
- 3.2 Funding is also provided to four special schools but for food only. This provision has not been included in the scope of the fact finding activity.
- 3.3 As well as Council funded provision, Breakfast Clubs are also delivered by the childcare sector.

### **Mapping**

- 3.4 Currently there are 52 Breakfast Clubs (delivered to 55 schools) accessed by primary aged children across the City (see Appendix 2).
- 3.5 From the information received, there are children from 55 out of a total of 88 primary schools able to access a Breakfast Club (See Appendix 3).
- 3.6 The majority of Breakfast Clubs provided in primary schools are managed directly by schools with the support of Schools and Community Services budget.
- 3.7 This provision may not be available to all children in a school and not always in the school that they attend. There are currently 33 primary schools where there is no access to a Breakfast Club.

### **Breakfast Club attendance**

- 3.8 From the information provided by clubs, the numbers of children registered as accessing each club ranges from 13 to 124. The highest number reported as registered with a childcare provider was 76.
- 3.9 The majority of Breakfast Clubs funded by the Council restrict their daily attendance to between 20 – 40 children attending per day.
- 3.10 During the Fact Finding visits it was reported that there has been an increase in demand for Breakfast Club places by parents who are working. In some instances all places were taken up by parents in work or training.
- 3.11 Further work is required to assess the level of demand for breakfast clubs including whether there are waiting lists for current provision.

### **Engagement of Vulnerable Children**

- 3.12 This work will make a key contribution to the Children and Families work in relation to child poverty. It is the aspiration of the Children and Families Department that all children in poverty have access to a Breakfast Club.
- 3.13 The issues supported by the availability of Breakfast Clubs include: attendance, punctuality, a healthy start for children enabling their readiness to learn, support for children who 'get themselves up and out of the house', parental mental health and opportunities for social interaction with peers and staff. Breakfast Clubs also

provide an opportunity for the identification and diffusion of issues manifesting themselves early in the day. They may benefit children in Kinship Care and Looked After Children (LAC) as well as a response on an earlier intervention level. Clubs can also offer the opportunity for the reinforcement of positive health messages such as facilitating tooth brushing and opportunities for physical activity. The opportunity for children to receive support with homework may also be presented.

- 3.14 School staff regularly offer the option of the Breakfast Club in the course of formal child planning meetings. However, Breakfast Club is also offered to parents for their children without formal processes being in place.
- 3.15 There are three targeted breakfast clubs for vulnerable children. These clubs offer a transport service. Children access the club by means of a referral through the school or a social worker.

### **Relationship between Breakfast Clubs and schools**

- 3.16 There is value in Breakfast Club staff being employed in different capacities within their school or organisation at other parts of the day as it provides continuity for the children. This contributes to the ease of communication should concerns about children be noted first thing in the morning.

### **Breakfast Club Funding**

- 3.17 The average cost of a breakfast club is £6,500 per year. Each Schools and Community Services funded club and Aegon clubs receive £5,000 per year to fund their Breakfast Club. The major cost associated with the Breakfast Club is staffing. Schools employ two staff to run the Breakfast Clubs. The £5,000 budget does not cover the total cost of running a Breakfast Club. Typically, a school will need to contribute approximately £1,500 per annum.
- 3.18 Some Breakfast Clubs ask for donations from parents whose children attend. These range from 50p to £1 per day, or £1 per week. However, as these are not charges, they are not enforceable and therefore cannot be considered or relied upon as income.
- 3.19 While private sponsorship, supported by the Aegon partnership, provides flexibility to the overall budget, the Council has to underwrite any arrangement should sponsorship cease. The private sponsor contributes the same level of £5,000 so a sponsored school does not receive additional funding.
- 3.20 The aim is for there to be a breakfast club in every school. The Council is making significant progress towards this objective. There are already breakfast clubs for 55 out of 88 schools.
- 3.21 The Schools and Community Services funding for breakfast clubs is £84,000 pa and is fully committed. It has been agreed that the organisations which provide targeted breakfast clubs for vulnerable children should apply to the Council's grants programme for funding.

- 3.22 Schools could charge parents to cover the costs of a breakfast club. This could be achieved by children paying £2 per day. This level of charge would match the lowest figure charged by a social childcare provider. This would allow schools to continue running the Breakfast Club with the current model of employing two members of staff.
- 3.23 There are three schools that have made decisions to start their own Breakfast Club without additional Council funding or by using staff in such a way that they can provide a club at a much lower cost to parents. The continued sustainability of these clubs should be monitored.
- 3.24 Schools can apply for grants from trusts, foundations and to look for sponsorship from business. In order that schools may access more competitively priced cereals, a partnership with Fareshare is currently being piloted with school Breakfast Clubs in the Leith area. Some schools across the city have used the proceeds from the fundraising efforts of their parent councils in order to develop Breakfast Club provision.
- 3.25 Aegon has demonstrated its commitment to the Breakfast Club programme for the last seven years. Additional benefits experienced from the partnership with Aegon include the development of a volunteering scheme focused on Breakfast Clubs and the development of after school homework clubs.
- 3.26 Schools and officers within the Council will identify Breakfast Clubs as an opportunity for local businesses to address their corporate social responsibilities. The Council should also reference Breakfast Clubs in the implementation of the Council's sustainable procurement policy, thus providing opportunities for contracted organisations to evidence their requirement for community benefit activity.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 The numbers of children able to access Breakfast Clubs across the city continues to increase.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications.
- 5.2 There service will continue to work in partnership with Economic Development to secure additional sponsorship and finance to ensure the sustainability of Breakfast Clubs.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 The recommendations in this report do not impact on an existing policy of the Council and there are no health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications that elected members need to take into account when reaching their decision.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 Breakfast Clubs seek to address inequalities of children living in poverty by providing a healthy start to the day, enabling readiness to learn and improving outcomes for children. It supports larger proportions of parents/carers on low income use clubs to support their work or training. There are no negative impacts from this work.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 There are no impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change or sustainable development arising directly from this report.
- 8.2 Breakfast Clubs contribute to improving outcomes for children living in poverty and support parents in work/ training on a low income, which in turn contributes to improved community sustainability.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Consultation has been undertaken across the City of Edinburgh with key stakeholders who deliver, use or have an interest in Breakfast Club Provision:
- 9.1.1 Questionnaire distributed to profit and not for profit Out of School Care providers (Including Breakfast Clubs) across the City of Edinburgh;
  - 9.1.2 Out of School on-line questionnaire (including Breakfast Clubs) distributed through a range of outlets to parents/carers;
  - 9.1.3 Focus groups exploring challenges and issues around Out of School Care (including Breakfast Clubs) currently being delivered;
  - 9.1.4 Analysis of monitoring form distributed to all SCS funded Breakfast Clubs;
  - 9.1.5 Engagement with the Council funded Breakfast Clubs to ensure Breakfast Club delivery is aligned with current strategic direction.

A working group of Primary headteachers will be set up to explore reconfiguration of existing funding to develop more breakfast clubs across the sector.

## Background reading/external references

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[Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

[Child Poverty Strategy For Scotland: Our Approach 2014 - 2017](#)

[Getting It Right for Every For Children and Families: A Guide to Getting It Right for Every Child: Scottish Government June 2012](#)

[Family and Childcare Trust: Creating a Family Friendly UK](#)

### Gillian Tee

Gillian Tee, Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact : Aileen McLean, Senior Education Manager

E-mail: [aileen.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:aileen.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 4567

### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities. CO4 – Our children’s and young people’s outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO3 – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
<b>Appendices</b>	1 – School Breakfast Clubs with relevant Council Funding Streams and Partnerships 2 – Number of Breakfast Clubs Operating Across the City 3 – Schools that are delivering or have access to Breakfast Club Provision across City of Edinburgh Council

## Appendix 1 School Breakfast Clubs with relevant Council Funding Streams and Partnerships

No.	Schools and Establishments	Funding
1	Broomhouse/St Josephs Primary School	SCS funded.
2	Brunstane Primary School	SCS funded
3	Canal View Primary School	SCS funded
4	Castleview Primary School	SCS funded club starting Oct. 15
5	Craigour Park Primary School	SCS funding and integrated with Childcare Connections
6	Craigroyston Primary School	SCS funded
7	Craigtinny Primary School	Funded from school budget
8	Dalry Primary School	SCS funded
9	East Craigs Primary School	SCS funded
10	Forthview Primary School	SCS funded
11	Gracemount Primary School	SCS funded
12	Hillwood Primary School	SCS funded
13	Leith Primary School	SCS funded
14	Leith Walk Primary School	Funded from school budget
15	Liberton Primary School	SCS funded
16	Lorne Primary School	SCS funded
17	Murrayburn Primary School	SCS funded
18	Niddrie Mill/St Francis Primary School	SCS funded
19	Oxgangs Primary School	SCS funded
20	Pentland Primary School	SCS funded
21	Pirniehall/St David's Primary School	SCS funded.
22	Ratho Primary School	SCS funded
23	Royal Mile Primary School	SCS funded
24	St Catherine's RC Primary School	SCS funded
25	St John Vianney RC Primary School	SCS funded
26	Stenhouse Primary School	SCS funded
27	The Royal High Primary School	SCS funded
28	Trinity Primary School	SCS funded
29	Victoria Primary School	Funded from school budget



## Appendix 1 School Breakfast Clubs with relevant Council Funding Streams and Partnerships

1	Venchie Children and Young People's Project: Supporting vulnerable families.	SCYP funded
2	Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre delivered in Ferryhill Primary	SCYP funded
3	Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre and Granton Primary School	CLD funded. In partnership with Royston Wardieburn Community Centre.

1	Clovenstone Primary School	Sponsored through the Aegon Partnership
2	Colinton Primary School	Sponsored through the Aegon Partnership
3	Sighthill	Sponsored through the Aegon Partnership

Special Schools receiving funding for Breakfast Club food stuffs only

1	Gorgie Mills	£1800
2	Kames	£1300
3	Oaklands	£1300
4	Woodlands	£1300

## Appendix 2

<b>Breakfast Clubs Operating Across the City = 52</b>			
<b>Delivered in Primary Schools</b>		<b>Delivered on Other Sites</b>	
<b>Funded By:</b>		<b>Funded By:</b>	
Schools and Community Services	<b>24</b>	Supporting Children and Young People	<b>1</b>
Aegon Breakfast Club Project	<b>3</b>	Childcare Providers (charging parents)	<b>1</b>
Supporting Children and Young People	<b>1</b>	CLD Budget	<b>1</b>
Childcare Provider (charging parents)	<b>11</b>		
Community based /parent led	<b>5</b>		
School Budget	<b>3</b>		
Integrated SCS/Childcare Provider (some parents being charged)	<b>2</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>3</b>

**Schools who are delivering or have access to Breakfast Club Provision across City of Edinburgh Council.**

**Total number of schools = 55 (88 Primary Schools in total)**

Abbeyhill Primary School

Blackhall Primary School

Bonaly Primary School

Broomhouse Primary School

Brunstane Primary School

Bruntsfield Primary School

Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce

Canal View Primary School

Carrick Knowe Primary School

Castleview Primary School

Clovenstone Primary School

Colinton Primary School

Craigentenny Primary School

Craigour Park Primary School

Craigroyston Primary School

Dalry Primary School

Davidson's Mains Primary School

East Craigs Primary School

Ferryhill Primary School

Forthview Primary School

Gracemount Primary School

Granton Primary School

Hillwood Primary School

Kirkliston Primary School

Leith Primary School

Leith Walk Primary School

Liberton Primary School  
Longstone Primary School  
Lorne Primary School  
Murrayburn Primary School  
Niddrie Mill Primary School  
Oxgangs Primary School  
Pentland Primary School  
Pirniehall Primary School  
Preston Street Primary School  
Ratho Primary School  
Royal Mile Primary School  
Sciennes Primary School  
Sighthill Primary School  
South Morningside Primary School  
St Catherine's RC Primary School  
St David's RC Primary School  
St Francis' RC Primary School  
St John Vianney RC Primary School  
St Joseph's RC Primary School  
St Mary's RC Primary  
St Mary's RC (Leith)  
St Ninian's RC Primary  
St Peter's RC Primary School  
Stenhouse Primary School  
The Royal High Primary School  
Tollcross Primary School  
Towerbank Primary School  
Trinity Primary School  
Victoria Primary School