

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 August 2018

Play schemes for Children with Disabilities Progress Report

Item number	7.8
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	tbc

Executive Summary

The Council provides a Holiday Activity Programme for Disabled Children and Young People ("the play scheme").

The Council reported to Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2018 that the service would be brought in house for the Easter and summer holiday play schemes.

A Senior Manager has been appointed on a 6 month basis to conduct a full review on the provision of this service.

Play schemes for Children with Disabilities Progress Report

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 note this report.
 - 1.1.2 request a further report on the outcome of parental engagement and consultation on the future management of the holiday activity play scheme in December 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 A play scheme service for children and young people with disabilities has been delivered in Edinburgh for around 15 years. It was originally run by parents before being delivered by the council as part of its early year's service. Latterly it has been managed by the disability team in Children's Services. The aim is to create opportunities for disabled children and young people to participate in fun and challenging activities during the school holidays and to offer a break to families from their caring role. The service has the additional benefit of providing a greatly appreciated level of respite to families who would otherwise face significant challenges in caring for their disabled children for the full duration of every school break.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Further to previous reports on the children's disability social work service and the holiday activity play scheme, a senior manager has been appointed on a 6-month basis to conduct a full review of the ways in which we assess, prioritise and provide social work and social care services to children affected by disabilities and their families.
- 3.2 The service will undertake this review with full engagement and consultation with families. Since June, a working group of parents has been in regular contact with the senior manager and consultation will extend to all potentially affected children, young people and families. Future provision will be designed with families. The

consultation will include term time support, out of school activities and transition to adult services.

- 3.3 A consultation report has been prepared for parents. A full report will be brought to committee with recommendations for future service provision once the outcomes of consultation are clear and agreed with the families affected

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Numbers of children using the play scheme.
- 4.2 Results of parental consultation.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The total estimated value of the previous contract to the Council, including extensions, was between £3,765,324 and £3,884,312 assuming annual inflation of 2%. Total annual spend to the council will depend on index linked price adjustments and parental contributions.
- 5.2 The contract is subject to parental contributions. The exact level of parental contributions is dependent on the number of children who attend the service. The estimate of £110,000 per annum is based on experience from the income levels in the current contract.
- 5.3 The council has identified additional funding of £400,000 to contribute to provision in 2018/19
- 5.4 Any additional allocation of resources in the current year will create a corresponding pressure in subsequent financial years.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The holiday activity programme for disabled children and young people is a high-risk provision.
- 6.2 Assumption of management by council officers will reduce risk.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 An Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment (ERIA) was undertaken in March 2017, with due regards to the protected characteristics as detailed in the Equalities Act 2010. There were no negative impact outcomes.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 No significant environmental impacts are expected to arise from this contract.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 A paper has been written and shared with parents and stakeholders as part of a consultation on the format of the play schemes for children with a disability.
- 9.2 Consultation meetings with parents have been arranged.
- 9.3 Consultation with potential providers has taken place.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 N/A

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11. Appendices

- 11.1 N/A