

# Deputations

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am Tuesday, 6th October, 2020

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

### Deputations

---

#### Contacts

Email: [jamie.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk) / [sarah.stirling@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.stirling@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Tel: 0131 553 8242 / 0131 529 3009

#### Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Communications

This page is intentionally left blank

**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**  
**POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

**Item No 3**

**6 October 2020**

**DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Deputation</b>
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 5.2 on the agenda – Rolling Actions Log (action 34)</b>	Jack Kane Community Centre

This page is intentionally left blank



## Jack Kane Community Centre's deputation for the Policy and Sustainability Committee 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020:

Convener, Vice Convener and elected members of the Committee thank you for agreeing to hear this deputation from the Jack Kane Community Centre in respect to the resumption of indoor youth work. At this time, our Board is acknowledged as the only centre who has made this type of pilot resumption request to the City of Edinburgh Councils A&R group. As such, this deputation relates only to the Jack Kane Community Centre and we ask you to take this into consideration.

The importance of physical and mental health and the contribution educational interventions as well as social and physical activity makes to individual and community health and well-being has been brought into sharp focus by COVID-19.

The relationship between poor health, social inequalities and isolation from coronavirus has been identified, as has the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on individuals and families from more deprived backgrounds. As Alastair Gow said in a recent podcast '**no one should be left behind**'.

Unfortunately, this rhetoric is not our lived reality, the Board recognises:

1. The acceleration and planned programme of CEC libraries re-opening across Edinburgh.
2. The agreement that CEC third party funding has no stipulations placed on this so that the resumption of indoor youth work can take place for certain voluntary organisations in Edinburgh who do not lease buildings from the CEC.
3. That there has been an agreement between the CEC and certain other charities which now allows Councils buildings to be re-opened in response to the changes set out in the Scottish Government route map.
4. That National guidance for the resumption for youth work has been changed for over a month now.

Given that the Scottish Government allowed for the resumption of indoor youth work from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and that David Bruce at the previous P&S committee stated that the CEC would be directed by national directives, there seems no acceleration of the resumption of any type of indoor youth work.

Paul McCloskey also gave assurances at the same meeting that structures and procedures would be in place straight away in preparation of the resumption of indoor youth work, unfortunately, there seems no evidence of this urgency occurring from a community centre perspective as stated previously by CEC officers.

Recently, our Board provided a robust and dynamic plan to the A&R group for a phased and piloted transition for the resumption of Youth and Children's work in the centre. The plan offered took in to



account all Government guidance, public health advice, regulation from our insurers as well as information from national youth work bodies. Regrettably, our request was denied at **the first stage** by the Adaption and Renewal group stating that **'work is continuing to develop criteria against which future Management Committee requests can be considered'** without timescales or an appeal process.

To this end we have three clear questions as laid out below:

1. **Given the previous CEC officer assurances that if there was a change in national guidance then the resumption of indoor youth work would be accelerated, then why is there still no criteria for the resumption of youth work within our centre?**
2. **Certain other charities, who have the same CEC building lease as this community centre and are bound by the same charitable regulations through OSCR be encouraged and provided with additional funds (Finance and Resource Committee 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020) to open with seemingly no CEC restrictions, why is this not the case for our community centre?**
3. **Provide assurances for this community centre that the CEC will make every endeavour to accelerate the resumption of youth work for the Jack Kane Community Centre who have the capacity and the confidence to transition back for this essential service and that a timeline is articulated to our board where this ambition can be achieved?**

#### **In conclusion**

Our Board are:

1. Regulated by OSCR
2. Governed by our Insurers
3. Currently supporting the CEC to carry out strategic aims and objectives for this city in difficult circumstances
4. Compliant with national guidance and public health advice
5. Confident and have the capability to resume to piloted youth work services

The Board of the Jack Kane Community Centre on behalf of the young people, children and families who utilise our services feel that through certain CEC actions and the façade of processes that this charity is being unfairly disadvantaged to the detriment of our community. Our services are essential, and our ambition is and has been to continue to combat poverty, to increase our communities' health and well-being and grow our services which will be aligned with our localities needs throughout this pandemic.

Over the last few months we have not asked the CEC for any additional support, resources or indeed funding and as such see no rationale for our request to be denied at the first hurdle with no right of appeal.

John Witherspoon  
Chairperson  
28/9/2020



This page is intentionally left blank