

Motion by the Coalition

Education, Children and Families Committee

2 March 2021

Item 7.8 - Holiday Support for Children Affected by a Disability

Committee notes the report and accepts the recommendation 1.1.1, removes 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, and replaces/adds the following recommendations.

- 1.1.2 Notes that the model of service delivery, developed to address the challenges of Covid-19 outlined in the report, should continue to be applied for the Easter holidays.
- 1.1.3 Aims to return to pre-Covid provision for the summer break 2021, provided the covid restrictions allow, and notes that this improved provision was the result of a significant period of consultation with parents in 2018.
- 1.1.4 Agrees to engage with parents as soon as possible and specifically on addressing any previous challenges, lessons learned during Covid-19 provision, and with the goal of exploring further improvements to the pre-Covid-19 provision for children and their families.
- 1.1.5 That any additional funding for Education, identified as part of the amended budgets after May 2021, should consider the challenges around the availability of staffing for the playscheme.

Moved by Councillor Ian Perry

Seconded by Councillor Alison Dickie

Joint Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group / Conservative Group

Education, Children & Families Committee

2 March 2021

Item No 7.8 – Holiday Support for Children Affected by a Disability

Committee notes the report and commends the work that has been done to sustain some holiday support provision, albeit limited, to the most vulnerable and at-risk young people, during the recent educational restrictions.

Committee recognises the particular stresses that home-schooling has placed on families of children with additional support needs. This is not only an issue in terms of respite for parents/carers but has also resulted in a very limited ability for social interaction for these children and young people. There is a heavy reliance on these interactions (through both their schooling and access to holiday play schemes) to contribute to their wellbeing.

Committee agrees to a review, with comprehensive consultation, on the service provision, both in terms of the Covid-19 restricted provision over the last year, and the service as performed prior to Covid-19. The focus should be on meeting the needs of all these vulnerable children and young people and providing appropriate support to families.

Committee notes the report and accepts recommendation 1.1.1, removes 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, and adds new recommendations as follows:

- 1.1.2 Notes that the model of service delivery, developed to address the challenges of Covid-19 outlined in the report, should continue until after the Easter holiday break and in line with the limited return of pupils in mainstream schools.
- 1.1.3 Aims for a pre-Covid type provision for the Summer break 2021 but influenced by the outcomes of consultation with parents. The consultation should be with all parents who have used the service previously and/or with children attending special schools.
- 1.1.4 Agrees that consultation should commence as soon as is feasible and to conclude at the end of the spring term, to allow the insight gained to influence plans for the summer 2021 holidays.
- 1.1.5 Confirms that the presumption is not for a reduced service, but for an improved service with funding remaining at least at the current levels and being open to all eligible children and young people. Consideration may be given to a focus on the summer holiday provision due to greater availability of appropriate staff, but this must be part of the consultation.

- 1.1.6 That any additional funding for Education, identified as part of amended budgets after the May 2021 elections, should consider one-off options to address the challenges of the play scheme, in particular around staffing resources.
- 1.1.7 Asks council officers to engaged with SQA on feasibility options to develop a vocational qualification, that those working on the play scheme can train towards which would provide a formal qualification as a result of working with our young people.

Renumbers the original 1.1.4 to 1.1.8

Moved by Councillor Louise Young

Seconded by Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Amendment by the Green Group

Education, Children and Families Committee

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Item 7.8 - Holiday Support for Children Affected by a Disability

This Committee:

Agrees recommendations 1.1.1 and 1.1.4 and

Replaces recommendations 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 with:

- 1.1.2 Notes that the covid pandemic required the Playscheme, holiday support for children affected by a disability, to be suspended and replaced with smaller scale, more targeted support in 2020. That this benefitted vulnerable children who may have otherwise not been supported. However, recognises that other children and families with high levels of need were left without provision.
- 1.1.3 Continues the current covid-period holiday arrangements but approves a rapid consultation exercise to inform the provision of holiday support for children affected by a disability during Summer 2021.

Moved by Councillor Steve Burgess

Seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell