

The City of Edinburgh Council

10:00, Thursday, 24 June 2021

Youth work in Community Centres and other locations

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council notes progress made to resume youth work in community centres and other locations
- 1.2 To agree that a further update be provided for Culture and Communities Committee 14 September 2021, on progress of community centre services resumption - including youth work.
- 1.3 Council agrees to ask Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) to work with Council officers to produce a Youth Work Recovery Plan for the city that will highlight the excellent practice that already exists but also sets out the challenges and actions required going forward.
- 1.4 Council agrees to note that the scale of the contribution of the voluntary sector is significant and it will require a co-ordinated effort, over some weeks, to produce a recovery plan for Youth Work
- 1.5 Council notes the commitment and work being undertaken to coordinate and deliver the Get into Summer programme, which will result in more opportunities for greater numbers of young people across the city.

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Report

Youth work in Community Centres and other locations

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Council sponsored outdoor youth work, including detached work with young people in the city, has been taking place in line with national guidance.
- 2.2 Officers are working with community centre management committees to identify opportunities to resume activity, including youth work, in line with national guidance.
- 2.3 A community centre reopening plan has been developed, including location specific assessments to ensure services resumption is managed as safely as possible.
- 2.4 Services adaptation and resumption has taken into consideration children's rights in relation to youth work.
- 2.5 Council officers are prioritising the organisation and delivery of the Get into Summer programme for children, young people and families across the city. This programme will result in a wide range of additional opportunities for young people to participate in throughout the Summer.

3. Background

- 3.1 The [Covid-19 Guiding framework for Youth work](#) defines youth work as 'an educational practice contributing to young people's learning and development. Youth work engages young people within their communities: it acknowledges the wider networks of peers, community and culture, it supports the young person to realise their potential and to address life's challenges critically and creatively, and it takes account of all strands of diversity' (p.4).
- 3.2 The framework identifies four essential and definitive features:
 - 3.2.1 Young people choose to participate;
 - 3.2.2 The work must build from where young people are;
 - 3.2.3 Youth Work recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process.

- 3.2.4 Youth work's focus is on the 11-25 year age group with particular emphasis on 11-18 year olds.
- 3.3 It further adds that as 'youth work is considered to be an educational activity, it is therefore subject to specific guidance to support safe delivery within schools, community centres, buildings and facilities in line with the permitted purposes allowed in the Scottish Government Route Map'.
- 3.4 Lifelong Learning Service has adapted its approach and developed safe ways of working to develop youth work in a number of community settings. It is actively engaged with community centre management committees to identify ways in which their ambitions to resume activity, including youth work, can be supported and resourced, as far as possible, in line with public health guidance. In line with Scottish Government/YouthLink Scotland guidance – Lifelong Learning Service's youth work focus will be on the 11 – 25 year age group with particular emphasis on 11 – 18 year olds'.
- 3.5 Council officers from Lifelong Learning Service, Facilities Management, Business Support, Environmental Services, Health and Safety, Fire Safety, Management Committee representatives have been assessing each building, to develop risk assessments, method statements, define occupancy levels, establish track and trace procedures etc specific to each location. A community centres visit timetable and, where known at this stage, intended opening dates, is attached at Appendix 1. Any resumption of indoor youth work will be predicated on the ability to put in place safe operational public health practices.
- 3.6 Council officers have published H&S guidance for management committees to access and held training sessions on COVID procedures [Community centre reopening guidance – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)
- 3.7 Officers continue to meet all management committees every six weeks, with Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs, to discuss services resumption.

4. Main report

- 4.1 National guidance states that up until Level 2, indoor youth work should only take place under highly restricted and controlled conditions. At all stages, the resumption of Council sponsored youth work activities in Edinburgh has closely followed this guidance.
- 4.2 The default position has been to deliver youth work online or outdoors (under strict conditions around social distancing and infection control). Indoor youth work was highly restricted under levels 3 and 4, with gradual easing of restrictions under levels 1 and 2.
- 4.3 Levels 1 and 2 allow for maximum numbers dependent upon an assessment of the specific space being used and the nature of the activity.
- 4.4 The guidance has emphasised the importance of ensuring the safety of all involved and being able to meet a series of strict 'expectations before delivery'. This

stresses that if these expectations cannot be met, the activity should not progress. The recommended position which we have adopted has been to deliver youth work online or outdoors (under strict conditions around social distancing and infection control).

Current picture of Council sponsored youth work

- 4.5 In addition to online, digital youth work, the Lifelong Learning Service is currently delivering three forms of youth work: detached, outdoor and in schools. All of these began in late summer 2020 but had to be significantly scaled back or stopped from January to March 2021 as Edinburgh was moved into above level 4 restrictions.
- 4.6 Detached work (in which youth workers engage with young people, usually the most marginalised and vulnerable, where they gather in their communities) is taking place regularly again in the city.
- 4.7 Outdoor youth work (in which youth workers organise activities outdoors and invite young people to attend) is also being delivered across the city and as the weather improves, this work will increase. Youth work will play a prominent role, for example, in the Scottish Government-sponsored 'Get into Summer' programme.
- 4.8 Youth work is taking place in a limited number of high schools and transition work involving some P7 pupils is planned for primary schools across the city. This tends to be one-to-one support or work with small groups in order to comply with the current guidance concerning 'bubbles' and the number of permitted contacts per day and week.
- 4.9 In May 2021, the Lifelong Learning Service received approval to re-start Open All Hours youth work in five Edinburgh Leisure venues: Royal Commonwealth Pool, Gracemount Leisure Centre, WHEC, Jack Kane Centre sports hall and Ainslie Park (due to refurbishment works in Ainslie Park, this may move to Drumbrae Leisure Centre). Programmes will begin at the start of July.
- 4.10 Open All Hours (OAH) offers young people access to Edinburgh Leisure facilities on Friday evenings for a nominal fee (which will be waived for the foreseeable future). Small groups (maximum number 12) of largely P7 children identified as vulnerable and disadvantaged will be invited to attend. Provision will run over summer and into term time.
- 4.11 The Service Resumption Group is considering two proposals – one to deliver youth work in five libraries (Kirkliston, Wester Hailes, Craigmillar, Drumbrae Hub and Gilmerton) and the other for Lifelong Learning workers to deliver youth work in venues not owned or run by the Council (except Community Centres).
- 4.12 Lifelong Learning Service Managers have confirmed that historically any youth work that they have funded indoors in community centres has mostly been during term time and that the priority for them for the Summer is to support outdoor activity. As a result of the need to restrict occupancy levels in the use of spaces in community centres, aligned with the preferred option of working outdoors, Council

officers will be working with greater numbers of young people. For Summer 2021 Lifelong Learning Service Officers are prioritising their contribution to the Scottish Government requirement to deliver a citywide programme of support for children, young people and families. This Get into Summer programme will involve the provision of youth work alongside other activities throughout the Summer with an emphasis on outdoor activity.

- 4.13 Lifelong Service Managers will work with voluntary sector Youth Work partners who would like to provide some indoor Youth Work in CEC community centres but that will be very limited because of building restrictions and the need for compliance with safety measures.

Children's rights

- 4.15 Children's rights: When making these plans, the importance of youth work and children's rights have been taken into consideration through the following four articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- 4.15.1 Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.** Youth work plays a central role in supporting young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged. All current decisions regarding planned activity for children and young people including indoor youth work are influenced by the need to keep children safe and protect them from harm.
- 4.15.2 Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.** Youth Work recognises the young person and the youth worker as partners in a learning process and that the work must build from where young people are. Central to that is the need to listen to young people and take their views seriously.
- 4.15.3 Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.** The national outcomes for youth work include ensuring that young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future and that they create, describe and apply their learning and skills. They should also broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking.
- 4.15.4 Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.** Youth work in its broadest sense provides access to all of these.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 To continue to work with partners, including with Community Centre management committees, to plan for the resumption of youth work as, where and when possible.
- 5.2 To produce an update for Culture and Communities Committee 14 September 2021 on progress in community centre services resumption (including youth work).
- 5.3 To initiate the discussions with EVOC and LAYC about the co-ordination and delivery of a partnership plan for Youth Work Recovery for the city

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The estimated cost of COVID – 19 related signage, guiding, infection control, hand sanitiser, PPE, face coverings is circa £2500.00 per centre (based on library reopening costs).
- 6.2 The estimated costs of other Council support including Facilities Management:

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Lifelong Learning service continues to engage regularly with Community Centre Management Committees to plan for service resumption within a challenging operational context.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Covid-19 Guiding framework for Youth work](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Community Centre Reopening Plan

Appendix 1 – Community centres visits programme including youth work. All centres will have a follow up visit to confirm that all H&S measures are in place prior to reopening.

Visit to assess	Community Centre	Management Committee contacted	MC to attend	Visit completed	Youth Work	Opening date
7th June	South Bridge	Canongate	Yes	Yes	Yes- this would be delivered by 1. Canongate Youth Project and targeted at vulnerable young people /focussed on health and wellbeing/plus their school leavers work - CYP have a summer programme in place for outdoors/trips for summer 21 2. Summer Sounds – in partnership with Totally Sound/Lifelong Learning Service/CYP- 2 week programme of music /creative arts on site – 2 nd - 13 th Aug 2021	TBC Substantial clearing/reconfiguration required
9th	Jack Kane	yes	yes	yes	yes	
9th	Craigtinny	yes	Yes	Yes		
11th	Leith	yes	yes	Yes		
14th	Royston Wardieburn	yes & Granton YC	no	yes	Limited small group for vulnerable young people delivered by Granton Youth	
14th	West Pilton	yes	no	yes		
14th	Ratho	yes	yes	yes		

14th	Clovenstone	yes	Yes	yes	Yes – targeted work and employability sessions	
15th	Cameron House	yes	yes	yes	yes	
16th	Gilmerton	yes	yes		No – not until autumn term	TBC – FM access as of 21/6 -substantial cleaning/decluttering
16th	Pentland	yes	yes			
23rd	Kirkliston					
25th	South Side	yes	yes		No - committee looking for limited office access over summer to begin work with a newly funded creative Art programme- i.e. planning	
25th	Valley Park	yes			Potential use by Dunedin Canmore YP in partnership with Lifelong Learning Service – they have a summer activities programme already planned outdoors/trip based-ages 15+	Following Primary hosting on site, Building will not be cleaned and returned to pre centre state until 19/7/21 TBC
28th	Inch					CEC let agreed for Out Of School Care (Liberton After School Club) summer Site open for OOSC
28th	Goodtrees				Yes – Goodtrees employs own YW development staff – they would use centre if permitted to open	Site open AMEY/PP2 Committee run food services
29th	Juniper Green					
30th	Gorgie Mem					
30th	Carrickvale					
1st July	Magdalene					

1st July	Portobello					
2nd	Northfield					
2nd	Sandys					