



Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 24 August 2021

Via MS Teams

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p> 	<p>Councillor Ian Perry (Convener) Councillor Alison Dickie (Vice-Convener) Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Mary Campbell Councillor Joan Griffiths Councillor David Key Councillor Callum Laidlaw Councillor Jason Rust Councillor Scott Douglas Councillor Louise Young</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p> <p>Gillian Kennedy Service and Policy Adviser to the Convener and Vice-Convener Tel: 0131 529 4319</p>
<p>Vice Convener: Councillor Alison Dickie</p> 	<p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Margaret Therese Laing</p> <p>Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Rabbi David Rose</p> <p>Parent Representative Alexander Ramage</p>	

Empowered Learning

The Empowered Learning Project is a £17.6M investment in a world class digital environment for all Edinburgh schools , delivering a more strategic, robust service to address the challenges of inequity and improve attainment levels across the schools and expand the Empowered Learning footprint. CGI, who have a long-term partnership with the council for the delivery of ICT services, will work in partnership to support the vision to become a global leader in digital learning and transform the educational experience for every student in Edinburgh through:

- 39,000 iPads – 27,000 new + 12,000 existing with cases.
- enhanced Wi-Fi coverage for all Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (providing 134 cache servers and 406 wireless access points (WAPs) as a result of Health checks carried out across all schools).
- 1:1 iPads (7th gen & above) to every Teacher, Secondary, Primary 6, & Primary 7 pupil, as well as making shared devices available for use in Primary years 1 to 5
- Improved network functionality – Apple Classroom
- A managed support service for the iPads until 31 March 2025
- Training for teachers and students during deployment

Project summary to date:

- Network recommendations for pilot (Royal High School and Cramond Primary) and Secondary schools submitted. Reviews scheduled this week.
- Primary and Special School surveys due to complete 13/08.
- High Level Design approved, Low Level Design documents completed and in internal review.
- SIT testing completed .Shared iPad demo to be scheduled this week.
- Test plan and test scripts issued for review.
- Detailed deployment tracker completed. Deployment will be arranged by order of School (Elevate, Grow and Build)*
- Final PID issued for review.
- First training course issued for review by Aspire2B
- Shared risk register implemented
- 6 deployment engineer roles confirmed – including three school leavers from Portobello, Forrester and Boroughmuir secondary schools.
- No 'show stoppers' highlighted in any of the surveys to date. Progressing well.

***For information**

Elevate - Schools with well-established, significant 1:1 digital learning deployments.

Grow - Schools with significant in-class digital learning, a small scale 1:1 deployment, or previous 1:1 experience

Build - Schools developing in-class digital learning and no current or previous 1:1 experience

EDINBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TOP OF THE CLASS FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING

An Edinburgh primary school has become the first in Scotland to receive a national award for its commitment to taking learning outside the classroom.



St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School has been given the national [Learning Outside the Classroom Mark \(Gold\)](#), the highest accolade of its kind.

The award has been given by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC), the national voice for teaching beyond the classroom which is known to contribute significantly to raising attainment and improving pupil and staff wellbeing.

As part of their submission for Gold status, St Andrew's excelled in the following important areas:

- capitalising on their resources, including nearby Corstorphine Hill, to ensure learning was based in local, accessible places
- maximising commitment to learning for sustainability and their core ecological values; nurture, inspire, flourish
- ensuring that their work was rooted in Curriculum for Excellence and that all learning was underpinned by progressive skills for learning, life and work

Rebecca Favier, Head Teacher at St Andrew's, said: "Being awarded the gold mark is a tremendous achievement for all the staff and pupils. That we are the first school in Scotland to achieve this makes it even more special! It shows that we are providing our pupils with potentially life-changing opportunities to learn in meaningful contexts.

"We're thrilled to get national recognition for our efforts, and we look forward to continuing to develop what we do, helping our pupils achieve their potential and to promoting the many benefits of taking teaching and learning beyond the classroom walls."

Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) elections November 2021



This November, elections will take place for the Scottish Youth Parliament. Any 14-25 year-old living in Scotland can stand as a Member of the SYP and all young people aged 12 (or in first year of secondary school) to 25 can vote. Elections take place every two years.

Edinburgh has twelve seats in six constituencies. The first stage of the election process, the expression of interest phase, ended on 30 June. We set an ambitious target in Edinburgh of 60 expressions of interest but managed to achieve 75!

Next up is the confirmed candidacy phase over summer. We will be supporting young people to move from expressing interest to deciding whether they will stand for election. The SYP will be running information sessions and we plan to maintain regular contact with young people online and, where possible, face-to-face. Nineteen of the young people came along to an introductory get together in Princes Street gardens early in July. We will offer more of these together with sessions to support young people to prepare their candidate profiles.

Of course, only 12 young people can be elected as MSYPs in Edinburgh but we will work with the unsuccessful candidates to make sure they can become involved in other activities which promote the 'voice of young people' and influence decisions which affect their lives.

More information is available on the SYP website: <https://syp.org.uk/> (see particularly the current Bounce Back campaign and the SYP Manifesto) and in their short video: <https://vimeo.com/531690830>

Key dates:

- 1 April to 30 June: **Expression of interest** to be a candidate, promotion of SYP to schools, youth groups and community organisations

- 1 July to 31 August: **Confirmed candidate** – interested young people commit to standing
- September onwards: **Promote the vote** – campaigning
- 8 – 21 November: **Voting** takes place across Scotland

For more information, please contact SYP Election Coordinators:

Jackie Barr Jackie.Barr@edinburgh.gov.uk or John Heywood
John.Heywood.2@edinburgh.gov.uk

Child Poverty update (August 2021)

Get into Summer

More details on **Get into Summer** are available in the report to that went to Policy and Sustainability Committee 3 August 2021, Item 7.11: Youth Work in Community Centres and Other Locations.

The Scottish Government allocated funding to all local authorities to provide a programme of summer activities for children and young people.

The purpose is to support children and young people's wellbeing after a year of disrupted school, out of school activities and periods of isolation from friends. It is to ensure that target groups and those living in poverty access, at no cost, a full programme of summer activities, in many cases with travel and food costs also covered.

This investment is part of Scottish Government's social renewal agenda following the pandemic. It is focused on getting it right for every child by promoting the wellbeing of children and young people as Scotland begins to recover from Covid-19. It also complements wider investment in:

- holiday support through free school meal replacement for children in low income families
- wider investment in education recovery.

Local Authorities were required to share their Get into Summer programmes on council websites. Edinburgh's was made available from the first week of the school holidays and can be viewed at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13247/summer-of-fun-for-edinburgh-s-young-people>

A Get into Summer Oversight Group of key officers including Resilience, Finance and Media meets weekly. Representatives from LAYC and EVOC are part of this group. A smaller core group progresses actions between the weekly meetings.

The Get into Summer programme covers:

- Arts, culture and heritage
- Early years
- Families
- Sport and outdoor learning activities
- Youth work

Led by Lifelong Learning, council staff and partners have, within a very short timescale, delivered in an impressive array of activities and opportunities, free of charge, and accessed by many of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families in the city.

Discover!

With some Covid restrictions being eased prior to the school holidays, the **Discover!** Planning Group adapted summer plans from on-line only to a blended model. The very successful aspects of **Discover!** developed during lockdown, are being continued over Summer 2021 and include:

- The private **Discover!** facebook programme of pre-recorded and live events
- **Discover!** in a Box with Edinburgh Community Food – boxes with ingredients, utensils, art and craft materials delivered each week to **Discover!** families at home – all linked to the Facebook events and activities

While a full return to Hubs for Summer could not be planned with any certainty prior to Scottish Government updates, the Planning Group focussed on the other highly successful aspect of **Discover!** – namely, the trips. Every week throughout the school holidays, **Discover!** families are allocated a Picnic in the Park trip (to local parks) and a Picnic in a Country Park (further afield). The trips are supported by Schools and Lifelong Learning staff, youth workers, supply teachers and PSAs. Arts activities, music and games are delivered by a range of **Discover!** partners in the local parks, and a range of activities provided as part of the Country Park trips. In addition, **Discover!** families can apply for bus/rail tickets for self-led trips to a venue.

Numbers:

- 64 new families are now registered with **Discover!**
- 16 new families were recommended after the deadline – they have been offered boxes and zoo tickets for the summer and will be registered for all **Discover!** activities for October 2021
- 1,269 food and activity boxes have been delivered to date (wk1 – 336 boxes, wk2 – 307 boxes, wk3 – 311 boxes, wk4 – 315 boxes)
- 151 children and 91 adults attended Picnic in a Country Park trips over the first 3 weeks of summer (more to follow for remainder of holiday)
 - o Week 1 – 46 children & 27 adults
 - o Week 2 – 60 children & 35 adults
 - o Week 3 – 45 children & 29 adults
- Data for local Picnic in the Park trips is not yet available
- Families/children were invited to participate in Jass (Junior Award Scheme Scotland) as part of **Discover!**

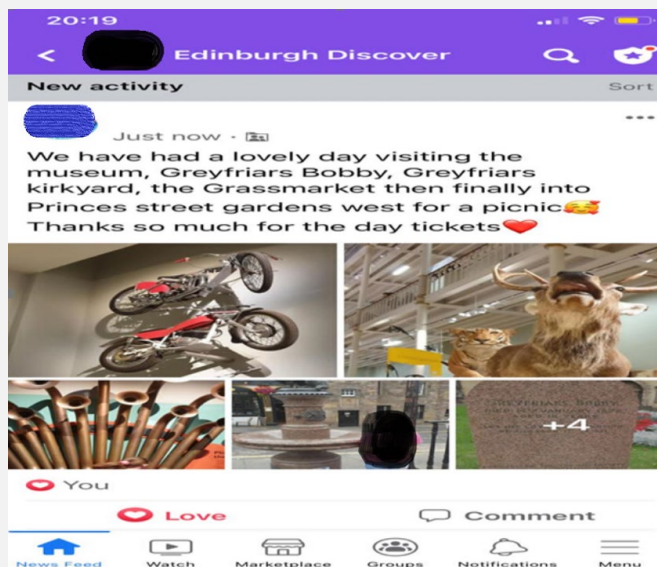
Feedback

“Thank you so much discover. We got our box today and my children did some activities as well as we have visited and enjoyed some places around with the tickets provided.”

“Fantastic day today at Beecraigs once again all the staff so helpful and the activities were fabby 😊”

“Just wanted to say a very well done to all staff who have worked so hard each day making memories for our summer time. Also all the hard work what Go's into making our great boxe's and art packs... my house is full of paper and celotape 🤩.. Also a great idea for the bus tickets it's encouraged my older two kid's to get out and about, that's been a massive help very much appreciated thank you 😊😊”

“We appreciate everyone’s continued dedication throughout each year we have been with youse guys youse haven’t failed to make us all happy. Without people like you guys and recourses you have access to a lot of families wouldn’t be having these memories to make this summer.”



Leadership for Equity

Leadership for Equity is a CLPL programme that has been developed by the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor for Edinburgh, and members of the City of Edinburgh Council Education and Children’s Services team. It will be delivered from session 2021/22 to school leaders and class teachers, and will include following strategic actions from the CEC draft Education Improvement Plan 2021-24:

- Promoting understanding of data and the ability to use data to inform next steps in closing the poverty-related attainment - and achievement – gap
- Use of Pupil Equity Fund to resource approaches to raise attainment for Equity Cohorts

School leaders and class teachers have the opportunity to access the Leadership for Equity professional learning suite which aims to support further improvement by:

- providing a sustainable approach to professional learning on equity
- equipping leaders with the necessary knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills which build on the lessons learned over the last five years of the Scottish Attainment Challenge

Free Period Products

In December 2020 an online ordering service for Hey Girls period products for targeted households was launched. This is receiving approx. 50 orders of period products per month. Products are also being provided through Homeless services, Council run residential care settings and they will continue to be made available in libraries and community centres as they re-open to the public.

The planning group is working with Edinburgh Leisure to distribute period products in leisure centres and provide training to staff on menstrual health. The next step for the planning group

is to work with Facilities Management teams within Council run theatres, museums and galleries and public toilet facilities to distribute products in these settings also.

Children living in Temporary Homeless Accommodation

What has been the impact so far?

School staff (and multi-agency staff) feedback incredibly positive about being aware of and better able to support these families. Impact from April – June 2021:

- 50 children & young people supported to access either Free School Meals or School Meals (through discretionary funding)
- 24 children & young people have been helped with bus travel
- 34 families have been offered MIFI or Chromebook devices
- 10 families received material items or clothes vouchers as requested to support their child's wellbeing or education
- 2 parents and carers referred for counselling

Network of Networks and Local Child Poverty Action Report

A Child Poverty Group of colleagues from Schools and Lifelong Learning, Strategy and Insight, NHS and Capital City partnership meets fortnightly to maintain oversight of, co-ordinate and report on actions to reduce child poverty.

This Child Poverty Group continues to engage nationally with colleagues also involved in actions to reduce child poverty; learning and sharing resources and practice.

A recent action emerging from this group was to establish an Ending Poverty Network of Networks.

The first Ending Poverty Network of Networks meetings was held on 24 June, bringing together the key people from all sectors across the city who are involved in tackling poverty, to carry on responding to the calls from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

At the first meeting, the focus was on finding out, from as many people as possible:

- what's working well?
- what's new and innovative?
- what are the challenges?
- what should our priorities be for the next year?

This information is currently being gathered and collated. It will be used to underpin the annual statutory Local Child poverty Action Report (LCPAR), the third of which is due in autumn this year.

Maximise

Schools are partnering with *Maximise!* to support income security and can refer families in the school community. *Maximise!* staff are allocated to schools and meet directly with families to support access to benefits, to look at employability options and provide advice and support on income maximisation.

Some schools such as Liberton High School have had a very positive experience of this partnership. New work being done with *Maximise!* specifically to support families with care experienced children and young people began last session.

The new partnership with Maximise is now centralised, rather than the previous system with individual school workers allocated to school communities. This new model will be carefully planned in order to ensure as much consistency as possible.

The next steps are to roll out the new *Maximise!* offer across schools. Officers will also have discussions with *Maximise!* regarding the data gathered about the priority groups, referrals received and levels of engagement, in order to inform next steps.

Flexible Pathways

Flexible pathways for all learners continue to be developed across schools, including access to appropriate vocational learning based on parity of esteem and achievement and use of the SCQF framework.

Developing systems whereby Senior Transition must include rigorous action planning for all those at risk of a negative destination. Partnerships between schools and post-school destination providers are critical to ensure the process is robust

Youth Employment Partnership, with a revived Edinburgh Guarantee service based on the Scottish Guarantee will ensure No One is Left Behind. This will provide a bridge between education and economic development structures and more effective gateway to training and employability opportunities.

School leavers S4/S5/S6 average total tariff points per SIMD decile (2020)

Establishment	Number in Cohort	SIMD 1 Average	SIMD 2 Average	SIMD 9 Average	SIMD 10 Average
Edinburgh, City of	3040	579	727	1284	1426
The National Establishment	47435	652	694	1220	1359

88.91% of CEC school leavers in quintile 1 in 2020 moved into a positive destination (source: *Insight* benchmarking tool)

The capacity of schools to implement genuine progress in closing the poverty related gap requires strong and structured partnership approaches with other services, working to reduce the impact of poverty on families in our authority and working to mitigate against families from beginning to experience poverty, in addition to supporting families out of poverty.

Attendance and inclusion

Primary attendance figures for Quintile 1 have remained similar to national figures over a 3 year period with the 4% gap persisting and remaining similar to national figures.

Secondary attendance figures for Quintile 1 have also remained similar over a 3 year period and compare favourably to national figures. The gap has remained the same at 6% and is 1% below the national gap.

41% of Schools Programme schools have improved their attendance figures over the 5 years of the SAC, 17% have remained the same and 41% have deteriorated.

Primary and secondary exclusion rates have reduced over a three-year period and continue to be lower than the national figures.

Equity Network

The Equity Network has been established for 2 years and continues to be an effective platform for sharing practice across schools and for delivering relevant CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning) to support schools in closing the poverty related attainment gap.

Edinburgh Learns for Life: Equity Board

The Priorities for next session are:

1) Staff in all sectors are clear about their role in supporting the national drive for equity and the closing of the poverty-related attainment gap.

2) All staff are clear about their role in contributing to a nurturing school culture which accepts the responsibility of all in removing all poverty-related barriers to learning and achievement.

3) Staff have an understanding of the national and local poverty-related attainment gaps and the impact of this on children, young people and families.

4) All staff in schools have developed an understanding of their own poverty context and the gaps and have developed relevant skills to support the closing of the poverty-related attainment gap in their own setting.

5) Through effective self-evaluation, all schools make appropriate use of baseline data to inform focussed plans with clearly stated outcomes and measures, with appropriate plans for monitoring progress.

These plans are clearly reflected in schools' spending priorities.

6) Identified board members ensure that the CEC PEF planning template is evaluated and updated to ensure that it is effective in supporting schools to plan and evaluate the impact of PEF spending upon learners facing poverty-related barriers.

7) All schools develop decision making processes which meaningfully include parents (and learners) in PEF planning

8) All schools are proactive in seeking wider partnerships where appropriate in order to enhance the experiences of children and families living in poverty, to ensure that they receive early intervention and holistic support.

9) School staff have the opportunity to access the Leadership for Equity professional learning suite which aims to support further improvement by:

- providing a sustainable approach to professional learning on equity
- equipping leaders with the necessary knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills which build on the lessons learned over the last five years

Empowered Learning Strategy - 1:1 devices for all learners from P6-S6

PEF investment 2020-21 meant that during the school building closure period January -March 2021, all households with children attending primary or secondary were provided with at least one device if they did not already have one.

Digital consortia – a group has been established to develop and expand a digital consortia across the city which breaks down geographical barriers to learners to access their chosen pathway and achieve successful outcomes in progressing towards a positive destination.

Partnership with People Know How and Edinburgh Remakery (from May 2021) has allowed CEC to promote a system to schools whereby partners wishing to donate technology can do so via the Remakery, and families can be supported by schools to apply to be given devices where they do not have access to technology in their household. This is separate to the devices provided to children by schools for their learning via the Empowered Learning strategy. This is to support community access to technology and target digital inequity across our city.

Equalities Update

Restless Natives Programme

As noted in the Committee Report from May, planning is underway for joint work with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Intercultural Youth Scotland to embed the Restless Natives programme in two schools, namely Tynecastle High School and St. Augustine's RC High School. The programme aims to help fulfil the objectives of the Young Person's Guarantee, ensuring that BAME young people receive equitable support to achieve a positive destination aligned with their ambitions and potential. The programme will also support school and SDS staff to better understand the cultural barriers facing young Black and People of Colour and their understanding of anti-racist practice in education.

Recording and Reporting Hate Crime

From the start of the new session, there will be new procedures for reporting Hate Crime. All Headteachers will be asked to make the Senior Education Manager for Equalities and Inclusion aware of any Hate Crime incidents on the day that they occur. The SEM will liaise with our Police Scotland Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships link to triangulate this to ensure that any actions are being followed up and families and schools supported as required. This will ensure better monitoring of interventions, to support longer-term improvements.

LGBT Charter

Seven schools have obtained the LGBT Youth Scotland LGBT Charter award since session 2018-19, six secondary schools and one primary school. A further eight secondary schools and one special school are currently working towards the award and will continue with this over session 2021-22. Eight remaining secondary schools are committed to undertaking this work from session 2022-23. Work is currently underway with our three Denominational schools, in discussion with the Scottish Catholic Education Service, to explore how the principles of this work can be aligned with the traditions, vision and values of Catholic education.

Equalities Steering Group

We will continue to work with our Equalities Steering Group and reference groups over the next session to progress the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Plan, and will provide a further update on this work at Committee in October.

Curriculum Change and Development

As part of the Edinburgh Learns for Life and Granton Learning strategies, a transdisciplinary group of officers has developed a creative approach to curriculum reform and design to ensure Social justice and anti-poverty practices are at the heart of learning. The purpose of this work is to support parity of esteem across the curriculum, supporting all learners to engage in a curriculum which enables them to attain and achieve. This involves a learner-led consultation which will elicit the views of a wide range of learners, including young people who live in poverty, are members of the care experienced and BAME communities, those with additional support needs and those with no identified additional support needs. The approach will also deepen practitioners' understanding of the rights of the child (UNCRC) and ways in which we can all be part of securing those rights. Learning pathways will be developed which provide a parity of esteem for all learners, considering the skills for learning, life and work that learners will need to find, and fulfil, their passions. Schools are being asked to think differently about what, how and where young people learn also ensuring that young people have opportunities to lead their own learning.

Learning experiences will be connected to the learner, and the community in which they live, learn and work, including best use of the outdoor learning environment. This will help to make the investment in learning clear, meaningful and relevant for every learner. Knowing what learners need to know requires skilled practitioners who possess sound curriculum knowledge, confidence in the learner journey, and who provide learning experiences which equip learners to meet the next levels of challenge and to progress to sustained positive destinations. This approach will be piloted with schools, and early years settings, in the Granton community with a view to applying this to other areas of the City e.g. Wester Hailes and to support the further development of Gaelic Medium Education.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: A Chance to Shine

The Drummond Cluster has been working with Cricket Scotland and the charity a Chance to Shine to give Primary 5 and 6 pupils a chance to learn cricket skills during curriculum time. The pupils received 90 minute sessions a day for 5 days by qualified coaches who were funded by the charity. The official launch of the initiative took place on Thursday 24 2021 June at Princes Street Gardens with pupils from Broughton Primary in attendance. This has been a great initiative with local clubs receiving an influx of enquiries from the Drummond Cluster Pupils as this is the first time a block of cricket has been delivered to this age group.



Get into summer - at Juniper Green tennis club

Local school pupils from Currie, Balerno and Colinton have had a fun-packed summer holiday at Juniper Green Tennis Club through the Accelerate Tennis coaching programme.



The programme delivered morning and afternoon sessions open to players aged 5 - 11 of all abilities with a focus on introducing & developing essential motor skills, basic technique, fun games and match-play.

Week 3 of the programme saw a partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit called 'Get Into Summer' with funding made available through the Scottish Government to deliver summer activities for children and young people across Scotland.

The aim is to help address negative impacts arising from extended periods of isolation and the lack of participation in normal activities during the pandemic. The priority is to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer.

The offer of a free tennis camp was presented to local schools with places on the camp filling up within a week!

"Juniper Green Tennis Club were more than happy to partner with The City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit programme 'Get Into Summer', recognising the opportunity to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer. Thanks to Ryan Harrower – Racquets Development Officer, for facilitating this fun week of tennis activity."

Kenny Petrie – Club Coach

The club has applied for further funding to provide more opportunities for local families to access the tennis programme. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for future updates.

www.facebook.com/junipergreentennis

Ryan Harrower

Racquets Development Officer

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Incremental Restart of Overnight Camping Expeditions

During June, the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) gained council approval to restart overnight camping, including Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) expeditions. This is a prompt and proportionate response to a recent change in Scottish Government offsite visits advice. SOLU delivered an online safety briefing session and devised a risk assessment template to ensure a swift and safe return to overnight camping.

Whilst national [DofE flexible expedition arrangements](https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/expedition-flexibilities/) continue to be available to participants, the incremental return to overnight expeditions brings additional benefits and experiences. <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/expedition-flexibilities/> Council schools, community groups like the Citadael Youth Centre and key partners such as the [Friends of the Award \(FOTA\)](https://www.fota.org.uk/), all operating via the council's DofE Licence, have organised recent overnight camping expeditions. <https://www.fota.org.uk/>

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit and DofE Scotland recently welcomed The Earl of Forfar and Lord Provost to the Bonaly Scout Centre. They spoke with DofE participants from Trinity Academy, [SCOREscotland](https://www.score-scotland.org/) (Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland based in Wester Hailes), and FOTA. His Royal Highness enjoyed working with the young people, some of whom were preparing for their first overnight expedition. <https://www.score-scotland.org.uk/>



Key contacts: Fraser Robertson Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk (DofE); Cliff Smith Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk (adventurous activity); and Andrew Bradshaw Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk (General – excursions).

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Epic Day Adventures for Primary 7 Pupils

The council's Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit is delivering an innovative P7 Epic Days programme during the Summer and into the Autumn; taking place at the Bonaly Scout Centre and Pentland Hills Regional Park.

This is helping to compensate for no school residential visits during the pandemic; as required by Scottish Government guidance. Pupils are experiencing a taste of some elements of a residential.

The programme includes an extended day (10:00 – 21:00) and involves more than 3000 P7 pupils undertaking a wide range of outdoor activities including: hillwalking in nearby Pentland Hills, archery, climbing wall, bushcraft, crate- stack, nightline and low ropes course. This is then followed by a hot meal, games and making a camp fire.

The Outdoor Learning staff, including those from Benmore and Lagganlia staff, are being supported by Active Schools Coordinators and the Council's school catering team who provide hot meals to everyone taking part.

A P7 parent said: "My son came home on a complete high "the most epic of all epic days". You're all awesome for taking that on in the crazy weather they had that day. My son had just the best day out, and he has now decided that lentils are a good thing to eat - phenomenal!"

Jacqueline Scott, Head Teacher of Trinity Primary School said: "A huge thanks to everyone for providing such a memorable day for our Trinity P7s. From the minute we arrived to the minute we left, the organisation was incredible. The day provided absolutely the right balance between allowing the pupils some independence and an element of risk taking whilst also encouraging co-operation and ensuring safety. They arrived back at school buzzing with excitement. 'The best day ever' was reported to many parents and carers. The commitment and enthusiasm of the group leaders were infectious."

Recent media coverage, including photographs:

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/education/over-3000-edinburgh-schoolkids-descend-on-pentland-hills-outdoor-adventure-area-for-epic-day-out-3282860>

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/06/epic-day-out-for-thousands-of-edinburgh-schoolchildren/>

Key contacts: Andrew Bradshaw Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk and Andrew Bagnall Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Incremental Restart of School Residential Visits to the Council's Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres

The council has recently approved the restart of school residential visits to Benmore and Lagganlia; subject to ongoing national advice and assessment of local infection rates. These will restart in the Autumn term and represents significant planning and preparation to ensure a prompt and safe return.

The council is at the forefront of reintroducing residential visits, which is in line with Scottish Government advice. Council officers have participated in national work supported by the Scottish Government, including creating and updating national guidance and resources: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance to support the reintroduction of school residential visits](https://www.goingoutthere.co.uk/appendix/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-and-operation-of-outdoor-education-centres-and-reintroducing-visits-by-schools/)
<https://www.goingoutthere.co.uk/appendix/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-and-operation-of-outdoor-education-centres-and-reintroducing-visits-by-schools/>

School residential visits are an important part of a progressive approach to outdoor learning via the Curriculum for Excellence. They produce significant and unique outcomes, for example: [Educational value of Scotland's Outdoor Education Centres](https://www.sapoe.org.uk/links/local-authority-outdoor-education-centres/).
<https://www.sapoe.org.uk/links/local-authority-outdoor-education-centres/>

The council operating its own centres is as important as ever: allowing it to directly control the safety, availability and quality of its services; guaranteeing the best provision to Edinburgh children and young people. The centres are a beacon of good practice throughout the UK and beyond.

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit has recently started its periodic review of the Excursions Policy. The review of this framework for delivering offsite visits will focus on pandemic adaptation and renewal; safety; equity; equality; environmental sustainability and educational effectiveness.

Key contacts: Graeme Adams Graeme.Adams@ea.edin.sch.uk (Benmore); Nick March Nick.March@ea.edin.sch.uk (Lagganlia); and Andrew Bradshaw Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk (General).

Swanston Golf Club Girls Initiative

Swanston Golf Club Girls Initiative

CEC Community Sport Hub officers have been working in partnership with Swanston Golf Club to support the development of girl's golf.

The club volunteers are hugely committed and have created a very welcoming and supportive environment for girls and their families. They have organised girls only sessions and camps and now have 40 girls as junior members.

Funding from the Golf Foundation has enabled the club to put in new tee markers to aid the transition to the full golf course for all juniors as they develop. Last week they held an Adult & Child Launch to promote the new tees, which was a fun and social occasion

(photo of 2 juniors at the event below)



Libraries

Libraries continue to look at other ways to reach their customers, keeping the core calendar of events alive by using the digital platforms.

One of the most successful “new ways “of working is hosting our Bookbug outside.

Libraries identified safe locations, completed the Risk Assessments and now 10 Libraries host outdoor Bookbug. Each session hosts 15 children with a parent/carer and each session is booked out within 2 days of advertisement. There is no doubt outside Bookbug is a great success and something that will be looked at to continue.



Chatterbooks Group.

This group has been a real success, it has 6 children from both Stockbridge and Blackhall attending fortnightly since the beginning of the year.

‘We both wanted to thank you and Irena for such an inspiring time spent in the best and most imaginative way. Francesco has enjoyed every session he attended greatly, and it has made a difference with his mental and emotional well-being.’

Hi VIS – Visually impaired celebration in Libraries

Stockbridge Library set up a group not only for people with a visual impairment, but also for those who liked to listen to the library’s audio book collection on Overdrive. They invited author Elizabeth Gifford to discuss her book ‘The Lost Light of St Kilda’. The event was recorded in partnership with Adult Education and shared on social media as a means of promoting the importance of reading in different formats for those who have difficulty accessing the printed word. There were 8 book group members who attended, 6 have a visual impairment.

It was a great success: -

- Thanks to you, I had the privilege of meeting Liz, an amazing author, but also a lovely person, and so humble
- Margaret, Cloudy and Jan made such a great contributions with their knowledge of the area, and various persons connected to it.
- To think losing my eyesight led me to enjoy such an Interesting group of people who attend our macular group of course our audio book club.

Empathy Day

[ThingLink for Empathy Day](#) – From our School Librarians

- All 11 schools promoted Empathy Day on social media and in their school
- Of the 11 responding schools - three held events for Empathy Day with 420 pupils and 16 staff involved in the events

Make Music Day

Alan Govan from TRASH (making music from minimal means) held a workshop for our 14-16-year olds.

12 attendees had a truly brilliant workshop, made some fantastic music and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Central Music Library

At 2pm our Music Library broadcasted two events on Facebook, a small selection of Choral Groups who have appeared at the library before, Sangstream, the Rolling Hills Chorus and The Edinburgh Singers. This also included the Staff of Central Library Performing "Bring Me Sunshine", from last year and this year's rendition of "Stand By Me". Both are Make Music Day Anthems.

At 3pm our Music Library showed the Premier of the documentary about Get It Loud in Libraries, and their work over the last 15 years bring through emerging singers and bands, finding them Libraries to perform in. They appeared in Central Library 2 years ago, and our Music Library got a favourable mention.

Health Information Week

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a huge disruption to cancer care, affecting diagnosis, treatment and support for thousands of people across Scotland. In Edinburgh the temporary closure of our Libraries meant that we haven't been able to support people face to face but that hasn't stopped us doing everything we can to be there for people and their families affected by cancer.

Macmillan @Edinburgh Libraries appreciate that, for some, this has been an incredibly isolating, lonely and frightening time with people not knowing who to turn to for emotional, practical or financial help. Often what people need is a friendly voice, someone to talk to and understand what they're going through at a time when they feel very alone. We are aware of the impact this can have on our volunteers too who provide that support, that's why we felt it important to keep connected and share links which we hope in some way, will help people look after themselves both mentally and physically. From mindfulness to getting active, from burnout to emotional reliance. We hope that there is something for everyone, feedback has been extremely positive with people telling us that it has made them more "self-aware" helping them to take stock and move forward positively.

Here are some of the health sites the Macmillan Team & their volunteers benefited from.

<https://www.getcheckedearly.org> – link to NHS Scotland encouraging people to get checked early including signs and symptoms of the various types of cancer

[BBC Springwatch](#) – Mindful moments, a compilation of visual and acoustic sounds to encourage us to sit back and relax

[Fit For Health - Edinburgh Leisure](#) – Keep active and feel better, a range of classes designed for anyone with a long term condition to help improve physical activity and mental health.

[SAMH is the Scottish Association for Mental Health | SAMH](#) – Support for individuals and workers working on the frontline

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09by3yy - Michael Mosely TV Dr explores a series of bitesize lifestyle changes we can all make to feel better, a opportunity to learn, reflect, motivate and inspire people to manage their health and well-ness.

Escape, Connect, Relate

Edinburgh City Libraries have partnered with Young Scot to allow the Escape, Connect, Relate, our school librarian's wellbeing book list, to reach as many of our young citizens as possible. [Check it out here.](#)

Comments on our reopening

From some of our Facebook pages.

Can't wait to get back in! Hope it's all going well so far, see you all soon

Ohhhh this makes me sooo happy!! Can't wait to come and visit and drop my books back off to get some more!

So nice to come down this afternoon. We loved it

My boy can't wait to come back

Was great to be back this morning, it was a very reassuring set up.

A great library, kids seem to love the Children's Section.

That is brilliant news! Looking forward to visiting with my little girl.

Hello, my kids are really excited about coming back to the library. I offered to take them on Monday but my youngest wants to come on Wednesday instead "as a birthday treat"! It will be his 5th birthday.

Arts & Creative Learning Team, Lifelong Learning

Creative Learning Professional Learning

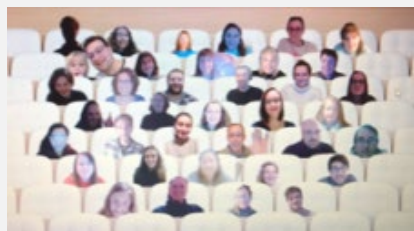
"It's CLPL, Jim, but not as you know it..."

Lorna MacDonald (Strategic Development Officer, Creative Learning) and Charlotte Bennett (Education Support Officer for Creative Learning) have had a busy year delivering Creative Learning focussed career-long professional learning (CLPL) to education colleagues in CEC and across the SEIC.

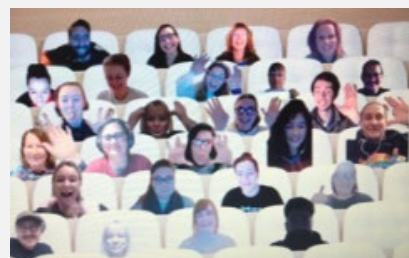
As well as being delivered as a part of the probationer and early-phase teachers' CLPL programme, a suite of creative learning courses have been delivered across the SEIC since December 2020. The courses are designed for education practitioners in any sector and setting, as well as at any stage in their professional career, to embed creativity skills into learning and teacher practice. Over 400 practitioners (including 280 probationers and early-phase teachers) have engaged in the CLPL sessions this year.

The first of these sessions, *An Introduction to Creativity Across Learning*, introduces practitioners to a variety of tools, ideas and resources that support creativity across learning. The follow-up course, *Developing Creativity Skills*, builds on the core skills learnt to embed creativity into different contexts, settings and practice across learning, teaching and assessment. Participants consider the creativity skills as defined by Education Scotland and the relationship between these skills in learners and teachers. [Scotland's Creative Learning Plan At](#)

[A Glance](#) gives an overview of this. The courses are practical, engaging and hands-on, encouraging discussion, creativity and risk-taking between participants to challenge practice.



Feedback, both written and via Twitter, has been extremely positive, demonstrating the importance and relevance of these sessions to support practitioners, whichever stage of their professional career they are at. They also indicate the high-quality of content and



engagement of the virtual sessions, which is vital when delivering online CLPL.

“It was exceptionally relevant...was engaging and enjoyed by all”
“It was really good and interactive – I usually shy away from talking on chats but it was welcoming and engaging”
“It has certainly opened up my eyes to what creativity really stands for”
“Terrific resources. What a lovely couple of hours”.

These CLPL sessions are part of compulsory 2021-22 CEC Probationer Training, as well as a part of the SEIC probationer and early-phase teachers CLPL programme, offering support to those practitioners who may have missed out on valuable professional learning opportunities during the pandemic. Sessions have been run for YMI tutors as well as whole-school development in-service day training. The CLPL will be offered as a Train-the-Trainer model to develop capacity as well as support practitioners with leadership opportunities to deliver high-quality CLPL in their settings and beyond.

For more information, contact charlotte.bennett@edinburgh.gov.uk or creative.learning@edinburgh.gov.uk

Creative Learning and SEIC 2021-2022 Plan

Education Support Officer for Creative Learning, Charlotte Bennett, has been seconded from Clovenstone Primary to work with the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC). The post has been funded for by Education Scotland and Creative Learning Networks as part of a SEIC consortium bid to strategically lead on SEIC-wide creative learning. Based within the Arts and Creative Learning Team at CEC, the ESO role works closely with the SEIC team to drive forward the Regional Improvement Strategic Plan 21-22, which includes curriculum development as well as Learning, Teaching and Assessment, building capacity and ensuring sustainability of work, to develop creative learning and teaching resources for schools.



The new plan continues to embrace the SEIC vision of *Working Together, Empowering All and Improving Outcomes* with the five partner authorities (City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian, Fife and the Scottish Borders) and Education Scotland’s South East Improvement Team.

Creative Learning is embedded in the first of the strategic goals: *to drive high-quality learning, teaching and assessment* by developing creative learning, creative teaching and innovative pedagogies. The five areas of focus are:

1. To share and embed 3-18 Creativity Skills: Progression Framework in practice, with clear links to Benchmarks, HGIOS⁴ and Career-Education Standard
2. Introduce a creative learning Storyline Approach pilot as a targeted approach for 2 teachers per authority to engage with high-quality creative learning and share practice within cluster
3. Deliver CLPL and Train-the-Trainer courses designed to embed Creativity Skills into learning and teaching practice
4. To develop a Creativity Developers GTCS-accredited course
5. Continue to engage practitioners in Creative Conversations through a blended delivery approach, as well as promote the new YouTube channel for self-led professional learning.

To achieve this, the Arts and Creative Learning and SEIC teams will work with a range of different networks and working groups, including individual local authority networks via GLOW Teams, for practitioners to lead on their learning, thereby creating an empowered group of like-minded individuals. As these networks are established across the local authorities, a SEIC Creative Learning Working Party will allow the SEIC Strategic Plan priorities to be strategically embedded and shared within the networks.

The updated [Phase 3 Regional Improvement Strategic Plan 21-22](#) can be found on the [SEIC website](#). Any questions relating to the plan can be sent to charlotte.bennett@edinburgh.gov.uk

Heads of Creative Learning - Get into Summer and Amazing Days, Amazing Memories

The Heads of Creative Learning group was established in November 2019 by the Arts & Creative Learning Team, with around 40 Arts and Cultural sector partner organisations in and around the city. The group is encouraged and supported to strategically work together and share good practice on educational offers and supports for schools and beyond. It also allows strategic overview of which schools are involved with projects and promotes effective work together as a Creative Learning Sector to support communities, particularly considering how to learn from and with each other, as well as how to most effectively work to provide quality offers to those who most need them, without duplication and ensuring strong relationships are built.

Several of the organisations whom are a part of this group successfully received funding for the Scottish Government *Get into Summer* initiative, to support families affected by the pandemic. These arts and cultural organisations have included the Jupiter Artland Foundation, National Galleries of Scotland, The Water of Leith Conservation Trust and Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

Amazing Days, Amazing Memories is a pilot, city-wide project connecting Arts and Cultural organisations around the city together with a targeted year group of school children, to support young people with emotional and physical well-being in a range of high-quality, creative learning opportunities. The project is currently in its early stages of planning and will support Scotland's Creative Learning Plan, including developing the young workforce by offering guidance and support with subject choices as young people transition from Broad General Education (BGE) into National 4/5s and beyond.

Creative Conversations

Creative Conversations continue to be extremely popular, with an average of 150 attendees per session and over 700 SEIC participants over the course of this year. The conversations bring school leaders, practitioners and partners together to discuss important ideas in and about education and is described as sector leading. The chat facility on Microsoft Teams allows for rich discussion as well as feedback:

"I'm starting to expect nothing less from these conversations!"

"I can't remember when I was last in such a supportive meeting. Loving the love and positivity"

"Thank you all for a truly excellent session – spot on message and action"

"Inspiring session, thank you so much! I've not taken so many notes during a professional learning opportunity for ages!"

"So much to think about. You are all keeping the passion alive. Thank you"



Creative Conversations over the past year have included a huge variety of topics as well as fascinating conversations with guests. Some of these have included Suzanne Zeedyk and Ollie Bray, Strategic Director of Education Scotland, on the importance of play-based learning, Helena Good and Ruth Cochrane from Daydream Believers talking

about their new Creative Thinking Level 5/6 pilot and Fiona Duncan discussing the Independent Care Review and importance of creativity for care-experienced children and young-people. We were also lucky enough to welcome practitioners as a part of our end-of-term celebration event, whom shared their creative successes inspired from previously attended Creative Conversations.

With the recent creation of the YouTube channel to house recordings and podcasts, this will support to improve practitioner accessibility alongside encourage watching recordings as a part of their own self-led professional learning.

The blended approach for the 21-22 programme will allow practitioners to engage with the conversations from across the SEIC and beyond, either as a face-to-face or live recorded event. The calendar of events for the start of the academic year has a very exciting line-up of guests and topics, including bi-lingualism, inspirational teaching and climate change, in-line with COP26 being hosted in Glasgow this November.

Creative Learning STEAM Residency Project in Partnership with Oulu (Finland)

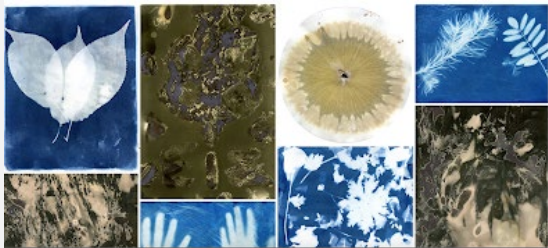
The Arts and Creative Learning Team developed a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) Residency in partnership with the city of Oulu, Finland, to develop creativity through an artist in residence for one school in each city. The project was fully funded by the city of Oulu as part of its recently successful bid as European Capital of Culture 2026.

Schools applied for the residency and the successful City of Edinburgh Council school was James Gillespie's High School, who were paired with a local artist with expertise in technical analogue and hybrid alternative photographic processes. The school and artist worked with an identified group of vulnerable pupils who the staff wanted to re-engage with learning in a creative way. The lead school staff were from the science department and combined with the artist's background and experience, allowed for an extremely rich and diverse collaborative opportunity, to also develop their own creative approaches. The project, which has been a blended approach of online and face-to-face work, is in its final stages, with an exhibition of the work produced by the young people to be shared at the start of the new term. We are hopeful that as restrictions ease, we will be able to travel to Finland (and vice versa) to share the learning.

The Edinburgh residency is fully supported by Arts and Creative Learning and practice in both Edinburgh and Oulu will be shared across both cities. The 3-18 Creativity Skills: Progression

Framework, evaluation resources and CLPL, developed by the Arts and Creative Learning Team and other partners, were used to support the project in Oulu as well as Edinburgh.

We are happy that both cities of Edinburgh and Oulu are keen to continue the project into 2021-2022. Some of the young peoples' creative work can be viewed on their [Research Blogs](#).



(Photos taken from SREO Research Blog, by pupils of James Gillespie High School)

Our Youth Music Initiative



Lesley Bruce and Emma Barclay from our Arts & Creative Learning Team, Lifelong Learning, explain how Youth Music Initiative (YMI) has been delivering their projects during a challenging year.

Over the past year our Youth Music Initiative team has been working hard to deliver our musical provision in new, safe and exciting ways. Each year, as part of the national YMI programme funded by the Scottish Government and administered by Creative Scotland, we deliver musical input to over 22,000 young people in schools across Edinburgh.

Despite the challenges faced, we are thrilled to have been able to offer a variety of musical opportunities to schools.

Enthusiastic and experienced YMI tutors delivered live online lessons to P1-5 classes in our primary schools and created pre-recorded lessons to accompany this too. These sessions helped pupils to develop their musical skills, cultural awareness, listening skills, numeracy and literacy through games, songs and movement.



Ratho Primary School participating in their live online NYCOS sessions

Our pre-recorded lessons have had almost 600 views already! Our delivery partners, Drake Music Scotland and Tinderbox Project, provided a range of musical experiences for young people in special schools too.

‘Overall, I feel the music sessions were a very positive experience for children. They were able to learn new songs with actions (which all children could engage with, including children with Additional Needs). They were able to see and hear new instruments, learn about rhythm and musical dynamics. Our P1 children really enjoyed the music sessions and a big thank you to the YMI tutor who did a super job of teaching a music lesson to P1 children online! He was engaging and fun and the kids loved seeing him on screen.’

– Primary teacher, Roseburn Primary School



Leith Primary School participating in their Magic of Music live online sessions

We also introduced a new Outdoor Learning programme in several primary schools. Pupils took their learning outdoors, engaging with their local surroundings and the natural environment to develop musical skills, health and wellbeing and creativity.

‘The YMI outdoor music sessions are so much fun. It’s so lovely to see the children be a part of something again. I was a bit anxious about starting this new adventure but the staff and pupils at all schools made me feel so welcome. We have done lots of fun body percussion and we are working on putting this into couple of songs (The Lion King and Wellerman). I have enjoyed every session!’

– YMI Outdoor Learning Tutor

To celebrate all the wonderful musical activities that have taken place this year, we partnered with Reel Youth Media and our Instrumental Music Service to create a digital end of year concert: *Syncopate*. This was filled with pre-recorded content from primary schools, special schools and high schools across Edinburgh and premiered on YouTube on June 21st, in

association with
Make Music Day
2021.



Murrayburn Primary - the class perform their ukulele piece for the Syncopate concert

Schools who have been engaging in and enjoying our YMI provision have been tagging us in some lovely social media posts – to see these, visit our Arts & Creative Learning Twitter page, [@CreateLearnEdin](https://twitter.com/CreateLearnEdin)

We would like to use this opportunity to thank schools and teachers for taking the time to work in partnership with YMI tutors throughout this difficult year to ensure young people have been able to participate in these amazing musical experiences. We would also like to thank our YMI tutors for all their hard work and for pulling out all the stops to creatively deliver YMI provisions in these challenging and unprecedented times.