



# Business Bulletin

## Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 1 March 2022

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Eleanor Bird</p> 	<p>Councillor Ian Perry (Convener)            Councillor Eleanor Bird (Vice-Convener)            Councillor Frank Ross            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><b>Added Members for Education Matters</b></p> <p><b>Religious Representatives</b>            Margaret Therese Laing</p> <p>Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Rabbi David Rose</p> <p><b>Parent Representative</b>            Alexander Ramage</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>

## Active Schools & Stepping Stones Partnership

Since October 2021 Active Schools have been working with Headteachers and council swim teachers to identify pupils in P3 – P6 who would benefit from additional swimming lessons. Those identified for the program are those from a low income home, ASN or those identified from the swimming teachers who are not meeting the curriculum level. These pupils who have been identified have been offered a free place in the Active Schools/Stepping Stones Programme. So far 46 pupils have attended the free sessions and there have been some incredible stories of progression. This has been a great partnership with the schools, council swimming teachers, Active Schools, Stepping Stones for the Drummond/Leith Cluster where these pupils are gaining valuable lifesaving skills for free. See below the story of one of our swimmers.

**Swimmers Name:** Rujita Basnet

**Star Swimmer:** When Rujita entered the lessons she was not a confident swimmer, however within a few weeks her confidence grew and she starting to try lots of new things in the pool. Adrianna her teacher pushed Rujita to keep trying new things and now after only 8 lessons Rujita is confidently swimming on her front and back, loving life in the pool. The Active Schools programme supported and delivered by Stepping Stones has help build her confidence in small focused classes and has transformed Rujita into a confident young swimmer. – Well Done, Keep up the great work!



# Team United – Autism Football





## **St Thomas HS cluster / City wide**

### **What happened ?**

St ThomasRC HS in partnership with 'Team United ' aims to break down the social barriers faced by children and young adults living with Autism when participating in sport.

We acknowledge the social challenges involved for our participants and we aim to use the topic of football to encourage development in all areas of academics, health and fitness and social inclusion.

Together we delivered a 6 week programme targeting 18 pupils consisting of both practical and classroom based sessions which included all areas of the curriculum from English and Literacy to Mathematics and Sciences and of course sports through the medium of football.

  
*Maths is much more interesting when its taught using football. I cant wait to play football again next week as well. Its my favourite lesson.*  


### **Impact**

*The impact was great. We had targeted 18 pupils who would not normally attend sports clubs. We boosted their confidence and esteem and now after the 6 weeks the pupils are attending Team united sessions outside of the school day.*



### **Reflections:**

*The communication and organisation between Team United, Active schools and St Thomas HS was excellent.*

*The teachers involved, and Team United members Connor and Johnny were so enthusiastic and personable working with the children.*

*The response for the children was so positive. They worked really well every week in classroom tasks and enjoyed the practical football sessions as well.*

*If we were to do anything different it would have been great to have access to a wet weather alternative, but the kids showed great resilience dealing with the harsh Scottish winter weather.*

## City of Edinburgh

### Community Sport Hubs



During the up and coming February break, Forrester & St. Augustines CSH is hosting a Scottish Swim Teacher Qualification and two National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification courses. This is in response to a shortage of swim teachers and lifeguards within clubs and organisations, due to a lack of training opportunities over the last two years.

30 candidates will receive the funded professional training, the majority being senior pupils from across the city. The training is being delivered by Edinburgh Leisure and in partnership with clubs and local swim providers who are providing mentoring and volunteering opportunities for the young people.

Once qualified the candidates will volunteer and support Community Sport Hub, Active Schools and local Club projects which aim to use swimming to positively change the lives of those most in need.

Jayne Smith & Jonathan Wallace

LLDO's – Sport & Physical Activity



## **Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) – Outdoor Learning and Incremental Restart of School Residentials**

The Council's Benmore and Lagganlia outdoor centres reopened in early Autumn. By the end of January, over 1600 young people from 35 schools have attended a residential. Attendance is approximately 92%, which reflects significant work around supporting residential costs, providing financial guarantees, repatriation solutions and good communication with parents/carers. These are sector-leading figures and represents a significant achievement by schools,, families, Centre staff, wider Council staff and Health Protection Lothian. The Council has developed a range of resources and repatriation solutions to minimise transmission risks. SOLU staff are co-leading the development of national materials to support other local authorities in restarting and sustaining school residentials.

The next step is to permit residential visits to non-CEC venues. A few pilots have taken place and a partnership meeting is planned with providers in late February. Again, resources have been developed to ensure safe practice and minimise financial risks (linked to the Council no longer being able to access appropriate pandemic cancellation insurance); including a newly proposed approved residential providers list. This will evolve in February.

Following the hugely successful P7 EPICS DAY programme at Bonaly Scout Centre last year delivered to approximately 3000 Edinburgh young people, SOLU via the Bangholm/Edinburgh-based staff has recently recruited a small temporary team of instructors to support the delivery of targeted provision at Bonaly and the surrounding area to pilot a new enhanced transition programme; Discover! holiday support; youthwork outdoor activity including many young people experiencing significant poverty; short duration residential offer for younger pupils; and 2-night residentials to support a very small number of schools with their P7 visits for this year.

A school evaluation toolkit resource is being finalised by SOLU which will assist schools in reviewing outdoor learning and excursions linked to equity, equality, environmental sustainability and educational effectiveness.

This is an exciting time for outdoor learning and SOLU continues to support and develop a progressive range of experiences and outcomes associated with onsite, local and residential outdoor learning.

Thank you again to all the schools for their superb support and dedication to residential visits and outdoor learning in general. Thank you also to the brilliant families across Edinburgh. The many positive comments about restarting residential visits have been uplifting and the work continues to ensure every child in Edinburgh has the opportunity to undertake the very best experiences.

Key contact: [Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bradshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## Health & Wellbeing Team

- The Young Minds Matter S1-S4 curriculum resource currently being piloted in secondary schools in Edinburgh (9 schools so far) & Scottish Borders – we have received feedback and suggestions for improvement from nearly 2000 secondary school pupils.
- Our new Mental Health Matters staff training course being developed in partnership with CEC, LAYC and NHS colleagues has been piloted twice and is in the process of finalisation. It covers topics such as mental health, brain development, stress, anxiety, attachment, trauma, resilience and wellbeing and is hoped it will be rolled out to staff working with children and young people across the city.
- The HWB team continue to inform schools and offer both financial and emotional support to these families experiencing homelessness. Approximately 20-50 more children and young people every week are presenting as homeless with their families.
- Over 50 low income parents and carers (or in temporary accommodation) have been offered counselling to help deal with distress from covid, parenting and relationships which will hopefully also benefit their (110) children.
- The Discover Programme continues to support families during the summer holidays. 353 families and the 423 children living in them received Discover in a Box food boxes and art packs each week of the Christmas holidays. Any remaining Discover boxes and art packs were distributed to families in Early Years Centres. 26 families also received a digital device from the Discover project. All families could take part in an online programme of arts, dance, yoga and STEM activities over the holiday period.
- Lifelong Learning in collaboration with libraries and third sector partners is conducting a public engagement exercise as part of the roll-out of the **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021** in Edinburgh. Edinburgh citizens are being invited to complete a survey to share their views of what free period products they would like to see available and in what venues. The survey is open from the 18<sup>th</sup> January to the 28<sup>th</sup> February and can be found at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/periodproducts](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/periodproducts)
- Parenting programmes continue to have to be delivered online and 24 staff have enrolled onto our first online Raising Children with Confidence Training for Facilitators course due to begin in January.
- The Turn Your Life Around (TYLA) volunteers have shared their lived experience of childhood adversity, trauma and resilience with nearly 100 staff and pupils in 5 schools last term. New testimonial videos have been shot and incorporated into lessons for P7-S6 to compliment the work of a TYLA volunteer and will also allow the TYLA project to work with pupils in a virtual way.

- The Financial Support for Families leaflet is now available online and schools have been encouraged to distribute it via their websites and email communications. This can be found [here](#)
- Since August 2021, a further seven primary schools achieved the Rights Respecting Schools Award at bronze level (Brunstane PS, Ferryhill PS, Leith PS, Leith Walk PS, Murrayburn PS, St Mary's RC PS); one new secondary achieved bronze (Leith Academy) whilst another was reaccredited at gold (Gracemount). This now means that 75 primary schools, 21 secondary schools and nine special schools are either registered as part of the programme or have achieved the RRSa accreditation.

## Children's Services Update

### Providers event February 2022

There was a virtual event held on 4 February with providers to look at how we could increase supports for children with a disability. The event was attended by 30+ providers and looked at what providers would offer, any barriers they experienced and how they could overcome these and look to fill the gaps that had been identified. There will be a further event in June 2022. In the time in-between, the plan is that providers will link with others so that resources can be pooled together, and support options increased.

### Family Group Decision Making

The Family Group Decision Making team in Edinburgh has a long-standing commitment, working with Robert Gordon University and Children 1<sup>st</sup> to deliver an FGDM accredited course for new coordinators. We enlisted a parent who has recently used our FGDM service and agreed to come to a teaching session and tell their story. The parent spoke openly and honestly about their experience of having a Family Meeting. They showed how with the support of their family and their network they have turned their lives around, had their children returned to their care (from foster care) and now have a much stronger relationship with the practice team social worker. We can all learn from hearing an honest reflection of what it feels like to have services involved in her life and to hear what made the difference to make such a successful outcome for her and her children. We have already signed her up to talk to the next cohort of students in April and she may well speak to newly qualified social workers in Edinburgh.



### Harvard Scholarship

One of the care experience young people managed through our service has been accepted to study law at Harvard's summer school programme. Her home life, her relationship with her mum, alongside her mum's poor mental health meant she needed to be looked after out with the family home. She had not been in school for 2 years and experienced poor mental and physical health. Despite the many challenges she faced before and during her time in care she has proven to have excellent academic ability. Covid had a significant negative impact on her, and she underachieved in her 5th year. However, she did not give up on her goal to study Law. She has now got several university offers to study Law and is achieving the required grades at school. To top this achievement off, she is now going to attend summer school at Harvard, one of the most prestigious American universities that has a worldwide reputation for Law graduates.

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