

Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Via MS Teams

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Alison Dickie</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>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>	<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>

Child poverty Update – Schools and Lifelong Learning

The updates below are additional to child poverty actions already covered in the Lifelong Learning Update and appendices to that report. Much of Lifelong Learning's work has implicit actions to address poverty which is reflected in the main Lifelong Learning Report.

Parent and Carer Support for children and families

The Scottish Governments Tackling Child Poverty Fund helps parents gain new skills and take up learning and training. The Peep charity was awarded the 2 year contract to provide national training and support

Peep Learning Together programme is an early intervention that supports parents to recognise and understand how their child learns while empowering them to enhance learning with everyday opportunities. Training places were determined by the number of nurseries in the 20% most deprived areas and CEC was allocated 18 FLS delegate places.

Lifelong Learning Parent and Carer Support Officers coordinated and facilitated the first training cohort in November and 14 Senior Early Years Intervention Officers were trained in Peep Learning Together programme, under the FLS Programme. The data is requested by the Scottish Government and Peep will be reporting to the Scottish Government in June on the early impact measures across all LA's.

Impact

Parents/carers have more knowledge and understanding how their child learns. Parents/carers feel more confident and empowered to enhance learning with everyday opportunities

Planned next steps

Lifelong Learning Parent and Carer Support Officers continue to offer support in planning and implementation including measuring quantitative and qualitative data reporting to Peep.

Cost of Living Driver

Families are able to make use of cheap/free everyday use of resources /situations for learning.

Edinburgh Learns Equity

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF): The May 2020 self-evaluation report identified a need to review how the impact of key financial expenditure, including PEF is recorded and evidenced. This and the subsequent socio and economic impacts of Covid-19 on families, led to a new process for planning and evaluating PEF spend in each school. A group of Head Teachers was consulted on the new process and all schools now prepare a PEF Plan at the start of each session which outlines:

- the gaps
- planned approaches to address these gaps and improve outcomes for learners experiencing poverty-related barriers
- an evaluation of the impact of these approaches and interventions throughout the session

Schools now include this completed plan at the end of the session as part of their Standards and Quality self-evaluation submissions. Schools work with local authority officers to critically evaluate their planned use of PEF and ensure that it is used to support priorities for Renewal.

School Renewal planning for Equity and Inclusion: all schools were given an Equity and Inclusion renewal template (summer 2020) with links to resources assisting them to self-evaluate and gather baseline data upon the return to school from the closure period. This enables planning, and recovery, for children and young people living in poverty and deprivation and in particular, those supported by Attainment Scotland Fund (PEF and SAC).

The Care Experienced Fund: supported the appointment of a Virtual School Leader (QIEO Care Experienced) and this post has continued in 2020-21.

Professional Learning (Equity): In response to a detailed analysis of planning, practice and progress towards closing the poverty related attainment gap across Edinburgh and nationally, a suite of Professional Learning with a Focus on Leadership for Equity is currently in development.

Attainment: Schools submitted predicted levels of pupil attainment in February and November, 2020 and March 2021. The November data was analysed to identify schools predicting the most significant downwards trends. In response, additional staffing resource, in the form of Closing the Gap teachers, has been allocated to schools with a higher number of young people living in lower SIMD quintiles.

Impact

The CEC Equity Network which was set up in 2019/20 by the Senior Development Officer at Liberton High School, supported by our Education Scotland Attainment Advisor, has continued to thrive during 2020/21. The network is open to all staff, including Lifelong Learning, Pupil Support Officers, teachers who are equity leads or Development Officers in their schools, and Head Teachers/Depute Head Teachers. It has met 4 times this session and participants have contributed to SWOT analyses and provided feedback which has informed the focus of each meeting. Meetings have included:

- presentations from Education Scotland Attainment Advisors about effective use of baseline data and setting of effective measurable outcomes
- a session delivered by the Parental Engagement Development Officer about ways of engaging parents in school life during the current restrictions
- an overview of 1 in 5 Raising Awareness of child poverty

Meetings also provided a platform for sharing practice and professional discussions about how to overcome challenges of achieving equity and closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Planned next Steps

Enhanced support for PEF planning and reporting established in 2020-21 will continue to be developed and delivered in 2021-22. In addition, the following next steps, identified in *The Scottish Attainment Challenge: 2015-20 Impact Report for the City of Edinburgh* (Education Scotland, March 2021) are key priorities for our authority:

- intensifying support for children, young people and families living in poverty and improving consistency across all schools in relation to practices supportive of closing the gap
- providing support for schools to develop decision making processes which meaningfully include parents in PEF planning
- developing the leadership for equity professional learning suite aimed at supporting 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

March 2021 attainment predictions will be analysed to review the allocation of additional CTG staffing resource for the remainder of the session.

Lifelong Learning Creativity, Health and Wellbeing

1 in 5 Child Poverty

- Over 300 people have attended 1 in 5 seminars on Raising Awareness, Family Homelessness & Digital Inclusion since October 2020.
- HWB team have identified and made schools aware of over 2000 children and young people experiencing family homelessness.
- Funding of 100k secured to support education and wellbeing for children, young people and their families experiencing homeless.
- Working group started looking at joining up council services to better support these families.
- Further funding to provide children living in poverty and who are adversely impacted by Covid to with materials, equipment and kit enabling them to participate in opportunities, activities and hobbies

- Addressing digital poverty through distribution of 300 mifi, Chromebook and iPad devices secured from Scottish Government for Discover families and those experiencing homelessness

Discover!

Discover Facebook Live successfully delivered over October, Christmas, February and Easter holidays. With over 300 families engaging and receiving activity and food boxes

- The number of recommendations to Discover has increased by around 50 more families for each holiday since October 2020
- There are now
- At Easter over 600 food and art boxes were delivered to over 300 families (1 box per week)
- Consistently high levels of engagement with the Discover Facebook Group with families offering each other encouragement and support

Family Support

- (SPACE Team) Production of **Support for Families Locality Leaflet**, every month from May 2020 which includes a range of services and also some information for parents, carers and professionals on various financial and food poverty support. See www.edinburgh.gov.uk/pacs

Local Child Poverty Action Plan – core group

The core group continues to meet fortnightly and is made up of council officers and colleagues from NHS and Capital City Partnership. The Group:

- Produced and submitted the second Edinburgh Local Child poverty Report (December 2020). Reported to Education, Children and Families in December 2020
- Met with the Improvement Service to discuss feedback from the LCPAR
- Is working to establish performance measures for the next LCPAR and the council's Poverty Delivery Plan
- Is working to identify key people from across the organisation to form a 'network of networks' aiming to ensure work to reduce poverty is connected, targeted and not duplicated
- Engages in regular national events with Child Poverty from other local authorities leads to share effective practice, for learning and professional discussion
- Is developing the next LCPAR

Is making strong connections with Edinburgh Learns

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Edinburgh Outdoor Learning Network support

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit facilitates a network for outdoor learning providers across the city; the Edinburgh Outdoor Learning Network. In November we established a small working group drawn from a variety of organisations. This group coordinated the production of a directory of Outdoor Learning providers and their COVID offers; the directory was shared with all teachers in January via the Edinburgh Learns bulletin.

The working group also coordinated a series of 3 webinars, each webinar comprising four short presentations from different providers. Presenters were asked to share something practical that teachers could take away alongside promoting the services that they provide to schools. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive with over 90% stating that the sessions would have a positive benefit to their own delivery of outdoor learning.

Recordings of the webinars can be found via:

<https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/schools-communities/networks>

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Outdoor Learning In-School Support

In November and December members of the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit supported schools by being placed in targeted schools alongside staff for a number of days. The placements were linked to our innovative resource; the [Outdoor Learning Map](#). Staff co-planned and co-delivered outdoor learning lessons and acted as a critical friend to reflect on the effectiveness of the sessions. For staff who had been largely working from home since the start of the pandemic, this was also a great opportunity to work with staff and pupils in a variety of outdoor spaces around Edinburgh. Visit the map to find details of what the classes got up to.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Coronavirus Excursions Toolbox

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit continues to produce a Toolbox providing Council position statements and resources regarding offsite visits. This considers Scottish Government guidance and applies wider Council requirements to enable Communities and Families staff to forward plan safe and effective offsite visits. Outdoor Learning is a core part of Schools/Settings responding to the pandemic and the Toolbox is intended to provide clarity and confidence to staff going offsite. It is aligned to the Scottish Government Protection Levels and is updated regularly.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Outdoor Learning via Epic Days!

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) is approved to deliver an extended outdoor learning day programme to Edinburgh P7 pupils from week beginning May 17. In order to offer this to all P7s, SOLU will deliver provision to 67 schools before the Summer holidays and then coordinate a further offer to the remaining P7s when they are S1s via their secondary schools (Epic Day programme has been organised via clusters to enable this). The Epic Days will be delivered by SOLU staff, including instructors from Bangholm, Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres, in partnership with the Bonaly Scout Centre. Each day will run between 10:00 and 21:00 and include onsite activities at Bonaly and short expeditions into the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Activity will follow the latest Covid-19 safety requirements.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: DofE in a Virtual Setting

As part of our response to the pandemic, the Sport and Outdoor Unit has developed its virtual DofE Centre. This is assisting young people with advice and support. SOLU has created an online process to register participants and will support them using MS Teams meetings to make sure they can complete their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.

Expeditions will still need to be trained for and undertaken as part of the DofE incremental restart.

For further information please contact Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Barnardo's Hub Bike Programme.

During Easter, the Sport and Outdoor Unit delivered a bike programme at the Barnardo's hub. Sessions were delivered using a SOLU officer, Sean Webster, and bikes from our Bangholm Outdoor Centre.

Simon Robinson, the Team Leader at Barnardo's had this to say about the sessions:

Bikeability has proven absolutely central to the success of the Hub in ensuring that the children and young people who come here have a positive experience. It supports them to develop skills and confidence in bike-riding as well as having fun. The staff have a huge amount of experience in encouraging children to become competent and safe riders and we really appreciate their input.

Future provision is planned for the summer holidays and beyond.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Outdoor Learning Team Internal Training Programme

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) staff at the Council's three outdoor learning centres are delivering an innovative internal training programme to SOLU staff. Due to UK restrictions on activity since March 2020, it is important for the outdoor learning/adventurous activity sector to avoid a potential technical skills/knowledge fade. This training is one part of our response to this - enabling staff to 'shape'/prioritise their training, share good practice and develop knowledge and skills. It is also allowing Centres to develop provision linked to specific health and safety topics and curriculum outcomes.

Sessions are delivered online in 30-minute 'bite-sized' chunks by core staff based at each centre. Topics include dealing with emergencies in remote locations; curricular outdoor learning; working with young people with dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia; Lyme disease awareness; and updates on new Duke of Edinburgh's Award flexibilities.

Reflections of Swim Teacher Julia Kerr

We have been enjoying the beautiful spring weather in Balgreen Primary School woods since Easter. Since being redeployed in August from the Swim Team to Balgreen I have been enjoying outdoor learning with over 75 children, teachers and support staff each week. We are very lucky to have the support of the parents who keep us supplied with plenty of marshmallows, biscuits, hot chocolate and kindling and also the parent council who bought us our lovely hammocks. It has been amazing to experience all four seasons first hand and sometimes all in one day! I feel very lucky to have had this time

at Balgreen as I head back to the pool in early May to restart primary curricular swimming teaching.



Edinburgh Active Schools Go Active for 24 Hours

Edinburgh Active Schools completed a 24 hour virtual #ASmoveathon to raise vital funds for Edinburgh based projects supported by the Scottish Mental Health charity, SAMH. The team started the 24 hours at 5pm on Thursday 1st April with an hour HIIT session and finished 24 hours later learning a dance routine as a team. We had coordinators running, cycling, walking, litter picking, skipping, hula hooping and more throughout the 24 hours. The journey was documented through the Active Schools Twitter account @ActiveSchoolsED to highlight to our followers the importance of physical activity on positive mental health. The team raised an incredible £2410. Well done to the Edinburgh Active Schools Team!

