

Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 12 October 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>

Business Bulletin – Child Poverty update (October 2021)

Get into Summer

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

The purpose was to support children and young people's wellbeing after a year of disrupted school, out of school activities and periods of isolation from friends.

The group planning Edinburgh's Get into Summer programme actively promoted the programme to children, young people and families in the targeted groups, helping ensure they were able to participate. In many activities travel costs were covered and food provided. There were several referrals only programmes for specific groups, which were not publicly advertised and a payment of £100 was given to each pupil in a Special school in receipt of free school meals. One single parent on receiving this said:

'Thank you so much as being a single parent its so hard to do things exp the price of admission etc but he was just saying he wanted to go do the edinburgh tour bus to south queensferry bit go on the boat to the island for day and this email is for us , we both say huge thankyou as we would go spend time together and enjoy as we have never been on holiday or anything but thats maybe next year ... anyway thankyou for email and helping it means alot

Its hard enough being a single parent , so by this little extra will make him so happy and a huge confidence boost , thankou'

The Get into Summer was delivered by over 125 providers from across the third sector and council services. The programme covered:

- 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!

An overview of **Discover!** Summer 2021 is provided at Appendix 1 to the **Discover and Edinburgh community Food Report**. Feedback from families tell us that:

- 85% felt it had reduced costs of food during school holidays
- 81% that it helped children to learn new things (81%)
- 78% that it encouraged them to spend more quality time together as a family
- 73% that it helped them to eat healthier as a family e.g. eating more fruit and vegetables
- 73% that it helped reduce costs of activities during school holidays

- Families reported they felt more connected to others

Headlines

Discover Online and Discover In a Box

- 310 Boxes delivered in Week 1 and rising weekly to 345 in Week 6.
- 900 Discover Art Packs, Historic Environment Activity Packs and Edinburgh University Chromatography sets distributed.
- 23 online workshops from independent artists, The Royal Observatory, Edinburgh University, Heriot Watt University and Edinburgh Museum.



- 24 recipes for healthy meals sent out to families
- 6 LIVE cooking sessions around the themes of Soil, Seed, Sun, Shoots, Share and Store
- Lots of information on healthy eating advice
- 46 Picnic in the Park events overall (only one cancelled by the rain!!!!)
- 42 staff involved
- By the end of week 2- 62 parents and carers and 106 children and young people had attended a trip
- 395 posts, 1,143 comments, 5,127 reactions
- 1700 Family Daysavers distributed
- 710 adults and children benefited from ScotRail tickets to North Berwick, Linlithgow, Burntisland, Glasgow and Stirling
- 219 children receive free school uniform
- Parents and carers received support an employment from Access to Industry and energy advice from Home Energy scotland
- Young People attended a BBC: Microbit course and are working towards a Dynamic Youth Award
- Over 200 JASS Award Packs were distributed to families

'Thank you so much for the school clothes for start of term. You have absolutely no idea how much this helps me. My husband passed away this year and I am a kinship carer for my 3 grandchildren. This has taken so much of the worry I am overwhelmed and emotional for the kindness of others helping others.'

Planning is now underway for the October break where the theme is linked to food, harvest, sustainability and autumn. Good and art/craft boxes will be delivered to all recommended families with a programme of live and pre-recorded events and activities taking place throughout the holiday week.

An Educational Psychologist on placement is beginning to look at baseline data for a cohort of Discover children so the team can start to look at impact over a longer period.

Leadership for Equity

Leadership for Equity is led by Edinburgh's Attainment Advisor and an Education Senior Development Officer and is a key piece of work to support schools do all they can to reduce poverty and inequality.

Lifelong Learning Officers from the strategic Health and Wellbeing Team and locality lifelong learning Supporting Parents and Carers team are providing content and input to the Leadership for Equity Course. This includes the integration of aspects of 1 in 5 training into Day 1 and a Working with Parents and Carers session in Day 2.

The first day took place on Tuesday 29th September and feedback will be provided in the next Bulletin Child Poverty update.

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.

The Child poverty Action Report and the End Poverty Edinburgh Annual progress Report are combined into a single document and were referred to this Committee from Policy and Sustainability on 5th October.

A recent action emerging from this group was to establish an Ending Poverty Network of Networks. 2 meetings have now taken place with very good attendance and participation. The second looked at issues around housing and homelessness. The third network of networks took place virtually on 7th October where the speaker was from the **End Poverty Edinburgh** citizen group, who introduced themselves, their roles and priorities and their experiences of poverty. The meeting also considered the first End Poverty Edinburgh Delivery Plan **annual progress report**, which will be circulated nearer the time.

Holiday Matters

Holiday Matters is a partnership between Lifelong Learning department, Jack Kane Community Centre and St Francis RC Primary School. The programme seeks to maximize children's learning and enjoyment whilst minimising any negative effect that holiday periods may bring, particularly for children who are care experienced or vulnerable in other ways.

Children were nominated by the school, attending a pre- summer group which took place after school. This provided staff, children and their families the opportunity to develop relationships. This summer holiday matters relocated from St. Francis Primary school to the Jack Kane Community Centre offering a wide range of fun activities within the child's own community, in a setting they found safe and secure. Implementing a summer transition period back into school life, this 2-week block gave children and their families many happy holiday experiences helping them be more ready to learn whilst enjoying themselves.

- 77% of nominated children attended the programme!
- 84% of engagements were new interactions with parents/carers!
- 100% of parents and children attendees stated that activities were excellent!
- 100% of parents and carers stated that they now had a more positive relationship with the school and wider community!
- 100% of children who took part in this Summers Holiday Matters programme attended their first day back at school!

Holiday Matters links with Education Scotland Benchmarks Personal and Social Development, and Curriculum for Excellence Planning for Choices and Changes

'This will help me for going back to school, because I have got to know the staff better and I have made new friends'. 'The best thing was that I have made new friends, I've enjoyed the activities and I've learned things here that I can do in the school'.

'The Holiday Matters has given my child a chance to enjoy things that I would not have had time to do with her'. 'It can be hard work keeping my girls amused over the Summer and having this programme takes the pressure off'

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

Young Minds Matter Programme launched to secondary schools

The Health & Wellbeing Team in conjunction with Pupil Support Teachers from various schools across the city have produced this resource and is now available on sharepoint for all schools to pilot. It includes 44 lessons to encourage young people from S1-S4 to explore what influences their mental health and wellbeing through a range of teaching and learning strategies. It has been developed in response to staff and pupil feedback from City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Borders Council and focuses on increasing knowledge and understanding, providing practical strategies for young people to aid their own mental health and wellbeing and developing skills to support others in difficult times. The programme also aims to work in partnership with all staff, parents and pupils to increase awareness of mental health and wellbeing. Young Minds Matter builds on work completed in primary schools with the 'Building Resilience' resource and provides progression for secondary school pupils.

Mental Health Matters (Staff Training Course)

The Health & Wellbeing Team in conjunction with Educational Psychologists, NHS and LAYC are in the process of writing this staff training course for all those working with children and young people and hope for this to be piloted before Christmas. It will include 6 sessions around mental health and wellbeing including risk and protective factors, brain development, stress and anxiety, attachment and trauma, healing and resilience, and looking after our own wellbeing.

New Volunteers for Turn Your Life Around (Raising Awareness of Trauma and Childhood Adversity Project)

The Health & Wellbeing Team in conjunction with Police Scotland have now trained up a further 6 volunteers (Wave 3) who will be willing to share their lived experiences of trauma, childhood abuse and adversity in schools (P7 upwards) as part of the award winning Turn Your Life Around project. Since 2016 volunteers have shared their story to over 2000 children, young people and staff in order to raise awareness and understanding of childhood trauma and resilience, reduce social isolate and encourage all to ask for help.

Family Homelessness Support Update

Over the summer holidays a further 240 children and young people entered temporary accommodation with their families (adding to the 2000 children already there). The Health & Wellbeing Team continue to bridge the gap between housing and education to ensure that these children and young people and their families are better supported. This has included supporting them with bus passes if they are moved to other side of town, attendance at school clubs, provision of school meals (where family are not eligible because of income) and parental mental health counselling.

1 in 5 – Raising Awareness of Child Poverty Seminars (to link with Challenge Poverty Week)

The Health & Wellbeing Team in conjunction with third sector are running a few more seminars as part of the 1 in 5 Raising Awareness of Child Poverty work. These will tie in with other work happening around Challenge Poverty Week and include the following:

Tues 5th October Seminar 1: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty in Edinburgh

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-in-5-seminar-series-2021-raising-awareness-of-child-poverty-in-edinburgh-tickets-173627764317>

Weds 6th October Seminar 2: Family Homelessness in Edinburgh

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-in-5-seminar-2-hidden-homelessness-in-edinburgh-tickets-173660642657>

Weds November 3rd Seminar 3: Talking About Costs and Money in School

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-in-5-seminar-series-talking-about-costs-and-money-in-school-tickets-173671495117>

Seminar 4: Youth Homelessness in Edinburgh (details tbc)



Edinburgh Young Carers are thrilled to announce that three schools in the city have been granted the We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award.

Despite incredibly challenging circumstances, the three schools have achieved the Award which celebrates good practice in identifying and supporting young carers.

Edinburgh Young Carers have awarded the “We Recognise” level of their Scotland-wide *We Care: Schools for Young Carers Award* to James Gillespie’s High School, Niddrie Mill Primary School and Tollcross Primary School in recognition of the contributions the schools have made to improving outcomes for young carers.

Margaret Murphy, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Young Carers: *“In a year when we were faced with the huge external challenges brought about by COVID-19, including having to adapt the way in which we support and teach our children and young people, myself and the We Care team are so thankful for the continued support and dedication the schools have shown to improving young carers’ experiences within their schools.”*

Children with a Disability and Holiday Support

September 2021

Overview of support provided

There was excellent partnership working over the summer to provide a range of supports for children with various needs. The summer holidays lasted seven weeks, and most of the Hubs ran for six weeks with one running for five weeks.

There was a lot of positive feedback from families and the young people along with comments for us to consider going forward.

The support offered was:

The Yard

The Yard ran three different provisions:

- Family sessions: the parent/carer attended with their child to use the facilities at the Yard. Ten families could attend each day; five in the morning and five in the afternoon
- Short breaks sessions: providing care from 10am-2pm each day for six children per session. 36 children in total were offered this service over the holidays.
- Oaklands Hub: this was for children with complex health and care support needs. Two groups of 17 children were each offered three weeks of support running Monday to Thursday.

Action for Children

Five children each day with complex behavioural needs related to learning disability and Autism. Support was provided at a 2-1 staffing ratio. Places were offered to 12 children, who received between six and 14 days of support depending on their level of need.

Primecare Health Autism

10 children with complex behavioural needs related to Autism were offered support. This was on a 2-1 staffing ratio. Due to the behavioural needs of the children, support was offered in half days for most of this group. Children were offered two half days per week throughout the summer.

Capability Scotland

Between eight and 10 children attended their base each day for five weeks.

Action Group

53 children attended this provision. Each received on average 4.5 days support; however, families who were known to be in crisis over the summer were offered additional days.

Lothian Autistic Society

34 children attended this provision. The average number of days offered was five and additional days were offered to families who were known to be in crisis.

Braidburn Hub

Places at this service were allocated via applications from parents whose children had not accessed the other provisions. There was initially the capacity for 30 children to be offered two days each over the holidays. Due to the reduced numbers who took up this offer, the families who applied were offered four days support. There was also some leftover capacity to respond to crisis situations. There were 30 spaces available each day and 135 children in total participated in this service.

Parental feedback

- We would like to thank everyone involved in the running of the Summer Playscheme at Braidburn that our daughter attended. She really enjoyed herself and loved going in every morning. The 4 days she went was greatly appreciated by us and broke up her summer nicely to give her the opportunity to have some fun and play with the other kids that attended. So again, thanks to all the staff who really done an excellent job and hopefully the council funds this again next summer.
- Thank you so much for all your help with the club for P it really helps with his anger issues.
- Thank you to care about X he was really enjoyed ❤️
- Thank you to you and your team for looking after P last week. I know she enjoyed herself and loved telling us all about her week and the activities she had been up to. I was working a lot last week and didn't manage to say a personal thank you to the team at Braidburn but please pass this on to them as this really is a wonderful support provided during the long summer holidays.
Thank you again and I hope you have an enjoyable rest of the summer.
- Just wanted to say thanks to all staff for supporting R last week at the playscheme. He enjoyed it and we appreciated it too.
- F loved hub today
- We were fortunately given 8 days but only managed to do 3 part-days because of his fear of noise from other children there. Venue is too small and lack of direct outside safe space. The staff were great. Friendly and welcoming but he needs to feel safe and he didn't. Social work need to work with yourself and match like children together so they all have a better experience.

Children and young people's feedback

- I like the adults, trips, being here, friends
- I liked film, art, museum, did not like popcorn
- I liked swimming, park

Plan for October and February support

There is always an issue getting staff for the October holiday period as students are not on leave and other staff who worked over the summer take this as a holiday. For February this is the same, but to a lesser extent.

As a result of the short time scale between the summer and the October break, we will be aiming to run the same provision over this time.

We will review the situation for February and will update in December on the plan for this holiday.

Funding

The budget runs from Summer to Easter each year, regardless of when Easter falls. The funds have already been agreed for the Oaklands Hub. Higher staffing ratios required because of COVID-19 have put pressure on funding, and we are currently looking to see how we can cover any potential shortfall.

Update on Development Worker post for Holiday support

The recruitment process is in progress and we will update when someone is in post.

Once they are in post there will be a two-week induction and then we will plan the work that needs to be done. The post-holder will be linked quickly into engaging with parents and providers and will work with the part-time Assistant Team Leader who has the lead on holiday supports and who knows the children, knows which venues are most suitable and has an overview of the timeline for supports to be in place.

The Disability Strategy Group has sent out a Survey Monkey to parents and carers primarily to get information on support gaps during term time and weekends so that we can work together to address this. This also includes a question about support and childcare over the holidays.

SQA

There has been no progress on this because of the other challenges with COVID but we will task the new worker take this forward.

BEARING THE FRUITS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Congratulations to The Royal High School for being recognised with the Apple Distinguished School award.

The accolade is given to schools across the world who have demonstrated innovation, leadership and educational excellence in making digital learning part of everyday school life.

The Royal High follows in the footsteps of Tynecastle High School who became has received the recognition three times since 2016.

Depute Head Teacher Kate Fraser said: "The Royal High is delighted to achieve an Apple Distinguished Schools award. The school has a culture, shared vision and shared responsibility that embraces meaningful change and innovation, to ensure that every learner within our community is prepared for the global challenges they will face. We're proud to be one of the oldest schools in Europe, yet has always been passionate about adapting to the evolving context of the world, including the deployment of digital technology.

"Learners are becoming digital innovators. There is no question of inequality with regards access to devices, as we continually strive to close the poverty related attainment gap. Our digital journey has extended far beyond substitution. Our learners make creative decisions regarding the best way to demonstrate their learning and technology provides opportunities to think critically, problem solve and engage in decision making."

The award reinforces the Council's ambitious Empowered Learning project which will see 39,000 iPads distributed to every pupil from P6 to S6 along with shared devices for P1 to P5 and Early Years as part of our inclusive education strategy Edinburgh Learns for Life.

The project is due to completed by the end of 2022.