

Education Children and Families

10am, Tuesday, 12 October 2021

School Sports & Extracurricular Activities/School lets: Progress Update

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards All
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education Children & Families Committee is asked:
 - 1.1.1 To note this report and the progress made on implementing school sports & extracurricular activities.
 - 1.1.2 To note the progress and planned action for supporting community use of schools

Julien Kramer

Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services

David Bruce: Senior Education Manager

E-mail: david.bruce2@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3795

Education Children and Families

School Sports & Extracurricular Activities, School Lets: Progress Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It was agreed at Education Children and Families Committee on Tuesday 24 August 2021 to request a further report on progressing the implementation of school sports and extracurricular activities. This report outlines the approach taken in response to the Conservative motion which requests updates on the following:
- 2.1.1 How the new Active Schools funding model has been implemented and if it can deliver the previous (pre-Covid) programmes while fulfilling the obligation to offer sport free of charge to all children
 - 2.1.2 How many PTAs have been asked to provide funding for coaching to make-up the shortfall, and at which schools?
 - 2.1.3 If CEC will be providing additional funding to schools to address any funding gaps
 - 2.1.4 What CEC sports academies have restarted and what the full programme for academic year 21-22 will cover?
 - 2.1.5 What other extra-curricular activities have restarted (e.g., choirs, bands etc.) and what are still in abeyance – and reasons for delay?
 - 2.1.6 To include information on in-school lets in the report

3. Background

- 3.1 The council plans to eradicate poverty by 2030 and to make opportunities for wider achievement free and accessible for all. The national agency for sport, **sportscotland**, have stated “Active Schools activity should be free to all children and young people”. This fully complements our approaches to poverty proof the school day and to eradicate poverty by 2030.
- 3.2 In response to **sportscotland**’s statement, Active Schools will provide an extra-curricular activity programme where the participant will not be charged. Active Schools Co-ordinators, (ASCs), will focus on recruiting volunteers from parent groups, school staff, club coaches and senior pupils and in cases where paid coaches are recruited the ASC will be required to source funding, to ensure a wide

range of activities are offered. Active Schools are responsible for ensuring as many opportunities in physical activity and sport are offered to pupils and school led demand may require the ASCs to source clubs/organisations that can deliver activities and will do so for a charge, with the agreement that free places will be offered to those who need it.

Such sessions will be organised by Active Schools but not run by them. It will be the responsibility of the club/organisation to take bookings, produce registers, collate medical information and collect payment however ASCs will help. The Active Schools team will be responsible for agreeing the Let terms with the club/organisation.

The Active Schools team will continue to have a presence during the school day, reaching pupils in need of support and who benefit the most from participating in physical activity, narrowing the gap between those who can and cannot access physical activity. It is important to note that sessions during curricular time will not replace PE lessons. While we are not at this stage able to determine exactly what level of ECA in schools there will be, plans are still being developed, and it should be noted that Head Teachers and Parent Councils will continue to receive support from ASCs to address issues as they arise during these challenging times.

4. Main report

Specific responses to the Conservative motion are shown below.

4.1 **How the new Active Schools funding model has been implemented and if it can deliver the previous (pre-Covid) programmes while fulfilling the obligation to offer sport free of charge to all children**

ASCs are working with their schools to provide a complete programme with a wide-ranging comprehensive array of activities for pupils to participate in. ASCs are recruiting volunteers from a range of sources. In partnership with schools ASCs are also working with clubs and other organisations who will deliver activities for the school for a charge, as described in the background information. A full programme will gradually be resumed but will take time as many coaches and volunteers have moved on to do other things during the pandemic. It is also important to understand that work is required to build the confidence of people to restart their commitment to coaching and to ensuring that they are not anxious about the level of risk and the expectations on them to keep others safe and comply with all safety measures.

4.2 **How many PTAs have been asked to provide funding for coaching to make-up the shortfall, and at which schools**

ASCs will provide extracurricular opportunities free of charge by engaging volunteers from, for example, clubs, the local community, colleges and Universities.

The following sets out the proposals for payment of some extracurricular activity. NB: No PTAs have been asked to fund shortfalls. ASCs are not asking PTAs to fund programmes previously funded by pupil payment to Active Schools. It is possible that some schools will choose to take on organisations that charge and will either charge pupils; request support from PTAs; or find other sources of funding to pay for this provision. Therefore, PTAs/HTs are being asked to accept payment where necessary from pupils for their participation in some extracurricular activity.

4.3 **If CEC will be providing additional funding to schools to address any funding gaps**

There is no additional funding to address funding gaps and there is no evidence to support the assertion that there will be any funding gap. ASCs, HTs, PTAs and clubs and coaches are required to find new ways of working that maintain and increase opportunities but without additional costs.

4.4 **What CEC sports academies have restarted and what the full programme for academic year 21-22 will cover**

Girls Football, Hockey, Girls Netball and Badminton will resume in September/October 2021. In January/February 2022, Rugby, Cricket and Volleyball/Beach Volleyball will resume.

4.5 What other extra-curricular activities have restarted (e.g. choirs, bands etc.) and what are still in abeyance – and reasons for delay?

Some Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) provision is delivered via extracurricular activity, including day and overnight expeditions. This was introduced in the Summer Term linked to Scottish Government advice. The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit provided forward planning position statements and resources such as template risk assessments to support the incremental reintroduction of DofE activity.

- 4.5.1 The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit has updated the COVID-19 Excursions Toolbox in response to updated SG guidance to support offsite activity.
- 4.5.2 The Arts and Creative Learning Team is supporting IMS (Instrumental Music) instructors to re-start school-based bands, orchestras, choirs and ensembles with appropriate Risk Assessments and infection Control measures in place. Schools and instructors are working together to re-start these at a time and scale that best suits the school community.
- 4.5.3 The city-wide bands, orchestras and ensembles are not yet re-started. School closures, Education Scotland Guidance and specific restrictions on singing, brass and wind, stopped all citywide groups in March 2020. The reasons they have not yet re-started are as follows:
 - 4.5.3.1 IMS numbers were down because of the pandemic. IMS instructors are currently actively recruiting new pupils onto IMS timetables, including younger cohorts who either missed selection or were too young last year
 - 4.5.3.2 Many of the core and experienced pupils in citywide bands, orchestras, choirs and ensembles have now left school. Once new pupils are recruited onto IMS timetables they will be encouraged and supported to join bands, orchestras, choirs and ensembles when their playing is at a stage where they will benefit. They will first be supported to join school based / extra-curricular groups before progressing to the citywide groups. This process is designed to build numbers back up and to ensure the citywide groups are a safe and positive experience for pupils.
 - 4.5.3.3 An online concert involving many city primary and secondary schools was streamed in June 2021. A further online concert is currently being planned in order to ensure the new skills in creative technology are not lost. This will help inform a new and modern blended learning music offer.
 - 4.5.3.4 The impact of Covid and consequent pause in school and citywide groups affords Arts and Creative Learning an opportunity to re-design the citywide groups. These will be based on discussion with young musicians and the re-launch will be reflective of the interests and potential offered by creative technology. Some on-line rehearsals are also being considered as part of a blended approach to a refreshed citywide offer.
 - 4.5.3.5 Discussions about venues for Easter concerts are underway – these discussions will inform how and when city-wide groups re-start, Concerts at Easter are likely to be a blend of citywide and school-based bands, orchestras and ensembles.

- 4.6 Arts and Creative Learning is currently recruiting YMI (Youth Music Initiative) tutors who will work in school time in primary and special schools. If schools want to develop extra-curricular YMI activities, they will be supported to do so.
- 4.7 Extra-curricular arts, film and other creative opportunities are delivered by a wide range of providers including the Arts and Creative Learning Team (Screen Education Edinburgh). Much of this activity is delivered independently by the organisations. The Team regularly collates opportunities and shares these with schools. In addition, some schools have re-started activity which is not brokered through the Arts and Creative Learning Team.
- 4.8 IMS, YMI, SEE and other arts provision is all free of charge to the participants.
- 4.9 Wider Achievement Plan proposal:
As part of the wider ambitions set out in Edinburgh Learns for Life there is a proposal to create a discreet plan for Wider Achievement for our children and young people and for key performance measures to be agreed and reported on an annual basis or more regularly if required .Key activities will be participation in art and creative learning , skills development for learning, life and work, sport and outdoor learning, youth work and family learning.
This will align with the Lifelong Learning Service Plan and Edinburgh Learns for Life. A strategic plan for Wider Achievement will take cognisance of:
- 4.9.1 Certificated wider achievement awards: what is currently offered and what could be developed based on children and young people's interests and goals.
- 4.9.2 What is captured through school and what is captured out of school and how those are joined up.
- 4.9.3 What non-certificated wider achievement children and young people are participating in and how that may lead to progression pathways in school, out of school and beyond school.
- 4.9.4 certificate and non-certificated family learning activities and awards

4.10 Information on in-school school lets:

- 4.10.1 Primary/ASN schools:
Primary and ASN schools can be accessed between 3.30 and 6pm for school led ECA of all kinds, sport and non-sport. School led means that the activity is sanctioned/endorsed by the HT and can involve Active Schools co-ordination and support, or Parent Council led activity. OOSC providers are also able to operate.

We are currently auditing interest in lets from 6pm. This will require lease holder to do some touch point cleaning and may require some lets to be redirected to alternative locations.

Like most local authorities we are planning for that possibility after the October break and working through the implications of things .We can

support the use of outdoor spaces e.g. pitches and playgrounds but no access to toilets or changing facilities

All activity in all schools between 3.30 and 6pm and outdoor use of pitches and playground require a permit to be issued by the school lets tea. There will be no charge for any HT sanctioned activity in a school between 3.30 and 6pm.

4.10.2 Secondary Schools

Edinburgh Leisure is managing the community use of Secondary School sports facilities after 6pm and at weekends (with the exception of WHEC and Leith Academy). Well established practices are in place and this is working well.

There is no approval in place for non-sports space community use of schools after 6pm as this would involve additional FM services.

Individual Secondary School offices manage the approvals process for a let in non-sports spaces and applicants apply to the school office. This activity has no approval to restart but will require CIMT approval given the resource implications.

ECA activity in Secondary Schools is possible between 3.30 and 6pm including sport and non-sport and is managed through the school office.

There is work ongoing to consider the use of ASN school swimming pools for Support for disabled children and to restart OOSC services for ASN pupils.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 To progress the implementation of a full extracurricular programme.
- 5.2 To monitor the restart of the Sports Academy.
- 5.3 Continue to support school-based bands, ensembles, choir and orchestras and build numbers to feed into new citywide groups.
- 5.4 Re-design and launch new citywide bands, orchestras, groups and ensembles.
- 5.5 Develop a Wider Achievement Plan informed by key stakeholders including young people and provide a further report on this in March 2022

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no additional financial impact.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The consultation process was conducted during the period November 2018 to February 2019 through both face to face presentations to a wide range of external

stakeholders and an online public survey through the City of Edinburgh Council's 'Have Your Say' consultation hub from which 409 responses were received.

8. Background reading/external references

n/a

9. Appendices

n/a