

# Business Bulletin

## Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 6 June 2023

**Education, Children and Families Committee**

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Key Councillor Kumar Councillor Mattos Coelho Councillor Graham Councillor Young Councillor Burgess Councillor O’Neill Councillor Cowdy Councillor Jones Councillor Davidson</p> <p><b>Added Members for Education Matters</b></p> <p><b>Religious Representatives</b> Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Angela Campbell</p> <p>Dr May Ruhyyih Parris</p> <p><b>Parent Representatives</b> Alexander Ramage secondary sector parent representative</p> <p>Sara Collins and Louise Collingwood (the role will be undertaken on a shared basis)</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p>

**Defibrillators in Primary Schools – Item 40 Rolling Actions Log**

A budget of £112,000 was approved in 2022-2023 for the provision of Defibrillators in all Primary Schools across The City of Edinburgh Council Estate. To date we have surveyed all Primary Schools to determine where there already Defibrillators installed. From the information already gathered some of the schools who do have a defib installed, need support with maintenance and training, therefore this will also be considered in this project. As part of this project, we will be working alongside St John’s in Scotland to look at the suitability of sites and identify areas where the need is greatest depending on the areas of the city less served with this important piece of equipment, they can also offer support with training and maintenance. Once all schools have submitted their responses, we will meet with St John’s Scotland and our Facilities Management Team to agree a plan and at this point we will have a clearer idea of times scales for implementation.

Gillian Tracey,  
Directorate Operations  
Manager

**Literacy Thematic Review**

Early analysis of Literacy attainment data as part of the Thematic Review suggests that, while progress has been made, some areas of concern have emerged over recent years. Literacy levels in P4 (particularly in writing), were identified for the first phase of further analysis. Phase 1 focused on 5 core themes: Leadership, Professional Learning, Curriculum, Teaching Learning and Assessment, and Universal, Targeted and Intensive Support. Focus groups were held with teaching staff, support staff, children, and parents. An online survey was also conducted across schools to assess teacher confidence in making judgements about pupils’ attainment levels in literacy. Criteria for the selection of schools included those where there has been a marked drop or improvement in writing attainment. Early analysis shows that, in the best examples, a clear vision and literacy strategy is in place together with the consistent use of progression pathways to plan learning. Engagement in professional learning, including aspects of the Teachers’ charter, is improving teachers’ skills and confidence levels. Learners in these schools were provided with a range of opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Within the learning through play context, learners experienced an appropriate balance of independent and intentional teacher-led learning in Literacy. Further data analysis will be carried out following the publication of ACEL data and follow up activity at the start of the new session. This will be incorporated into the Literacy Strategy and published, together with the full Thematic Review Report, early next session.

Jackie Reid, Head of  
Education, Quality  
Improvement and Broad  
General Education

**Drylaw Children’s House – Care Inspection**

Drylaw Children’s house is a care home for children and young people operated by City of Edinburgh Council. The home is registered to provide a residential care service to a maximum of seven young people aged 11-18

Steve Harte, Head of  
Corporate Parenting

years. The accommodation provides opportunities for young people to live in semi independence in two self-contained flats within the main building. The accommodation is set in a residential area, close to all amenities and provides a service on an emergency, short or long term basis dependent on the needs of young people.

An unannounced inspection took place on Monday 13 February between and Thursday 16 February.

In making their evaluations of the service, they: - spoke with two young people and met three more; - spoke with six staff and managers; - spoke with a visiting professional; - observed practice, the environment and daily life; and - reviewed documents.

From this inspection they evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How well do we support children and young people's rights and wellbeing?

#### **4 – Good**

The full report can be viewed here:

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/inspection-reports?grade=ungraded> use the search function for Drylaw Young Peoples Centre published on 10 May 2023

#### **Internet Safety (Action 15 – Rolling Actions Log)**

The core provision in schools in relation to digital safety is through the Technologies curriculum area within Curriculum for Excellence, specifically in the area of Digital Literacy, where there are experiences and outcomes related to cyber resilience and internet safety at all levels. To further support this, schools have access to national guidance via Education Scotland's <http://digilearn.scot/> website.

As part of Edinburgh's Empowered Learning programme, all pupils and parents/carers are issued with a Home School Agreement and a Responsible User Agreement which outline safe, responsible and appropriate behaviours in relation to the use of digital and online tools. The content of these agreements is discussed directly with pupils in class and shared with parents/carers for agreement by all. Further, the Responsible Use Agreement provides links to prominent national providers of digital safety resources designed for use by pupils and parents/carers.

We have two recently trained CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) ambassadors within schools, and they continue to create online training resources that are available for use by staff within the council online training

David McKee, Quality Improvement Education Officer (Digital Learning)

myLearningHub. Schools are also encouraged to participate in annual Safer Internet Day activities.

An increasing number of our schools are participating in the Digital Schools Award Scotland programme, which helps schools develop an action plan for improvement in relation to all areas of digital strategy, learning and teaching. This programme also now includes a Digital Wellbeing Award, which focuses specifically on schools' approach to cyber resilience and internet safety and was promoted through a recent professional learning webinar with school Digital Learning Coordinators.

In relation to the safe use of video content specifically, we continue to develop and promote the use of ClickView as a safe and secure platform for the provision of educationally appropriate video content and also as the appropriate repository for the teacher or pupil generated video content. ClickView has been utilised appropriately by schools as a vehicle for safely sharing school generated content with parents/carers.

Technical measures are also in place to ensure that the experience of students is safe and appropriate whilst fulfilling the national curriculum. Empowered Learning iPads utilise filtering provided by a leading provider that specialises in digital tools for education. The filtering is device based thus allowing students to experience a safe and secure learning environment within the school and beyond. Staff have access to a self-service portal where they can highlight recommendations for additional material to be included or to be omitted if they have concerns. Students and parents/carers are directed to speak with their school should they have recommendations or concerns and the school will coordinate the next steps.

### **Active School Thematic Review Update**

sportscotland's national Active Schools programme develops and delivers opportunities for children and young people to participate in, and benefit from, high quality sport and physical activity. The approach is to provide targeted opportunities before school, during lunchtime and after school where there is greatest need.

One of the key commitments is to ensure all Active Schools programmes are free for children and young people, removing the cost for those children and young people who could not otherwise afford to take part.

The Edinburgh Active Schools programme continues to develop a more targeted and impactful approach to its programmes. The success of the programme is not in chasing ever higher numbers, but in making a real difference for those who face the greatest barriers to participation.

The health crisis is linked to inequalities and those facing greatest disadvantage are disproportionately impacted. Active Schools is mandated

Mel Coutts, Wider achievement and Lifelong Learning Manager (Sport & Physical Activity)

and well placed to contribute to addressing these issues with through targeted interventions

The thematic review for Active Schools was requested for the following purpose:

1. To analyse the current Active Schools delivery model looking at its effectiveness in delivering free programmes that meet local needs.
2. To consider the strengths and areas for development for the Edinburgh Active Schools model, through discussion with and learning from ,critical friends in other local authorities including Fife, Dundee and Renfrewshire.
3. To identify areas of best practise or new models, either in Edinburgh or elsewhere, which could be implemented in Learning Communities where the current model is less effective.

Four Learning Communities have been selected for analysis: Liberton, St Augustine's, Broughton and Portobello, and field study visits are underway/proposed for the following 10 schools:

- Prestonfield Primary School
- St John Vianney Primary School
- St David's Primary School
- St Cuthberts Primary School
- Flora Stevenson Primary School
- Granton Primary School
- Towerbank Primary School
- Royal High Primary School
- Portobello High School
- Liberton High School

A full report on the Thematic Review will be presented to the September committee. The completed Integrated Impact Assessment will be available at the June committee.

### **Outdoor Learning**

This item follows a request by Committee in January 2023, and a revised bulletin from April Committee on school trips abroad:

### **Outdoor Learning Update**

As requested by Committee re: strategic action plan, school improvement toolkit and development of an external resource.

### **Strategic Action Plan**

A new two-year Outdoor Learning Team action plan has been created to support the development of safe high quality outdoor learning. This is live and operational between April 2023 and March 2025. A summary of the plan will be communicated to schools prior to the new academic year.

Andrew Bradshaw,  
Principal Officer Outdoor  
Learning

## **Outdoor Learning Improvement Toolkit (for schools)**

The first version of self-evaluation toolkit is planned to go live week beginning 29 May. This aims to support whole-school Outdoor Learning improvements as part of Learning for Sustainability. Recent revisions mean the toolkit will apply to primary, secondary and special schools.

### **External Resource**

All City of Edinburgh (CEC) Schools now have sector-leading access to a high-quality external resource; <https://loveoutdoorlearning.com/>. This was launched to CEC schools in March 2023 and is accessible until June 2024.

The Outdoor Learning Team works collegiately with schools and wider Council staff, volunteers and partners to EMPOWER, CHAMPION and DELIVER high quality outdoor learning. See a sample of the Council's recent work: [Outdoor Learning in Numbers](#).

### **Overseas Excursions Update**

The DRAFT overseas visits planning process and resources have been shared with schools. These were developed via the Head Teacher Exec and a working group, comprising senior school staff. Safety, educational purpose, equity, equality, environmental sustainability, and minimising financial risks are integral to the draft materials.

An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is underway, which includes parent/carer representatives and school colleagues. Schools will be informed of the finalised process and resources when the IIA is complete.

This will ensure young people can attend appropriate overseas visits, which are safe, accessible, and relevant to their educational needs whilst aligning to Council priorities and minimising financial risks to those involved.

Background reading: link to [Education, Children and Families Committee - Tuesday, 31st January, 2023 10.00 am Outdoor Learning report](#).

### **Justice Services Update**

#### **Food pantries; supporting people to access affordable food**

Justice services has partnered with charitable organisation Cyrenians to bring an affordable food service to Edinburgh communities with the launch of two food pantries in 2023. One pantry operates alongside the weekly Wednesday lunch club held at the Hibs Easter Road stadium while the other is based at St Brides Community Centre in Dalry on Monday mornings.

The pantries offer a unique, low-cost way for people to access a variety of foods including chilled and fresh produce, and cupboard staples. The pantries are membership based with prices starting at £2 for 10 items and a one-off joining fee £1. Membership is limited at each location however membership numbers are updated regularly. Providing dignified access to high quality food helps to ensure that no one in Edinburgh unnecessarily experiences food insecurity. As part of the community pantry experience, Cyrenians also offers

Carey Fuller, Head of Justice Services

advice/ information on food preparation, cooking, and storage as well as sharing community cook book recipes to encourage members to get experimental in the kitchen.

## **Holiday Support for Children with a Disability – Item 2 Rolling Actions Log**

The Contracts for the provision of Holiday Hubs for children with a disability are being awarded for a period of 3 years with provision for an extension of a maximum of 3 years, at the discretion of the Council. The contracts are due for review every 6 months, with the Council able to amend according to funding outcomes and feedback from children and families on the success of each hub.

This long-term commitment is a major success which is due to the collaborative approach taken by all partners and stakeholders.

By investing in a collaborative contract, the City of Edinburgh Council will be able to offer support to over 550 children a year. Young people will be placed with the same provider each year, to allow for bonds to be made between children and staff and for the children to be relaxed in their environment. Each provider is working hard to recruit staff, meaning we have avoided cancelling provision. We have made progress in this area; however, staff recruitment is still a pressure which affects the service.

Most families able to contribute towards the cost of the hubs are using our new Council payment system 'Pay.Gov'.

To support communication between families and holiday support staff a new email has been created ([holidaysupport@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:holidaysupport@edinburgh.gov.uk)). Families who have not applied can still sign up to be contacted in case a space becomes available.

The Holiday Hub uses school buildings for provision (mainly special schools). The Council is supported by Education senior managers, with ongoing meetings with facilities management and School Lets towards the creation of a partnership system. When essential maintenance is planned during the holidays, we will ensure this causes the least disruption to families, however, at times a move in building is unavoidable.

The Development Officer has been key to the success of the holiday hubs. There has been positive feedback from children and families, who continue to engage with her in the planning and running of the hubs. The Development Officer's secondment is due to finish in December 2023, and consideration is being given to how best to support the hubs going forward.

**Transport: February and Easter Holiday Hubs:** £40,000 was put towards transport from the H&SCP carers' budget at the start of 2023 for the February and Easter provision.

Andrew McWhirter,  
Acting Senior Manager  
Children's Practice  
Teams

For the February Holiday Hub 131 children were offered a space which included transport. Of those, 31 declined and 100 accepted transport support.

For the Easter Holiday Hub: 302 children were offered a space which included transport. Of those, 93 declined and 209 accepted transport support.

There is no provision in the holiday hub budget for transport, however we have been able to secure another £40,000 from H&SCP carers' budget which will be used over the course of 23/24 academic year. Consideration will be given to how this best can be used to support children attending the hubs.

**Next Steps:** In June 2023 a new application form will be circulated to families for support beyond Summer 2023. This new form will be released every year at the same time, through as many means as possible - not just schools.

Feedback collated from the 22/23 Holiday Hubs will be presented to November Education, Children and Families Committee, together, if available, with a lesson learnt report.

