

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Education Officer

Corporate Services Committee: 22 May 2019

Subject: Holiday Hunger Fund

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform members of plans to reduce holiday hunger across West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC)
- Inform members of the governance regarding allocation, spend and impact of projects and funding.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Corporate Services Committee is recommended to note:

- (a) Authority wide plans by partners to reduce holiday hunger
- (b) ways in which the fund will be administered and governed.

3. Background

3.1 The Council agreed the Holiday Hunger Fund to increase the provision of meals and social activities for school children over holiday periods throughout West Dunbartonshire. The Council committed £100,000 per annum fund (to be reviewed in 2023) to enable existing groups in our communities and new groups to apply for money from this fund to establish new provision in areas where there is unmet need.

3.2 Officers were expected to bring a report to Corporate Services Committee as soon as practicable, recommending how this fund should be administered and spending monitored.

4. Main Issues

4.1 The strategic needs analysis for West Dunbartonshire conducted by Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has identified that 33% of our children and young people live in poverty with 27.4% of children in receipt of free school meals.

4.2 It is recognised that holiday periods add to the stress of poverty for families and result in less access to food and social activity for them than their peers. Foodbanks report increased demand during holiday periods.

- 4.3 Previously, across WDC a range of partner agencies were providing a variety of services delivering activities or food in the holiday periods. From January 2019 this has been collated by Educational Services with a view to coordinating approaches across the authority and ensuring a balanced overview and equitable offer to our children, young people and their families.
- 4.4 For the session 2019-2020, plans are in place to ensure a summer holiday programme which will offer food and activity across the geographical spread of the Authority. (App1)
- 4.5 Due to the short timeframe between the fund allocation and implementation for summer 2019, Education staff have met and liaised with the range of partners to identify need, timeframes and spend required.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that for subsequent holiday periods, the fund would be advertised and signposted across the Council in order that all interested parties apply.
- 4.7 To ensure appropriateness of spend and scrutiny of projects, application forms which are simple and succinct will be required to be submitted and approved by a panel consisting of Council Officers and Finance Managers. (App2)
- 4.8 All recipients will be required to assist with the reporting and evaluation of the projects by means of an impact statement.
- 4.9 Officers will report to Corporate Services Committee on reach and impact of projects.

6. People Implications

- 6.1 There are no people implications as a result of this report, however, these outcome focussed plans aim to improve the life chances of children and young people

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 All activities related to the implementation of this policy are contained within Service Budgets.
- 7.2 For session 2019-2020, £66,445 has been earmarked for projects across the authority provided by a range of partners. The remaining budget will enable partners to plan for projects in additional holiday periods over the session. (App 3)

8. Risk Analysis

8.1 If the Council is unable to ensure positive outcomes for children, we will not be meeting their needs (Children and Young People Act 2014) (Equalities Act 2010).

8.2 If the Council is unable to ensure positive outcomes for all children and young people, it could result in reputational damage.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 This fund and governance enhance the quality of the service provided to all children and young people and therefore can be seen to have a positive impact in terms of the equalities.

10. Environmental Sustainability

10.1 There are no environmental implications with this report.

11 Consultation

11.1 Legal and Finance Services have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

12. Strategic Assessment

12.1 This report reflects the Council's aspiration to reduce inequalities for the people of West Dunbartonshire.

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May 2019

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Programme overview for summer 2019
Appendix 2 – Application and evaluation form
Appendix 3 – Financial allocations for 2019

Background papers:

Wards Affected: All wards