

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 4 September 2019**

Subject: Summer Programme Evaluation**1. Purpose****1.1** The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Update members on impact of plans to reduce holiday hunger across West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) during Summer 2019 and;
- b) Inform and update members on the governance of funding allocations, spend and impact of projects.

2. Recommendations**2.1** The Educational Services Committee is recommended to note:

- (a) Progress and impact of authority wide plans by partners to reduce holiday hunger
- (b) ways in which the fund has been 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 (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 asked to bring an update report to Educational Services Committee as soon as practicable, informing how the fund had been administered, monitored and its related impact on children, young people and the community.

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. It has been noted that use of foodbanks over the summer 2019 period has increased from 576 users in summer 2018 to 775 in summer 2019. This can be attributed in part to the number of new users accessing Summer Brunch bags which have been provided with Holiday Hunger funding.
- 4.3** For the session 2019-2020, plans were put in place to ensure a summer holiday programme which offered food and activity across the geographical spread of West Dunbartonshire. Education staff met and liaised with all partners to identify need, timeframes and spend required. This resulted in 28 holiday projects of varying descriptions across the authority ranging from drop-in sessions for families in local churches which included packed lunches, Families, Food and Futures Projects in Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale, to breakfast club sessions each morning for 5-12 year olds in the Hub by Y-Sortit. These projects ensured a range of supports and activities for children and young people aged from 4 to 17. (App1)
- 4.4** To ensure appropriateness of spend and scrutiny of projects, Officers visited all projects over the holiday period. They monitored the value for spend, procedures in place, numbers attending and spoke with children, young people and families to gauge impact. Information gleaned will inform change and improvement as necessary.
- 4.5** All recipients were required to assist with the reporting and evaluation of the projects by means of an impact statement. Evaluation of these tells us that at time of reporting, a total of 8094 children and 843 adult places were taken on free holiday activities with food integral to the projects. Included in this figure is 300 children and young people with significant additional support needs we supported to also access activities with appropriate specialist supports. (Appendices 2 and 3)
- 4.6** To date a total of £75, 537 of the £100 000 allocated has been spent on Summer Holiday Hunger Projects to enhance existing projects by partners or develop new projects. There are additional plans for spend in the October school holiday period.
- 4.7** Next steps include planning for school holidays in session 2019-2020. This will involve meeting a range of WDC and third sector partners to feedback and evaluate progress and learning so far and further coordinate offers and sessions; taking due cognisance of feedback from all stakeholders.

5. People Implications

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

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** All activities related to the implementation of this policy are contained within the additional Holiday Hunger Fund.
- 6.2** For session 2019-2020, £75, 537 has been spent on 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.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** 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).
- 7.2** If the Council is unable to ensure positive outcomes for all children and young people, it could result in reputational damage.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** 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.

9. Environmental Sustainability

- 9.1** There are no environmental implications with this report.

10 Consultation

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

11. Strategic Assessment

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

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Programme overview for Summer 2019
Appendix 2 – Programme evaluation for Summer 2019
Appendix 3 – Stakeholder evaluations for Summer 2019

Background papers: Holiday Hunger Report Education Committee 5 June 2019

Wards Affected: All wards