



REPORT TO: SPECIAL MEETING OF MORAY COUNCIL ON 16 JUNE 2021

SUBJECT: SUMMER ACTIVITIES FUNDING (TARGETED PROVISION)

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The report updates the Council on plans for the Summer of Activities for Children and Young People (Targeted Provision).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Council in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council approves the targeted programme of activities and support that will be provided for children and young people in Moray during the summer school holiday period.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has allocated £15 million to local authorities for the targeted provision of holiday activities, working alongside local partners. The allocation for Moray is £256,000. The funding letter was received on 30 April.
- 3.2 The priority across this investment is to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, providing opportunities for them to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer through the delivery of a range of activities, with food and family support integrated where needed within local communities.
- 3.3 It is recognised that many local authorities and other local partners deliver holiday programmes currently. The aim of this additional investment is to enhance and expand any such existing work, building on and learning from existing good practice, while providing scope to innovate locally in response to what children and young people tell us would help.

- 3.4 This provision is aimed at children and young people most likely to be experiencing continued disadvantage and who will therefore have been particularly adversely affected by the pandemic. Several groups of children and young people have particular wellbeing needs; which require targeted support. These include:
- Children from low income households
 - Children from those priority family groups identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: larger families; families with a disabled child or adult; young mothers; families with children under one; and minority ethnic families
 - Children from families who have been shielding during the pandemic and whose ability to engage in activities and socialise will have been very limited
 - Children with a disability or additional support need
 - Care experienced children and young people
 - Young carers
 - Children in need of protection
 - Children supported by a child's plan
 - Children who have undergone significant transitions during lockdown or will experience them this year, including starting in ELC, starting primary school, moving to secondary school and leaving school.
- 3.5 Local authorities and local partners have the flexibility to use the funding to meet local needs. Provision should not be restricted to the delivery of activity programmes, and should include more personalised support such as the provision of passes to local attractions or leisure services, or direct funding for family days out. Travel costs, particularly for those on low incomes and in rural areas, can also be covered as a key measure to remove barriers to participation.
- 3.6 The expectation from the Scottish Government is that existing and local partnerships should play a key role in the coordination and reach of provision; in particular the Children's Services Partnerships should take the leading role in planning to ensure a joined up approach to development and delivery. The GIRFEC Leadership Group (our Moray Children's Services Partnership Strategic Leadership Group) delegated responsibility for developing the programme to the Wellbeing Partnership Group and the group met on 19 May to agree our approach.

- 3.7 The development of the Moray programme was informed by the views of children, young people and families. The Locality Networks gathered views from across Moray and the feedback included the following key priorities:
- Locality based family provision, which all family members can engage in.
 - Funding provided directly to young people and families to enable them to do what they want to do.
 - Preference is for opportunities to meet face to face rather than online.
 - Specific opportunities for children with autism and ADHD, including respite for families.
 - Opportunities available away from the school campus.
 - Transport should be available for children and young people and families that need it.
- 3.8 The programme is attached as **Appendix 1** and includes Moray wide and local options. It builds on existing programmes delivered by commissioned services and expands the reach of activities that were already under development by our third sector partners. It also brings in new provision where there is a recognised need identified by our Children's Services partnership, and by children and their families, for example the provision of a summer play scheme for children and young people with Autism. Finally, it allows for the provision of some direct funding to our most vulnerable children, young people and families supported by Social Work.
- 3.9 This targeted investment complements wider investment in holiday support through free school meal replacement for those eligible for free school meals on the basis of low income (in Moray this is provided through direct payment to families). It also complements other summer activity programmes including:
- The Active Schools and Moray Leisure Centre summer programmes (funded directly by Moray Council).
 - The Reconnect Programme (partnership youth work offer funded through the Youth Work Education Recovery Fund).
 - Additional Active Schools and Sports Development sessions to be funded via Sportscotland (additional funding for Moray of £33,452 announced on 31 May 2021).
 - A national summer offer delivered by national partners (£5 million being invested directly in national partners to enhance opportunities for all children and young people to participate in activities and experiences this summer).
- 3.10 The targeted summer activities offer will be included in the wider Moray summer programme and communicated to children, young people and families through schools, partners and our normal communication channels. A national marketing strategy is also being developed and we will link into this once the guidance has been shared.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report supports the LOIP outcomes:

Building a better future for children and young people in Moray

- A place where children and young people thrive;
- A place where they have a voice, have opportunities to learn and can get around;
- A place where they are able to reach their full potential.

And the Aims of the Corporate Plan to:

- Provide opportunities where young people can achieve the potential to be the best they can be.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The targeted summer provision is fully funded by the Scottish Government.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no specific risk implications arising from this report, however it should be noted that this targeted programme of support has been developed within a very short timescale and that different approaches may be taken to the development of provision during future holiday periods where there is a longer lead in time for development.

(e) Staffing Implications

There no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising from this report. The targeted provision will largely be delivered outside of council buildings, with the exception of the Grampian Autistic Society summer holiday scheme. The intention is to run the summer holiday scheme within one of our school enhanced provisions.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The activities and direct payments on offer through this targeted provision are designed to be accessible to target families. When developing the programme consideration has been given to how to meet wider needs, including through the integration of food, transport, family support and referral on to wider services where needed. Principles of dignity, and human rights will be promoted by all involved through the promotion of non-stigmatising provision of services and supports.

(h) Consultations

Wellbeing Partnership Group, the Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Head of Financial Services, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care), Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer) and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The targeted summer programme of activities and support has children's rights and wellbeing at its heart. It is shaped around what children, young people and their families have said they want and need to help them recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and re-engage in their local communities.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-1315769894-104
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