



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL 29 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: SUMMER HOLIDAY FOOD AND CHILDCARE PROGRAMME

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The report updates the Council on plans for the 2022 Summer Holiday Food and Childcare Programme.
- 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 programme of accessible activities, childcare and food to be provided for children and young people in Moray during the 2022 summer school holiday period.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has allocated £10 million to local authorities for the targeted provision of accessible activities, childcare and food for primary school children from low income families during the 2022 school summer holidays. The allocation for Moray is £173,447. The funding letter was received on 12 April 2022.
- 3.2 The priority across this investment is to support children and families from low income families to access activities, childcare and food during the summer holiday period, recognising the opportunity that these services offer to improve the wellbeing of children, as well as providing opportunities to support families with their childcare needs. Coordinated provision of holiday childcare activities should be integrated with food and whole family support, where appropriate, to support households that are particularly adversely impacted by poverty.
- 3.3 Transforming the system of school age childcare and expanding provision of meals to include the provision of meals to include the school holidays are key ministerial priorities set out in the Programme for Government and Covid Recovery Strategy. It is expected that the learning from this summer's holiday

programme will contribute to designing a system of year-round school age childcare and food provision over the course of this parliament.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 This provision is aimed at school age children age 5-14 from low income households. Around 9 in 10 children living in poverty are from households with one or more of the priority family characteristics identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, therefore 85% of this funding is intended to be targeted at children and young people from the priority family groups below:
- Children from lone parent families
 - Children from ethnic minority families
 - Children from families with a disabled adult or child
 - Children from families with a young mother (under 25)
 - Children from families with a child under 1 year old
 - Children from larger families (3+ children)
- 3.6 The remaining 15% of the funding can be used flexibly to reach other children, including under-fives and older children, who would benefit from access to free holiday childcare, food and activities and will be determined at local level. Local discretion could include, but is not limited to:
- Children from other low income families
 - Care experienced children and young people
 - Young carers
 - Children in need of protection
 - Children supported by a child's plan
 - Children with ASN
 - Children who have undergone significant transitions, for example, starting in ELC, primary or secondary school
- 3.7 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. In line with last year's summer activities programme the GIRFEC Leadership Group (the Moray Children's Services Partnership Strategic Leadership Group) tasked development of the programme to the Wellbeing Partnership Group (strategic sub-group of GIRFEC Leadership Group). The development of the Moray programme was informed by the positive learning from last year's programme, but taking account of the change in investment focus, and policy intentions moving forward.
- 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 third sector partners. It also starts to develop the foundations for a holiday

childcare offer by working with existing early learning and childcare providers to develop their offer for older children over the summer. All sessions supported by the funding will incorporate access to healthy food.

- 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 summer programmes
- The Youth Work Reconnect Programme

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 programme of support has been developed within a very short timescale and has been limited by the childcare and activities provision available within Moray at short notice. This will mean that some geographical areas will have more provision than others, and this will need to be accepted as a starting point for a longer term equitable provision of holiday childcare for low income families.

(e) Staffing Implications

There no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The activities, childcare and food 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) Climate and Biodiversity Impact

No climate change or biodiversity implications have been determined for the Summer Holiday and Food and Childcare Programme.

(i) Consultations

Wellbeing Partnership Group, The Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care), Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer), Paul Connor, Principal Accountant and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The summer programme of organised activities, childcare and food will support the Scottish Government's mission to tackle child poverty. It has been designed to augment existing provision, and where required to enable the establishment of new services to support the future development of year round holiday childcare and food provision that meets the needs of low income families.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-9425411-18