

SUMMER OF ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORTING TEMPLATE

Local Authority: Moray

Please complete this form using information gathered from your delivery partners. Please answer the following questions as fully as possible.

Please return your completed form to summer2021@gov.scot

1. Delivery Partners

Who was involved in the delivery of summer activities?

Please include a reference to both existing and new partnerships, if applicable

The design and delivery of the summer holiday provision was managed by the Children's Services Partnership, through our locality planning structures.

The Locality Networks, made up of front line practitioners who have trusted relationships with children, young people and their families' e.g. staff and volunteers from 3rd sector and community organisations, Guidance Teachers, Social Workers, Health Visitors, Youth Workers etc. They consulted with the children and families they support and recommended that three options should be made available.

- Funding allocated to existing universal provision to overcome access barriers
- Delivery of an accessible summer provision programme to reflect the views expressed through the consultation process, with a specific emphasis on the needs and wishes of the target groups outlined in the guidance.
- Funding allocated directly to young people and families to purchase opportunities they feel would help them reconnect. This funding was allocated to those in the target groups defined in the guidance

Organisations involved in delivery of the enhanced summer provision

Aberlour Youth Point	Bespoke activities for groups of children and young people supported by Aberlour Youth Point (Children and young people who are struggling with their emotions and behaviour, prompting concerns about their well-being)
Children 1st	Range of activities for children and families as well as specific group offers for families with children with ASN needs, wellbeing group work with boys

	in Speyside (rural area) and young people in upper primary school in Lhanbryde (area of deprivation)
Quarriers Carer Support Service	Range of summer activities and transport for young Carers.
Action for Children	Food and activity packs to supplement the creative, fun sessions they had already sourced funding for
Grampian Autistic Society	Weekend play schemes and bespoke one to one work targeted at young people and families affected by autism and other neuro diversity concerns.
Who Cares Scotland	Summer picnics, park games and residential for looked after and care experienced young people.
Moray Women's Aid	Range of summer activities as well as bespoke support to enable families affected by domestic abuse to access universal provision.
No Worries For Moray	Summer activities and day trips targeted at those affected by poverty.
Dance North	Range of dance activities with additional support to overcome access issues.
Keith Loft Youth Project (Community youth organisation)	A young person's teatime group and trips to attractions, as selected by young people.
Kinloss Crafty Cool Kids Club	2 week summer holiday provision for pre-5s living in Forres and Kinloss (high number of Forces families resident in this area of Moray)
Lossiemouth 2-3 group	Play scheme with a range of activities.
Early Years providers	Early year's summer play schemes provided in different localities by existing early year's providers.
Social Work	Range of fun day trips for families they currently support.
M – powerment	Bespoke provision for young people with complex needs.

Lots of new partnership working arrangements were developed between providers. In particular, the organisations outlined above forged relationships with community based activity providers who supported them to deliver their bespoke provision. This process helped universal providers to better understand the barriers a number of children, young people and families experience. The learning is shaping future delivery of provision.

2. Activities delivered

2.1 What activities have been delivered?

Please explain the types of activity, including ways in which food, childcare and wider family support may have been integrated.

The activities on offer are outlined above.

In addition, £10k was allocated to local community based activity providers e.g. sports clubs, to overcome barriers to access. This included provision of transport and food.

Information on local supports for young people and families was also provided through delivery of this programme e.g. local foodbank, financial support to purchase school uniforms, debt advice etc. Assistance was provided to access these supports, where required.

Crucially, this funding allowed us to shift control to children, young people and families – they could decide for themselves how they wanted to reconnect with each other and with their peers/community. Many did not want access to mainstream group activities. Instead, they wanted more informal arrangements e.g. buying beach games, bus passes and picnic foods to allow them to play on the beach regularly with family and friends throughout the summer, support to go with their friends to attractions outwith Moray, this included car hire, entry tickets and food costs, funding to buy Fit Life Cards, which allow free access to local community and leisure facilities etc.

2.2 Please explain how the funding has allowed you to expand on your usual summer holiday provision. What has been different?

The funding allowed the existing provision to become more accessible e.g. by building in food, clothing and transport costs.

The funding has also allowed us to co-produce a range of additional provision which meet the needs and wishes of specific groups of young people e.g. Young Carers who expressed a desire to access mainstream provision with their peers, as well as enjoy summer activities with other young Carers.

3. Participants

3.1 Approximately how many children have participated in the activities?

Please include information on the approximate number of children and young people reached from the target groups as outlined in the guidance.

Approximately 750 children benefited from the enhanced summer provision. All were from the target groupings.

Prior to allocation of the funding a universal summer programme was in place and external funding had been sourced by the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership to support young people to 'connect' over the summer holiday period. This allowed us to target this specific funding at the target groupings.

3.2 Please provide information on any target groups who did not participate, and any reflections on why that was the case.

All target groups participated. However, we didn't have capacity or funding to reach out to all those within each of these target groups to provide the specific support they needed, particularly those with disabilities, those who were shielding and young people with additional support needs, in particular social anxiety.

The timescale to get the programme up and running was very short - 7 weeks from award of funding until the school summer holidays.

The lack of available resource in a small authority area to coordinate this work was a limiting factor, as was the capacity of local providers to increase the numbers they could support and adapt their provision to meet the needs identified by children, young people and families. Many organisations had authorised staff holidays prior to the announcement of the funding.

3.3 Please provide information on how the views of children and families informed planning.

The views of children, young people and families were collated through our Locality Networks. The Networks are made up of front line practitioners and community organisations who have established relationships with families.

4. Outcomes and Reflections

4.1

What difference has the delivered activities made for the wellbeing of children and young people?

What have children, young people and their families told you about their experiences?

- Helped young people re-establish friendships and build new ones i.e. reduced social isolation.
- Created opportunities for young people to have something to do – teenagers reported that in previous holidays they have “just hung out and got into trouble”.
- Young people reported that they would feel better about returning to school.
- Improved parental mental health - many families commented that during lockdown their infants had not been able to socialise.
- Children and young people reported improved confidence and wish to engage in a wider range of community activities.
- Provided food and activities for young people and families who otherwise would not have been able to access/afford them.
- Valued respite for families with children with disabilities and young Carers.
- De-escalation of family tensions caused by lockdown.
- Improved family relationships through allocation of direct payments to families.
- Increase in self-confidence and self- worth as families could access the same opportunities as others.
- Created opportunities for peer support - both parents and young people.
- Enjoyment of learning new skills and trying out new activities
- Improved physical wellbeing. The programme offered opportunities for children to play and try out new and exciting sports and other physical adventures.
- Children and young people valued being listened to and provision being designed with and for them.
- Families welcomed the trust placed in them to spend the funding on opportunities of their choosing. Many were both surprised and grateful that funders were placing importance on meeting their needs.

4.2

- **What do you think worked well and what could be improved?**
- **Is there anything from what you have done differently this summer that you will look to continue in the future?**

The evaluation undertaken with all stakeholders is summarised below.

WHAT WORKED WELL?

- Offering 3 options
 - Option 1** - .Direct payments to children, young people and families to purchase options of their own choosing.
 - Option 2** - .Funding made available to local organisations providing summer provision to overcome the access barriers young people experience.

Option 3 – Allocation of funding to organisations who currently support the target groups so they can plan and deliver bespoke provision

- Balance of family and young people specific option.
- Provision of food built in.
- Wide range of fun activities shaped by what children/young people want and by previously successful options.
- Commitment of providers to go 'over and above' during holiday periods
- Partnership working - great team effort.
- Specific support for young people with autism and their families.
- Dedicated people to coordinate and administer.

EVEN BETTER IF....

- More planning time (include consideration of staff availability to coordinate and deliver and systems to allocate funding)
- Communication of offer and booking system.
- Greater volume and range of provision.
- Year round holiday provision.
- Programme to include more overnight stays.
- All year round provision and membership of clubs etc.
- Consideration of alternative travel e.g. can't give bus pass when no buses running.
- Widen access to universal provision.
- Flexibility to increase volume of provision, based on demand.
- Further consideration of support required for those with social anxiety to feel able to participate in community provision.
- Ongoing support for families experiencing autism.
- More provision in general for young people and families with additional support needs.

4.3 Do you have any other comments or reflections?

The evaluation of the programme was undertaken with all key stakeholders - children and families themselves, front line practitioners and managers of services with a remit to support children, young people and families in Moray, particularly those who are under supported (i.e. those in the target groupings).

The feedback was very positive. The importance of offering year round school holiday provision was highlighted, especially as we transition out of COVID. It would be helpful if an annual budget could be allocated to allow sufficient planning time.

The biggest challenge faced was the short timescale from allocation of funding to delivery of provision.

Built into any budget needs to be coordination costs. In small authorities, we have no staff available at short notice to undertake additional planning and coordination of these kinds of programmes.