

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE –
31 OCTOBER 2016**

REPORT ON: DUNDEE FUN AND FOOD HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 348-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the learning from holiday programmes run in Dundee in 2016 and in particular the significant contribution of the Dundee Fun and Food Programme towards those programmes. Furthermore it sets out how Dundee City Council and our partners propose to support the programme beyond financial year 2016/17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Children and Families Services Committee:

- i note the contents of the report; and
- ii instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families Service to bring a progress report to committee in October 2017.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 In a full year the financial commitment from the City Council will match fund external fund raising and charitable donations.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Fun and Food Programme across Dundee is a tremendous success story. School holiday meals programmes were first tested in 2014 as part of the Lochee Pathfinder. The Pathfinder evaluation undertaken by the University of Dundee highlighted a number of positive outcomes for participants around learning, play and relationships that went well beyond being just being fed. A lack of provision or accessibility of meals during holidays for children in need of support was highlighted by the recent Fairness Commission report as a barrier to closing the attainment gap.

4.2 A recent report from the Dartington Social Research pointed out that risk factors such as a lack of pro-social opportunities with peers, a lack of family routines and not having access to the same leisure and activity opportunities as their peers are all major contributory factors towards poor outcomes for children. The holiday programmes and the support to those programmes through Dundee Fun and Food Programme were implemented to improve outcomes for children and reduce disadvantage in the city.

4.3 In April 2016 four pilots were delivered in the Lochee and East End wards to test out the practicalities of the programme. The objective of the programme in the summer of

2016 was to provide lunches to primary school children during the 6 week school summer holidays, focused on the 6 Community Regeneration Areas in Dundee. Considerable credit must be given to the Northwood Trust, the Rank Foundation and Radio Tay who provided direct funding and support. They have also agreed to provide ongoing support following the success of the summer programme. Additional support was provided by a team volunteer drivers who transported the lunches across the city. In total in excess of 20,000 meals were delivered as part of the overall programme delivering an average of 638 meals a day over the 30 day programme to 20 different holiday activities.

- 4.4 The model developed for Dundee Fun & Food Programme in conjunction with the Rank Foundation was based on supporting current holiday programmes that currently exist in Dundee whether provided by Dundee City Council services, community and third sector organisations or faith based groups. This took the form of providing breakfast and/or lunch and included the delivery of the meals to the events. In addition to the lunches the project offered holiday programme organisers a cash float of between £100 and £300 to enable them to purchase additional materials or buy in additional activity providers. Applications to take part in the Food and Fun Programme were invited from local groups or participation in the programme.
- 4.5 Funding for the programme involved a donation of £15,000 from the DC Thomson charity Northwood Trust, the funding of a coordinator from the Rank Foundation and £23,000 from the Radio Tay 'Cash for Kids' appeal. A further £25,750 was provided from Dundee City Council.
- 4.6 The success of the Dundee Food and Fun programme was based on extensive partnership working including the important involvement of the third sector. Tayside Contracts made a commitment to provide cold meals over the 6 week summer period at the cost price of £2 per meal. Dundee Food Bank provided cereals at no cost, and these were allocated to individual projects who wished to provide breakfasts to the children who were attending. The coordination of the project was supported by a post graduate student from Abertay University. The meal delivery was carried out by drivers and attendants from the Children and Families Services Department and in the last four weeks the meals were delivered by a team of drivers from the Communities team at Mitchell Street and the Brooksbank Centre as well as attendants from Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and members of the public.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 The Robert Owen Centre at the University of Glasgow are undertaking an evaluation of the Family Fun and Food Programme as part of their wider focus on attainment in Dundee. Feedback from schools with children who took part in the summer activities indicates that these children have become back to school more settled and ready to learn as a result of participation in the holiday activities. This is consistent with the Lochee Pathfinder evaluation of the programme. The formal evaluation will be shared with committee members in the form of a further update report.

6.0 FUTURE PLANS

- 6.1 Due to the success of the Dundee Fun and Food Programme a charitable body will be set up to fundraise and co-ordinate the programme to ensure the sustainability of the programme beyond 2016-17. It is proposed that Dundee City Council will work in

partnership with the charity and will make a financial contribution to support the continued success of the programme.

- 6.2 The Children & Families Service along with staff from Neighbourhood Services will continue to play a key role in organising and co-ordinating the holiday provision at locality level. Local Learning Partnerships will take responsibility for ensuring that all partners delivering holiday activities in their locality are aware of the Dundee Food and Fun Programme and can fully access the benefits of the programme.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

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October 2016