

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 FEBRUARY 2019

REPORT ON: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE - SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 88–2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the committee of the charges proposed for financial year 2019/20 regarding the formal Dundee City Council provided School Breakfast Club programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended Committee agrees that:

- i. all charges associated with breakfast clubs are removed entirely for those children who are in receipt of free school meals or a school clothing grant, in line with the Council's fairness agenda;
- ii. those not in receipt of the above, cover the cost price of delivering the school breakfast clubs to ensure that those most in need can receive the service for free as detailed at paragraph 4.4; and
- iii. in light of the increased income, the breakfast club working group be remitted to explore expansion of the current breakfast club provision and explore options for extending the start times of clubs. These would allow for the creation of new clubs in schools with no current provision and also enhance the current offer in other schools.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The implementation of the proposal would result in an estimated income increase of £144,000 in financial year 2019-20 and £203,000 in a full financial year.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 There is an imperative to identify and achieve significant savings and increase income in financial year 2019/20.

Formal DCC provided Breakfast Club Programme

Breakfast Clubs play an important part in the life of schools in Dundee and ensure not only good nutrition, but provide a social context for young people to learn in. The majority of families who make use of Breakfast Clubs do so to assist them with work patterns. As part of the work of the recent Fairness Commission the work of Breakfast clubs was praised and commended by the commissioners and the users.

Dundee currently operates 27 primary breakfast clubs. Some of these are shared by more than one school and all schools in the city have access to the provision. The clubs begin at 8am and conclude at 9am. Food consists of, fruit, cereal, yogurt toast with spread and either milk or water. The food is provided and served by Tayside Contracts. One member of Tayside Contract Staff is employed from 7.45 until 9.15 to set out the food prepare the toast and clear away. Dundee City Council provide 2 Primary and Early years Assistants (PEYSAs) between 8am and 9am to supervise the pupils. The programme serves approximately 170,000 breakfasts over the course of a school session.

The cost of the Tayside Contract service is calculated on the basis of approximately £0.17 for food and £0.60 for staff cost. The PEYSA cost is approximately £1.20 per meal. There are no additional costs for Facility Staff or utilities as the building is open and heated.

The cost of the breakfast club for pupils is £0.25 per day for all users and this cost has remained the same since the formal breakfast club programme started.

Out Of School Care (OOSC) Breakfast Clubs

Some out of school care clubs offer a breakfast/care provision. The daily cost of this for families is approximately £3.75 with a slightly earlier start to the club. These proposals have no implications for OOSC Breakfast Clubs.

Pupil Equity Fund Breakfast Clubs

It should also be noted that in addition to this formal Breakfast Club programme 14 primary schools (as well as a number of secondary schools) have started their own informal breakfast clubs in an effort to better target children and young people who may not have had breakfast before attending school. Feedback from Head Teachers has indicated that the very early start time of the formal Breakfast Club (breakfast must be eaten between 8am and 8.30am) means that many vulnerable pupils would not easily attend within this timescale without parental support. The PEF breakfast clubs tend to start later and involve a nurture/socialising element to the start of the day. These have proved very successful and run in secondary as well as primary and are highly targeted. These clubs are free of charge and it is likely that these clubs will continue to expand in future years with two further primary schools planning to begin already for session 2019/20.

4.2 Audit of Formal DCC Breakfast Club Provision.

In March 2018 we carried out an audit of DCC breakfast club use in Dundee's primary schools. All primary schools were asked to complete a return giving details of the pupils who attended their breakfast clubs.

1035 young people were involved in the formal clubs. The SIMD breakdown is below.

	SIMD decile									
	Most deprived			Least deprived						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total Roll	1,784	1,022	786	614	292	308	464	465	631	619
Attending club	272	153	125	113	55	62	71	69	53	62
% at club	15%	15%	16%	18%	19%	20%	15%	15%	8%	10%

Of the 1035 attending only 810 young people actually ate the breakfast. (78%)

In looking at these pupils in relation to those on free school meals, of the 592 pupils attending the clubs from P4-7 (as all P1-3 receive free school meals) 88% of pupils attending *are not* in receipt of free school meals.

Overall the data from the audit is clear that there is no evidence of preferential take up by families living in the most deprived areas, and take up by pupils in receipt of free school meals is significantly lower than overall take up. In discussing this data with primary Head Teachers it is clear that the main reason for parental desire for breakfast club spaces is to provide a childcare facility to support parental work patterns. DCC Breakfast Club spaces are in high demand with significant waiting lists. There is also evidence that the availability of a Breakfast Club can inform parental choice when making placing requests. It is clear that there is greater demand for Breakfast Club provision than is currently being provided and this additional provision is currently made very difficult because of the amount of subsidy currently

provided for the clubs which is currently £1.72 per child per day. (Cost of provision is approximately £1.97 per day with a universal charge of £0.25p per child per day) There are questions of equity of provision in addition to this as there is no doubt that some working parents benefit greatly from the provision but others who would wish to participate are not able and are left to make separate child care arrangements which do not benefit from the extremely generous subsidy that those involved in the formal breakfast club programme receive.

The audit also confirmed that the practice in allocating places and operating waiting lists varies from school to school. For example some schools reallocate all places every session, and others roll places over and add only spaces created by pupils leaving.

The formal DCC Breakfast Club Programme was set up to ensure that vulnerable children and young people had a breakfast in the morning as well as a safe/protected environment for the period immediately before school. It was originally conceived as a targeted provision at children in danger of not having breakfast and it is clear from the audit that if the formal breakfast clubs are organised, and funded, with this intention then these figures do not provide evidence that they are achieving this.

4.3 Proposed Way Forward

To ensure fairness it is proposed that from the start of the new academic year in August 2019, all children and young people attending the formal DCC Breakfast Club Programme who are in receipt of free school meals, or for those in P1-3 who are in receipt of a school clothing grant) receive the provision free of charge. It is proposed that those who are not in receipt of free school meals, or receipt of a school clothing grant in P1-3, pay for the provision at cost price which is £2 per day.

If the proposal is approved, the working group who have considered this proposal to date, consisting of 5 Primary HTs and central officers, will continue to look at the application process and systems for payment to ensure that there is a fair system in place going forward for allocating places and that this is used universally across the city. The group will also consider how to promote and maximise the informal breakfast clubs that are running in school through PEF. The group will also look to establish stronger partnership and links with the OOSC Clubs. Finally the group will look to expand the formal DCC Breakfast Club provision where there is parental demand in light of the fact that an increased revenue stream would allow for the creation of additional clubs in the formal programme. This proposed change in funding may also allow to look at extending the starting time of the clubs which would be of benefit to many families.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is attached to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 There has been consultation on this proposal at this stage with Head Teachers and Tayside Contracts. There has also been discussion with the Parent Council Chairs Group in the city.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.



Integrated Impact Assessment Report.

Committee Report No: 88-2019

Document Title: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE - SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS

Document Type: Service

New/Existing: Existing

Period Covered: 01/02/2019 - 01/02/2019

Document Description:

The paper sets out the current position with the formal DCC provided school breakfast programme analysis uptake by SIMD and revisits the reasons for setting up the programme. The paper then sets out a new charging pattern for the service.

Intended Outcome:

The intended outcome is to look at an area of significant cost in the Children and Families Service and ensure that it is meeting what the service was intended to achieve. The paper puts forward proposals to ensure that the resource is fairly targeted, administered and organised. It sets out how a new charging pattern brings greater equity and allows for future expansion. It also removes any existing costs for pupils who receive free school meals (in P4-7) or access a school clothing grant (P1-3).

How will the proposal be monitored?:

A working group has been established to review the present provision. This group will implement the proposals if they are approved. Ongoing monitoring of uptake will be reviewed through meetings with HTs and regular meetings with Tayside Contracts.

Author Responsible:

Name: Paul Clancy

Title: Executive Director

Department: Children and Families Service

E-Mail: paul.clancy@dundee.gov.uk

Telephone: 01382433088

Address: Dundee House

Director Responsible:

Name: Paul Clancy

Title: Executive Director, Children and Families Service

Department: Children and Families Service

E-Mail: paul.clancy@dundee.gov.uk

Telephone: 01382433088

Address: Dundee House

A. Equality and Diversity Impacts:

Age:	Not known
Disability:	Not known
Gender Reassignment:	Not known
Marriage and Civil Partnership:	No Impact
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No Impact
Race/Ethnicity:	Not known
Religion or Belief:	Not known
Sex:	Not known
Sexual Orientation:	Not known

Equality and diversity Implications:

The impact in relation to protected characteristics is either unknown (e.g. religion/belief; gender reassignment) because we do not collect this data; or there is no impact, e.g. marriage; maternity.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

N/A

Is the proposal subject to a full EQIA? : No

None

B. Fairness and Poverty Impacts:**Geography**

Strathmartine (Ardler, St Mary's and Kirkton):	Positive
Lochee(Lochee/Beechwood, Charleston and Menzieshill):	Positive
Coldside(Hilltown, Fairmuir and Coldside):	Positive
Maryfield(Stobswell and City Centre):	Positive
North East(Whitfield, Fintry and Mill O' Mains):	Positive
East End(Mid Craige, Linlathen and Douglas):	Positive
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	Positive

Household Group

Lone Parent Families:	Not Known
Greater Number of children and/or Young Children:	Not Known
Pensioners - Single/Couple:	No impact
Single female households with children:	Not Known
Unskilled workers or unemployed:	Positive
Serious and enduring mental health problems:	Not Known
Homeless:	Not Known
Drug and/or alcohol problems:	Not Known
Offenders and Ex-offenders:	Not Known
Looked after children and care leavers:	No impact
Carers:	Not Known

Significant Impact

Employment:	Positive
Education and Skills:	No Impact
Benefit Advice/Income Maximisation:	No Impact
Childcare:	Positive
Affordability and Accessibility of services:	Negative

Fairness and Poverty Implications:

The costs for all young people in P4-7 in the city who are in receipt of free school meals who use the service will be removed. The costs for all young people in P-3 in the city who are in receipt of a school clothing grant who use the service will be removed. Families not in receipt of free school meals or in receipt of a clothing grant will see an increase from £0.25p per day to £2 per day.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

Although the cost for those not in receipt of free school meals or clothing grant is increasing, the service will be charged at cost and is considerably less than the current costs of other of organisations who provide a similar service. The increase in charge will allow for more breakfast club spaces to be created to meet the demand of many who are on waiting lists. Schools will be encouraged to provide additional informal breakfast clubs which will be targeted at young people who are in danger of not eating breakfast and these clubs will be at times that will allow a greater chance of meeting these needs.

C. Environmental Impacts

Climate Change

Mitigating greenhouse gases:	No Impact
Adapting to the effects of climate change:	No Impact

Resource Use

Energy efficiency and consumption:	No Impact
Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling waste:	No Impact
Sustainable Procurement:	No Impact

Transport

Accessible transport provision:	No Impact
Sustainable modes of transport:	No Impact

Natural Environment

Air, land and water quality:	No Impact
Biodiversity:	No Impact
Open and green spaces:	No Impact

Built Environment

Built Heritage:	No Impact
Housing:	No Impact

Is the proposal subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

None

Environmental Implications:

None

D. Corporate Risk Impacts

Corporate Risk Implications:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are 'business as normal' risks. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant loss. There is comfort that the risks inherent within the activity are either transferred to another party, shared equally and fairly between the Council and another party or are negligible.

Corporate Risk Mitigating Actions: