
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	01 November 2016
Report By:	Wilma Bain, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/72/16/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks (Head of Education) Louise McVey (Improvement Programme Manager)	Contact No:	(01475) 712891 (01475) 715714
Subject:	Inverclyde Summer Literacy Lunch Clubs 2016		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education and Communities Committee with a progress update on the Summer Lunch Clubs 2016.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Officers were asked to pursue opportunities to provide children with free lunches during the school holidays.
- 2.2 A small steering group was established to develop the project and encourage a range of services to be involved.
- 2.3 It was agreed that alongside the free lunches during the summer holiday period, families would be offered a range of fun activities that would encourage family learning and engagement, linking with the aims of the Attainment Challenge in Inverclyde.
- 2.4 Three Early Learning and Childcare establishments across Inverclyde (Rainbow Family Centre, Larkfield Children's Centre and Blairmore Nursery School) would provide the initial pilot projects, building on their experience and knowledge of working with families during the summer holiday period.
- 2.5 The aim of the pilot project was not only to provide lunches, but also to engage families in fun learning with a focus on literacy during the summer holiday period 2016.
- 2.6 More than 1,200 lunches were provided during the summer holiday period and 142 individual families attended the sessions provided.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note the content of this report.
 - Continue to support the provision of lunches and family learning sessions during the school holiday period.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Officers were asked to pursue the possibility of providing free lunches during the school summer holiday period 2016.
- 4.2 It was suggested that this service should be built on good practice that was already in place for Early Learning and Childcare Centres during the summer holiday period and be linked to the work of the Attainment Challenge in Inverclyde.
- 4.3 A steering group was established to identify the centres and projects to be taken forward. This included Early Years Services, Library Services, Community Learning and Development and Barnardo's Family Support Workers through the Attainment Challenge team.
- 4.4 Pilot projects were proposed in targeted communities. This aim was to build upon the work undertaken through the Attainment Challenge and as well as providing a lunch, to focus on reducing the attainment gap through family learning and engagement.
- 4.5 The initial targeted communities were:
 - Port Glasgow through the Rainbow Family Centre.
 - Inverclyde South West from the Larkfield Children's Centre
 - Inverclyde East Central through the Blairmore Nursery School.

It was anticipated that each site would provide lunch for around 80 to 100 people per day.

In Upper Port Glasgow the agreed venue was Craigmarloch School because Rainbow Family Centre was considered too small. The Community Centre in Larkfield was used for the Inverclyde South West venue because it was felt that the community already accessed this facility during the summer holidays. Blairmore Nursery School used the nursery site but accessed the canteen area from All Saints Primary School.

The Larkfield sessions ran from 04 – 22 July 2016 and the Port Glasgow sessions ran from 18 July – 12 August 2016. Each of the centres provided lunches for five consecutive days (15 days each). Blairmore Nursery School provided a service from 01 July – 15 July 2016 on Mondays and Fridays only (8 days).

Although they followed different formats, Port Glasgow and Larkfield sessions ran from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm and Blairmore Nursery School ran from 9.30 am until 3.00 pm. All of the sessions had a focus on learning through fun with reading activities, baking and cooking, arts and crafts, guest author performances, a pop up library and outdoor activities as well as the meal itself.

Although specific age ranges were targeted, the whole family were invited to attend the sessions no matter what the age of the children and siblings.

A comprehensive review has been undertaken of the pilot provision and next steps have been identified as a result. The review involved interviews with those who participated, reflections by parents and children on self-evaluation posters, discussions with staff teams and a review of the numbers attending.

5.0 Review Findings

5.1 Review of attendance at the lunch clubs

- 264 children attended the lunch clubs - 86 children attended Larkfield, 88 children attended Blairmore and 90 children attended Craigmarloch.
- 142 individual families from across three community areas accessed the service.
- More than 1,200 lunches were provided during the summer holiday period 2016.
- 136 (51%) children were between (0-4 years), 124 (47%) children were 5-11 years, 4 (2%) young people 12-14 years.

- In Upper Port Glasgow 51 families attended (90 children), the average number of times a family attended the lunch club was 5 days with 17 families attending more often. The age range was between 17 weeks and 14 years, however the average age was 4 years. 14 of the children who attended through the invitations sent to the Attainment Challenge Schools in Port Glasgow (St Francis and Newark Primary School).
- In Larkfield 39 families attended (86 children), the average number of times a family attended the lunch club was 6 days with 23 families attending more often. The age range was between 9 months and 14 years, the average age was 5 years. 16 of the children who attended were from the Attainment Challenge Schools (Aileymill or St Andrew's Primary School).
- In Blairmore 52 families attended (88 children), the average number of times a family attended the lunch club was 2 days with 14 families attending more often. The age range was between 4 months and 14 years, the average age was 4 years. 22 of the children who attended were from the Attainment Challenge Schools (All Saints and King's Oak). In addition children attended from other primary schools such as Craigmarloch, St Michael's, St John's and Whinhill.

5.2 Review of learning at the lunch clubs

- 43 of all the children who attended stated that they were library members but the majority had not used the library service within the past 6 months, however more than 150 books in total were borrowed from the pop-up library service.
- In total, 47 children participated in the summer reading challenge with Inverclyde Library Services; this would not have been possible without the library service taking books to the community.
- The additional services that library services invited to attend such as children's authors, Zoo Lab, Metaphrog and Independent State of Happiness engaged the family in reading and story time. Families stated the quality of this provision was more than they could afford themselves.
- Families participated in a range of learning opportunities with the most popular being cooking. Children and parents tried new food and learned to cook healthy and nutritious meals on a budget.
- Arts and crafts and games and activities were also offered.
- All three centres invited in other partner organisations to try to offer a diverse range of experiences for families, these organisations either offered fun activities or information services.
- Community Learning and Development provided a sign language workshop for parents and children at Larkfield. Children became really engaged in this activity.

5.3 Feedback from children on the learning

'Myself and A are having fun singing and dancing and reading books. Thank you.'

"I like it" J (3 years)

"I loved making castles" B (7 years)

"Good Fun" J

5.4 Feedback from families on the support offered

"I think the group is great for both parents and kids. Gets us out the house and still in a routine over the holidays".

"My son loves to attend the session as he gets to play with kids his age, even if the weather is bad

he can still have fun. As a low income single mum it helps that it's free and soup and sandwiches are provided".

"Having fun doing activities with the children getting out the house and chatting to other parents".

"The sessions enable me to focus solely on playing with my children".

"Very useful to families on a low income and struggling to find things to do with their children over the long holidays and for the children and parents to have a free lunch".

"I enjoyed playing with my kids".

"It's expensive to keep kids amused all summer, the sessions allow the kids to play...in a relaxed setting. It is also good to use the resources we wouldn't have at home. The lunch is great as kids are more encouraged to sit and eat with the other kids".

Feedback from service providers

Family support workers were able to engage and support parents of pupils who would be attending primary school after the holidays.

"A parent has been able to access support immediately for when their child begins school, a process which may have took a much longer if contact had not been established at the summer lunch clubs."

5.5 Reflections and next steps

- Ailemill Primary School may be a more appropriate venue for future provision in the Larkfield area. Larkfield Community Centre was one open-plan room with no opportunity for outdoor play which caused some challenges for the children and their parents.
- Many of the families felt obliged to attend as many of the sessions as possible and by the end of 15 consecutive days this was probably too much. The families from Blairmore advised that two days were about right and therefore consideration will be given to alternate days across Inverclyde.
- Provide additional opportunities to raise awareness of the provision.
- Additional venues could be identified to extend this provision to other families.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A			£6,550		Fully funded from allocated resources

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 N/A.

Human Resources

6.3 N/A.

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.