

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Children and Family Services
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Dalguise update
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	

### **UPDATE:**

Members will be aware that a number of children from across six schools were returned home from Dalguise Activity Centre week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> May following high numbers of children and staff becoming ill.

Since the Committee meeting in May, the service has received information from Dalguise. This communication outlined that:

- specialist companies were commissioned to undertake further work and investigation on behalf of PGL
- further testing supported Public Health Scotland's conclusion that the source is not the centre

Some of this information contained within the communication, particularly around the number of children impacted, was at odds with local knowledge and the Chief Executive wrote to Dalguise to outline our local position and seek further clarification on the causes of the outbreak. We currently await a response.

Schools who were due to travel to Dalguise in May were offered, and accepted, a full refund with alternative arrangements made for young people. Schools with bookings for June (Hanover Street School) were not offered a refund and this triggered a need to look carefully at the risks involved in children heading to Dalguise to determine if the children should travel.

In order to determine the most appropriate course of action the service:

- Reviewed the information provided by PGL who claimed that trips in late May and early June had been uneventful
- Spoke to staff from Argyll and Bute and Highland who attended in late May and early June. Colleagues from Argyll and Bute and Highland confirmed that there were no illnesses reported during their time at the centre

- Liaised with Aberdeenshire who had also undertaken checks and were able to confirm that Public Health Scotland were comfortable with arrangements in place
- Organised a site visit which found all to be in order

Having reviewed all available evidence, undertaken a positive site visit and in consultation with the Health and Safety team, it was confirmed that Hanover Street pupils could travel to Dalguise in June and the trip has been positive.