

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	1 December 2017
REPORT TITLE	Towards A Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All 2017 – 20 - 'Food and Fun'
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/132
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the “Food and Fun” work undertaken in priority localities across the city during the school Summer holidays 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of the report and positive impact the provision of food and fun had within the pilot neighbourhoods
- b) Request the Head of Communities and Housing to reports back to the next Finance, Policy and Resources committee setting out a plan for providing meals to school children during school holidays and the budget requirements to deliver this.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN FINDINGS

- 3.1 Delivering a mix of good food provision and enrichment opportunities outside the busy school calendar year not only helps alleviate hunger but it can support working parents and those struggling with family food budgets in pressured holiday periods. It can also raise children’s aspirations, offer safety and give opportunities for fun and socialising.
- 3.2 The cost of meals during school holidays, particularly for those pupils entitled to free school meals, has been identified as a financial burden on low income families and those families in poverty. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) report, Cost of the School Holiday, highlighted the impact of this on families and the further disadvantage it can cause.
- 3.3 The Finance, Policy and Resources committee at its meeting on 9 March 2017 determined that we should pilot a school holiday meal programme for

school children in three schools in summer 2017 and provide a report back to committee within nine months. £90,000 was allocated in the 2017/18 general fund budget to deliver this pilot programme.

- 3.4 The programme was to reach families who were most in need by offering spaces firstly to those who were entitled to free school meals. It was also to target regeneration areas in order to provide enhanced support to the areas which are facing the most financial difficulty in the city. This would also include people on the fringe of entitlement to free school meals who are struggling financially.
- 3.5 Evidence from similar programmes in other areas is that food should be provided alongside an activities programme. This is important to encouraging children to accept the meals on offer and also to support health and wellbeing through keeping children active. Hence, in each of the three pilots the food was provided alongside activity programmes, a short video of the fun and food activity at Bramble Brae is available at appendix two.
- 3.6 The pilot programme was delivered in Torry, Cummings Park, and Woodside. A detailed evaluation is appended to the report. The following summarises the programmes delivered and key findings.

3.7 Torry

- 3.7.1 The programme in Torry was delivered in four strands
- 3.7.2 Hip hop. The first week was an intensive hip hop class which was targeted at children with the most need at Tullos. The teachers identified the kids who were invited to attend. The course ran from 9-5 Monday to Friday with a break for lunch. They covered all styles of hip hop with professional dance teachers and at the end staged a performance for their families. Cfine provided most of the food for this week and the children rose to the challenge of a full time activity course. (18 children x 5 days = 90 lunches)
- 3.7.3 Balnagask Community Centre benefitted from lunches from the communities team for 3 of their summer trips – they provided all activities for their playscheme themselves. (35 children x 3 days = 105 lunches)
- 3.7.4 “Food and Fun” Fridays – Torry Sports Centre, Oscar Road. Active Schools ran a programme of activities every Friday during the summer holidays. P1-3 attended in the mornings and had an early packed lunch. Then P4-7 arrived for a packed lunch followed by activities. On average about 20 attended the mornings and about 15 the afternoons = 245 lunches.
- 3.7.5 “Food and Fun” at Tullos. In partnership with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) we also offered mornings and afternoons on the above split of ages. Similar numbers attended for the 8 days = 280 lunches.
- 3.7.6 In total 720 lunches were provided to school children through the programme. 123 school children participated in the programme. With the exception of week 1 (where food was provided via Cfine and prepared by communities staff) all meals were packed lunches provided by the Council catering service.

3.8 Cummings Park

3.8.1 The “Food and Fun” project at Bramble Brae Primary School was delivered in partnership with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) and won a special success Award at The Children and Young People’s Services Award Ceremony on 27th September 2017.

3.8.2 Food was provided by ACC catering services and consisted of each child having at least one hot meal each week and a build your own sandwich meal. A salad bar was available every day and additional extras (fresh fruit, yoghurt and water) were provided free by CFine and Tesco. Build your own sandwiches were very popular with the children and also allowed staff and volunteers to encourage the children to try healthy options.

3.8.3 The staff and volunteers were encouraged to sit and have lunch with the children. This allowed them to develop great relationships with the children and allowed the opportunity to develop skills around meals. The children were encouraged and supported to set tables and help to serve the food.

- 209 lunches were provided to P1-P3 children
- 198 lunches were provided to P4-P7 children
- Of the 67 children booked onto the summer “Food and Fun” programme, 65 children enjoyed 1 or more sessions throughout the 7 weeks. 52% of children that attended receive free school meals.

3.8.4 Additional funding was sought to allow AFCCT to deliver the activities during the 7 week project. They also provided additional resources – staff, volunteers, First Team player visit, mascot visit and access to free tickets for a home game. Their staff voluntarily stayed during lunch to supervise and build stronger relationships with the children. Without this partnership there would have been additional costs for staff to supervise at lunchtimes.

3.8.5 In total 407 lunches and 407 breakfasts were provided.

3.9 Woodside

3.9.1 A summer play scheme for primary school children running two days each week for five weeks was already planned and funded from other sources, so the programme here was to provide the food. The play scheme was organised and delivered by the Woodside Community Centre Association.

3.9.2 200 meals were provided over the five week programme and the majority to children entitled to free school meals.

3.10 Summary of findings

- In total 1,734 meals were provided over the three pilot areas
- The majority of meals were provided to children entitled to free school meals
- The total cost of providing the meals was £6,357
- The average cost per meal was £3.66
- Overall satisfaction with the Food & Fun programmes was high. 98.4% of parents indicated that their child enjoyed attending
- Over 40% said their child's behaviour at home was better since attending

- Overall the children were happy (86%) with attending the Food & Fun summer holiday clubs
- Overall, the majority of children were happy with the taste (96%), choice (87%) and amount (94%) of food on offer
- Over 50% of parents said they find **it harder to makes ends meet** during the school summer holidays
- Over 80% **spend more on food** during the summer holidays
- Almost a third sometimes find themselves **without enough money to buy food**

3.11 The pilot programme confirmed the importance of providing activities alongside food provision. Also the significant contribution charities, community groups and business can make to supporting a sustainable future programme.

3.12 It is important to note that various community groups also provide meals to children during school holidays with no assistance from the Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 £90,000 allocated in the 2017/18 general fund for this pilot, £6,357 has been used providing food and £83,643.30 is unspent. The £6,357 does not include any activity/food provided at no cost to the Council, for example from Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT), CFine and Community Groups. Any future budget provision should consider the cost of these services.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Budget for any future programme will be considered through the budget setting process.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 The following categories have been considered and no risks have been identified:- Financial, Employee, Customer/Citizen, Environmental, Technological, Legal and Reputational.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 Economy

7.1.1 The Council aims to support improvement in the local economy to ensure a high quality of life for all people in Aberdeen. This proposal will impact on quality of life improvements for children by providing “Food and Fun” during holiday periods, where otherwise they may suffer from the effects of poverty and hunger which have a direct correlation to poor educational attainment.

7.2 People

7.2.1 The Council is committed to improving the key life outcomes of all people in Aberdeen and so has agreed a set of Equality Outcomes (2017-21). This proposal will impact on people via supporting families, providing free “Food and Fun” for children during school holiday periods. This proposal is inclusive and open to all children, irrespective of protected characteristics. This proposal will have a positive impact upon children and families who are experiencing poverty.

7.2.2 This proposal will improve the staff experience by ensuring staff have the necessary resources to support families in need.

7.3 Place

7.3.1 The proposal has a positive impact on the environment in terms of working with families to increase community resilience and cohesion. Children and families will meet new friends and build new support networks.

7.4 Technology

7.4.1 There is no impact on technology.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

CHI/17/004 Towards A Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All 2017-20 (9 March 2017)

CHI 16/2831 Tackling Food Poverty – Update Report (1 December 2016)

CHI/16/003 Sustainable Food Cities

CHI/16/187 Sustainable Food Cities - Tackling Food Poverty.

Filling The Holiday Gap (Update 2015) - All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger

Deprivation In Aberdeen City, An analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, ACC Research and Information Team

Poverty In Aberdeen City, produced by ACC Research and Information Team

A Scotland without fuel Poverty is a fairer Scotland, Report of the Scottish Fuel Poverty Strategic Group to the Scottish Government

A Scotland without Poverty, Dr Jim McCormack, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, February 2016

Dignity, Ending Hunger Together In Scotland, The Report of the Independent Working Group on Food Poverty, June 2016

Empowering Scotland’s Cities, June 2016

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Parent and Children evaluation

Appendix 2 - https://youtu.be/QpATo_mkiCw

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