



Haringey Council

The Children and Young People's Service

Report to Haringey Schools Forum 23 February 2012

Agenda Item

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Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report Title: Update on childcare transitional funding.

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Purpose: To update members on the use of the £522,000 set aside to fund the transitional arrangements for wrap around childcare provision

Recommendations:

- a. That members note the results of a survey conducted with schools that have received funding in 2011/2012 to assist in the transfer of responsibility of afterschool childcare and breakfast club provision;
- b. That the Schools Forum reiterates the expectation that these services continue and that schools that struggle to do so are encouraged to urgently review their processes, make use of the opportunities set out in (c) and take action to ensure the provision continues;
- c. That members note that the Local Authority will be taking action to ensure that best practise is shared and that schools are making informed decisions about the continuity of provision.

1. Wrap Around Childcare Activities Transition Funding.

1.1 Schools Forum on 17th January 2011 proposed that the £522,000 be targeted in 2011-12 from the Dedicated Schools Grant, to provide some transition in support of identified schools to take on those services previously held centrally. In particular it would be used to support Breakfast Clubs and After School Childcare. The principles employed in deploying the transitional funding are described in Appendix 1.

1.2 The Council has surveyed all schools who received funding to assess:

- What the levels of fees are and what are proposed for 2012/2013
- How many children are attending?
- Is the provision sustainable?
- Is a subsidy offered (e.g. for vulnerable children)?
- How have parents/carers and children been involved in giving feedback about the provision?

2. Breakfast club provision

2.1 The Breakfast Club programme makes a contribution to delivering improved outcomes for children's health, attendance at school, educational achievement and provides support for parents wishing to return to study or work.

2.2 The Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2011 identifies that there are 52 Breakfast Club programmes in Haringey offering a total of 1,902 places.

2.3 There are 19 schools receiving transition funding to assist with the continuation of breakfast clubs.

2.4 We received 11 responses to the Breakfast Club survey:

- On average the charge for breakfast club is £1.20 per day. The majority of schools have indicated that fees are under review with a likelihood of an increase in fees to an average of £2.00 per day (where indicated).
- The average attendance across the settings that responded is 48 per week.
- The majority of schools have indicated that the provision will continue in 2012/2013 with 27% identifying that a level of subsidy will be required.
- All schools currently offer subsidised rates for children on FSM and/or Looked After Children and/or vulnerable children.
- The majority of schools (67%) used the transition fund in total or in part to support the provision of subsidised concessionary places.

- All schools reported that they involve parents in a variety of ways – questionnaires/surveys/newsletters/meetings

3. Afterschool childcare provision

- 3.1 Afterschool childcare was one of the 5 components of the Extended Service Offer introduced by the previous Government. Afterschool childcare enables children to engage in extra curricula activities and learning and the provision of afterschool childcare makes a significant contribution to facilitating parents remaining in or returning to work.
- 3.2 The Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2011 identifies that there are 47 After School Club programmes (open 3pm – 6pm) in Haringey offering a total of 1,538 places.
- 3.3 There are 11 schools receiving transition funding to assist with the continuation of afterschool childcare¹
- 3.4 We received 8 responses to the afterschool childcare survey
- The average charge is £47 per week with schools indicating that they are reviewing costs for 2012/2013. For schools that have set prices for next year they will be similar or the same as 2011/2012
 - The average attendance across all settings is 48 children per week
 - The majority of schools have indicated that the provision will continue in 2012/2013 with 12% identifying that a level of subsidy will be required.
 - The majority of schools have indicated that they do offer a subsidy, in particular for children in need/vulnerable children
 - All schools reported that they involve parents in a variety of ways – questionnaires/surveys/newsletters/meetings.

4. Challenges faced by schools in Breakfast Club and Afterschool childcare provision

- 4.1 Schools reported on a number of challenges faced in terms of making provision sustainable: increasing numbers, reduction of places for vulnerable children, lack of experienced staff, ensuring there is nutritious food (for breakfast), raising sufficient funds to continue.

¹ Mulberry Primary School has ceased delivering afterschool childcare and signposted parents to Coleraine Park
Weston Park did not continue offering afterschool childcare and has used an agreed proportion of the transition funding to augment the Pupil Premium funding to ensure continuity of breakfast club provision. The afterschool childcare was transferred to a third sector provider, YMCA.

5. Emerging themes

5.1 From the responses received from the schools, we can identify 3 broad categories:

- Schools who are in a strong financial position to continue with a Breakfast Club and/or afterschool childcare. In this category there are 2 models of delivery: in house delivery and delivery by an external partner.
- Schools who are indicating that the provision is sustainable with subsidy provided by the school e.g. using the Pupil Premium.
- Schools who are indicating that the provision is not sustainable without a level of external subsidy.

5.2 Forum members will recall that additional resources targeted through deprivation factors were made available to schools in 2011-12 and that schools therefore have scope to subsidise provision that they believe is of benefit to their pupils. Resources include:

- the Pupil Premium, set to increase further in the next three years.
- the creation of 'headroom' from within within the School Funding Formula and retargeted through deprivation factors.
- the delegation of former targeted Standards Funds through deprivation factors, these funds included £1.4m of former Extended Schools Grant.

5.3 Schools can also decide to offset transition costs, for example, use of the school building, resulting in greater flexibility in fee charges, for example, use of concessionary places.

5.4 Given that all schools that have responded to the survey have reported on their fee charges for 2012/2013, we can confidently predict that the provision will continue. We will be working with schools that are unclear on the how the provision is to be funded, using best practice from schools with successful business models in place to agree how the provision is sustainable in the future.

5.5 We will also work with schools to explore the option of collaborating in a joint procurement process with a view to commissioning an external provider to deliver breakfast and/or afterschool childcare.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The transition fund has been instrumental in enabling schools to continue with Breakfast Club and afterschool childcare provision.

6.2 Whilst a number of schools are in a position to continue offering Breakfast Club and afterschool childcare sustainably, albeit with an increase in fees and/or a reduction in concessionary places, there are some schools who do not yet have a fully worked out model in place.

6.3 Therefore the Council proposes offering a seminar which will showcase best practice business models in the Borough where breakfast clubs and afterschool childcare are continuing and to consider options available e.g. outsourcing provision as currently happens at Alexandra Primary.

7. Recommendations.

7.1 That members note the results of a survey that has been conducted with schools that have received funding in 2011/2012 to assist in the transfer of responsibility of afterschool childcare and breakfast club provision.

7.2 That the School's Forum reiterates the expectation that these services continue and that schools that struggle to do so are encouraged to urgently review their processes, make use of the opportunities set out in (c) and take action to ensure the provision continues.

7.3 That members note that the Local Authority will be taking action to ensure that best practise is shared and that schools are making informed decisions about the continuity of provision.

Appendix 1

Principles for the deployment of transition funding

1. The Council has been working with schools to ensure that processes are in place to enable them to run affordable afterschool childcare. Where requested, business plans have been produced outlining how provision can be sustainable at no cost to the school.
2. At the January 2011 meeting of the Schools Forum, the Forum was asked to endorse the targeting of resources for 2011/2012 for the support of wrap around childcare activities.
3. The rationale for this proposal was to provide some transition in support of identified schools to take on those services which have previously been provided centrally, particularly for the most vulnerable children.
4. The proposal has been based on the assumption of 3 hours of provision for afterschool childcare for which £27,000 would be made available. The premise of this assumption is that schools would be eligible for the transition from the point that they take on the responsibility for the provision of afterschool childcare.
5. The use of the transition funding has been pivotal to ensuring the success of the business planning process as schools can plan the development of the afterschool provision, in the full knowledge that there is a financial “safety net”.
6. The Council would like to agree the following principles with schools for the use of the transition funding:
 - For the period dictated by the transition funding, the school will continue to offer the same number of places for afterschool childcare where there is a need for this number.
 - Opening times will remain the same for the transition period (i.e. 3.15pm – 6pm).
 - We realise that fees may need to be increased in order to reach a financial break even point. However, we would like to propose that schools use the transition funding in order to provide an incremental change so that parents are not asked to incur an unanticipated additional cost without notice.
 - Children can continue to use afterschool childcare even if they do not attend that particular school. Schools may wish to use a proportion of their transition funding to employ a walker for an identified period to enable this practice to continue.
 - The Council would like to be assured that the schools providing afterschool childcare and holiday childcare will prioritise the access to the provision for vulnerable children and use the transition funding to enable this.

7. The school will only be eligible for the transition funding for the period it has management of the after school and holiday childcare. For example, if a school with holiday provision takes responsibility for the childcare arrangements from 13 June, this is 10 weeks into the financial year. Therefore, the Council will reclaim $10/52$ of the funding (equating to £5,184). The school will then have $40/52$ of the funding to use to defray any risk (equating to £21,816). For a school without holiday responsibility, the calculation will be slightly different in that there are responsibilities only for 38 weeks of the year. So, if a school without holiday provision takes responsibility from 13 June, the Council will reclaim $7/38$ of the funding as there are 3 weeks holiday during this period (equating to £4,968) leaving the school with the remaining £22,032.