

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 15 May 2014

Subject: School Holiday Lunch Clubs

Report by: Strategy And Performance Manager

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to report to Council proposals in providing a scheme for the provision of meals during the summer school holidays over a period of 7 weeks from 30th June 2014 to the 18th August 2014 to children who ordinarily receive free school meals.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council:

a) notes the work which has been undertaken to explore the potential for enhanced partnership working with local food banks and other voluntary organisations to support vulnerable people and families by providing meals during the school holidays to children who ordinarily receive free school meals;

b) notes the options that have been considered to establish such a provision and that the costs of these options exceeds the £5,000 allocated in the budget in February;

c) agrees to pursue option b in this report and allocates any additional funding required (potentially circa £17,000) from reserves should other funding streams not be secured.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 At its meeting in October, 2013, Council agreed to:

" explore the potential for enhanced partnership working with local food banks and other voluntary organisation to support vulnerable people and families in - Clackmannanshire - for example by providing meals to children who ordinarily receive free school meals during the school holidays; that this exploration should include the consideration of potential funding streams (such as Big Lottery funding) which might support any development of food banks or other relevant organisations in supporting vulnerable families.

In principle, support and enable the provision of Lunch Clubs for all children who

are in need during the period of the school summer holidays commencing in 2014. These Lunch Clubs should utilise local groups, such as Tullibody Healthy Living Initiative Limited; Coalsnaughton Regeneration Group, local Church Groups etc, with relevant accommodation to help serve the children during this period if agreement can be reached with them to do so.

remit the matter to the Chief Executive to instruct such officers as she deems appropriate to develop a draft potential scheme for the purpose of implementing the above proposal"

Exploring the Potential for Partnership Working

- 3.2 Clackmannanshire already has existing lunch club provision during the summer holidays through programmes provided by, for example, the Community House in Alloa, and Sauchie Active 8.
- 3.3 In addition to these, a number of local churches operate activity clubs providing access to healthy snacks for young people in Alloa and the Hillfoots. There is recognition that these clubs are providing much needed local support for families and by and large are supported and provided by volunteers. These schemes are not means tested, mainly operating on an open door, first come, first served basis. The level of unmet need in Clackmannanshire is not fully understood.
- 3.4 In February 2014, a workshop was held with community partners to explore proposals for implementing a lunch club scheme for children who normally receive free school meals during the summer holidays in 2014. This workshop, and subsequent discussions reviewed existing provision in Clackmannanshire, similar lunch club schemes elsewhere in the UK and possible delivery models for implementation in Clackmannanshire. A number of concerns were raised by participants in considering proposals. These concerns included limiting support to primary children without taking younger or older siblings needs into account, relying on volunteers to deliver associated activity clubs, and the need for robust referral systems to ensure those most in need of support are able to access it.
- 3.5 Participating organisations came up with two initial two options: options a and b as follows:
 - a) do nothing. There are well established activity/lunch clubs already operating in Clackmannanshire that provide access to healthy meals and snacks for children during the summer holidays on an open door basis;
 - b) enhance local provision through providing a level of support to existing lunch clubs, together with the development of a food bank model to meet any unmet need. This would be means-tested, based on entitlement to free school meals using the food bank model and infrastructure already established in Clackmannanshire. Distribution would be through local established community groups.
- 3.6 These proposals are discussed in more detail below.

Option a - Do nothing

3.7 Groups are already providing clubs which enable children to access free meals in Clackmannanshire during the summer holidays, these include the Community House, Alloa, Sauchie Active 8, Sauchie and Tillicoultry Parish church. These projects are already self-sustaining with no financial support from the Council.

| Benefits | Risks/Disbenefits |
|---|---|
| No direct or indirect cost to the Council | Possible unmet need in some localities Differing levels of provision depending on provider, e.g. some only operate for part of the school holidays |
| | Not means tested - may not fulfil Council desire to provide for all children who are in need |

Option b - Extension of Community Based Foodbank Model during Summer Holidays.

3.7 This scheme proposes enhancement of existing lunch club schemes by offering additional funding, up to an overall total for Clackmannanshire of £5,000, to increase existing capacity where feasible.

In addition, to minimise any unmet need, it is proposed that a scheme, building on existing food bank provision and based on eligibility for free school meals, is developed. This service would be offered to all families of the 926 primary aged children eligible, who would register for support. Weekly food packages would be distributed to families through local participating groups and organisations. Discussions have taken place with the Gate Foodbank who have indicated that they may be a potential partner in the provision of this model, which is an extension of one they already operate using a referral mechanism distributing non perishable food items to those in need.

| Benefits | Risks/Disbenefits |
|--|--|
| Fulfils Council desire to provide for all children in need | Cost is more than currently budgeted |
| Enhances existing provision and minimises potential for unmet need | Attracts additional indirect costs through monitoring role and administration of means test/ensuring eligibility |
| Community organisations indicated willingness in principle to support this model | Food bank model provides food, but no guarantee that the child is fed/receives a meal |
| Potential for waste/food waste is minimal | A means tested system brings potential for stigmatisation - needs to be carefully managed |

| Benefits | Risks/Disbenefits |
|--|--------------------------|
| Does not require food preparation facilities nor resources to support food preparation | |

3.8 Partners who participated in the workshop are detailed in Table 1 below. Work is ongoing to identify the full range of partners that will support this option, with a further workshop session scheduled to take place should it be agreed as the preferred option.

Table 1

| Geographic Area | Organisations |
|--|--|
| Alloa | Community House, Hawkhill, The Gate |
| Sauchie | Active 8, Parish Church |
| Hillfoots (Tillicoultry, Alva, Menstrie) | Local Churches (Tillicoultry parish, Alva baptist, Menstrie parish). |
| Clackmannan | Church/Community Cafe |
| Coalsnaughton | Community Cafe |
| Tullibody | Tullibody Family Centre (NCH), Tullibody Healthy Living |

3.9 The cost of providing a food parcel per child is estimated at £0.65p per person per day or £4.55 per person per week (based on costs provided by The Gate). These costs are currently based on weekly non-perishable food items similar to the food parcels currently provided through The Gate Food Bank.

3.10 Total costs for the 7 week provision of weekly food parcels amounts to approximately £20,000 (based on an average uptake of 600 i.e. an estimated 65% of those entitled, the average uptake of free school meals. See Appendix A for more detail). A further sum of about £2000 would need to be factored in to cover packaging and transport costs. The overall funding required to deliver Option b as proposed therefore is in the region of £27,000 per annum.

Other Options

3.11 Officers have explored a model that would support a provider to distribute a daily healthy lunch bag possibly through local established community groups. This included a healthy sandwich and fruit option. By providing a fresh ready meal, it is considered more likely that the child receives something to eat. This option however has been discounted by officers for a number of reasons, including

- estimated costs of food procurement and preparation are significantly more) than option b (almost double);
- procurement requirements - the estimated costs and potential commercial nature of providing a prepared meal service would require to be considered through a competitive tendering process;
- as yet unknown distribution and storage costs, e.g. it is likely that food preparation facilities that meet regulatory standards would be required, as would some form of refrigerated distribution and storage;
- given as yet unknown demand, using perishable foodstuffs significantly increases the risk of waste, including food waste, and potential associated costs.

Other Funding Avenues

- 3.12 The Council committed £5,000 funding at the Special Council Meeting in February 2014, leaving an overall shortfall of approximately £22,000 based on option b.
- 3.13 An additional funding of £5,000 (£10,000 was approved) from core Food Bank allocation (also approved at the Special Council Meeting in February 2014) could be diverted to support Option b, as an extension of the Food Bank model, reducing the overall shortfall to £17,000.
- 3.14 Officers have considered alternative funding streams, and a number of external funders have been identified, which could potentially support the provision of meals.
- 3.15 Whilst officers are confident that external funding can be secured in due course, there is no guarantee that the whole shortfall could be made up and funding bids take time to prepare. It is likely therefore that Clackmannanshire Council will need to underwrite any shortfall amount in pursuing option b. Although there are clear financial risks with this approach, it would be necessary to gain commitment from community partners to deliver such a scheme in the coming year.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 Sustainability implications, including benefits, disbenefits and risks are discussed within the report.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1 *Financial Details* - Indicative costs are provided in the report. There are financial risks associated with the recommendations. These relate specifically to 'underwriting' a potential funding shortfall and are detailed within the report.

In agreeing to Option b, £5000 of the £10,000 approved by Council in February 2014 for food banks in Clackmannanshire would be allocated specifically to support the food bank element of the lunch club scheme.

Any commissioning of services will need to be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

There will be indirect staff costs associated with administering and monitoring the scheme.

5.2 *Staffing* - there are no staffing implications arising from this report at this stage.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
Vulnerable people and families are supported
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations? N/A.

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix A - Eligibility/Uptake of Free School Meals.



11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered). No

Author(s)

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Approved by

| NAME | DESIGNATION | SIGNATURE |
|------------------|--|--|
| Stuart Crickmar | Head of Strategy and Customer Services |  |
| Elaine McPherson | Chief Executive |  |

APPENDIX A - Eligibility/uptake per Geographical Area

| Geographical Area | Numbers of Children Eligible for Free School meals (number) | Average (number) | Uptake | Average Uptake | % |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Hillfoots | (172) | (110) | | - | |
| Tillicoultry | 79 | 52 | | 66% | |
| Strathdevon | 7 | 4 | | 57% | |
| Menstrie | 12 | 6 | | 50% | |
| Coalsnaughton | 18 | 13 | | 72% | |
| Alva | 56 | 35 | | 63% | |
| Sauchie | (120) | (76) | | - | |
| Craigbank | 34 | 25 | | 73% | |
| Deerpark | 74 | 46 | | 62% | |
| Fishcross | 12 | 5 | | 42% | |
| Tullibody | (214) | (136) | | - | |
| Abercrombie | 86 | 58 | | 67% | |
| Banchory | 63 | 37 | | 59% | |
| St Bernadettes | 14 | 7 | | 50% | |
| St Serfs | 51 | 34 | | 66% | |
| Alloa | (342) | (228) | | - | |
| Sunnyside | 114 | 75 | | 66% | |
| Claremont | 40 | 30 | | 75% | |
| Park | 118 | 78 | | 66% | |
| St Johns | 34 | 18 | | 52% | |
| St Mungos | 36 | 27 | | 75% | |
| Clackmannan | (66) | (50) | | - | |
| Totals | 914 | 600 | | 65% | |