

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Lifelong Learning Committee – 6 June 2012

## BREAKFAST CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

## Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides an update on the current provision of breakfast clubs in Perth and Kinross and sets out proposals for further development of this provision.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the current position in relation to breakfast club provision;
- 1.2 Approves the recommended proposals at 6.1 and 6.2; and
- 1.3 Instructs the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) to report back in six months time, or when appropriate, once the full implications of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 is known.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In October 2008, the Scottish Government announced the outcomes of an evaluation of the free school meals pilot for Primary 1 to 3 pupils in five local authority areas (Perth and Kinross Council was not a pilot area). This drive to improve the nation's health by encouraging good eating habits from a young age was encapsulated in the Concordat agreed between the Scottish Government and COSLA in 2007.
- 2.2 Evidence from the Scottish Government pilot, and other evaluations undertaken into the impact of Breakfast Clubs and nurture groups on a young person's wellbeing, show that attendance at such clubs/groups has the following benefits:
  - provides a nutritious start to the day, which can lead to improved concentration
  - improves pupil attendance
  - reduces the frequency of arriving late for school
  - impacts positively on behaviour.
- 2.3 In December 2009, a revision of the Concordat commitments was agreed and Councils were offered flexibility in the delivery of some of these. The revised commitment to the expansion of free school meals was:

*"Councils will provide a nutritious free meal to all children in primaries P1-P3 in those schools that are in the 20 per cent most deprived communities in a Council area"*. The Scottish Government also proposed that Councils might wish to consider an alternative targeted scheme of equal extent.

### 3 DEVELOPMENT OF PROVISION IN PERTH AND KINROSS

- 3.1 In response to this, the Lifelong Learning Committee of May 2010 approved the piloting of 16 breakfast clubs in Primary Schools. (Report No 10/261 refers). The schools chosen had the highest levels of free school meal entitlement, and were in catchment areas identified with the highest deprivation levels in the Council area based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). A list of these schools is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The pilot breakfast club service was launched in Perth and Kinross Council in August 2010, and in June 2011, the Lifelong Learning Committee was presented with an update report (Report No 11/257 refers).
- 3.3 At that meeting, the Committee approved proposals to continue with the provision and development of the breakfast club service. This development included extending the offer of free places at the 16 original Breakfast Clubs to P4-P7 pupils registered for free school meals.
- 3.4 It was subsequently agreed at the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee on 11 January 2012 (Article 10 refers) that a report would be provided to Committee in June 2012 evaluating the implementation of the proposals regarding breakfast club provision, including options that take cognisance of the implications of the then Welfare Reform Bill.
- 3.5 Three additional Out of School Care Breakfast Clubs operate at Luncarty, St. Dominic's RC and Robert Douglas Memorial Primary Schools. This provision has been in place for a number of years. The delivery arrangements for these clubs differ from the other breakfast clubs as they operate within wider 'wraparound' or 'out-of-school' care arrangements. Consequently, they are subject to Care Inspectorate standards requiring registration, higher staffing ratios and additional child care qualifications for the staff, which leads to higher salary scales. To contribute in part to the resultant higher costs, these Clubs set their own charges ranging between £1.50 and £2.50.
- 3.6 Evaluation of the 16 breakfast clubs in June 2011 indicated an enthusiasm for the provision:
- **Schools** identified clear benefits for pupils from both a social and learning perspective with an opportunity to increase participation in school life and active learning.
  - **Parents** viewed the provision very favourably and identified that they felt the service supported their child/ren through the provision of a social, healthy and stimulating environment.
  - **Pupils** were overwhelmingly positive about the provision.
- 3.7 Improvement areas were also identified in this evaluation; these included:
- Advice and support to parents groups as requested to establish additional breakfast club services
  - A need to improve access to supply staff
  - Ongoing staff support & development.

- 3.8 Overall it was clear that the Breakfast Clubs delivered real benefits for pupils in respect of both social development and preparing the pupils for the school day ahead.
- 3.9 There is a level of fixed costs (staff costs) associated with establishing a Breakfast Club that may make it only viable in schools with a larger number of pupils. In addition many pupils in smaller schools (with a roll of less than 85 pupils) receive home to school transport where timings of which do not allow pupils to get to school on time to take advantage of a Breakfast Club.
- 3.10 Currently there are 45 primary schools in Perth and Kinross with projected rolls of a 85+ pupil roll for 2012/13; 26 of these schools do not currently have Breakfast Clubs.
- 3.11 It should be noted that a reassessment of the SIMD is scheduled for late November 2012, this may vary the areas ranked as those most deprived in Perth and Kinross and therefore have a bearing on where schools are placed within the criteria.
- 3.12 Although the existing Breakfast Club model is less feasible in a school with under 85 pupils. The need for provision in other schools is recognised as a key area for further development and identification of alternative innovative solutions.
- 3.13 The anticipated costs for the continued provision of Breakfast Clubs in 2012/13 indicates that there will be a projected underspend of £60k based on current provision and demand.

#### **4 PROGRESS DURING 2011/12**

- 4.1 Advice and support for the development of Breakfast Clubs run by parent groups in other schools has been made available, however to date no parent led groups have extended provision to Breakfast Clubs.
- 4.2 To ensure provision can be consistently delivered a Breakfast Club supply staff register is currently being established. These appointments will be subject to appropriate induction training and should be available prior to the summer break.
- 4.3 Ongoing staff support and development includes promotional activity, activity resources and Continued Professional Development of staff established through the Employee Review and Development process. In addition, the potential establishment of a Breakfast Club Supervisor forum within the GLOW network is currently being progressed.
- 4.4 Work has been ongoing to promote Breakfast Clubs and attract children from target groups. To achieve this Head Teachers and Community Link Workers have been actively promoting the service to families within the target groups. This approach to signposting the Breakfast Club to targeted children along with general school communication has contributed towards a 15% increase

in usage in the most recent school term Jan.- March 2012. There is also a 20% increase in the total number of free school meal registered pupils who have used the Breakfast Club at some time during this period.

## **5 WELFARE REFORM**

- 5.1 The Welfare Reform Bill received Royal Assent on 8 March 2012. At the time of producing this report, there was still a lack of detail around the key areas of Welfare Reform; secondary legislation and guidance is still required. It is therefore not possible to provide the detail associated with the Welfare Reform Act 2012 which will enable us to more accurately predict the full impact.
- 5.2 Within Scotland, a Welfare Reform (Further Provisions) (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 22 March 2012 aiming to ensure that Scotland can put in place all the necessary arrangements before the deadline for the introduction of the new welfare system on 1 April 2013. In particular, this includes benefits such as free school meals. Further guidance is still required from the Scottish Government in relation to these significant changes and how these will be delivered in Scotland.
- 5.3 Although the full impact of the welfare reforms is not currently known, it is anticipated that there may be a number of children who are currently in receipt of free school meals who may no longer be eligible.

## **6 PROPOSALS 2012/13**

- 6.1 Until the full impact of the Welfare Reform Act is known, it is proposed to maintain the current level of provision and charging structure within the 16 schools and 3 clubs, whilst monitoring the impact of the Welfare Reform Act and developing options to mitigate any emerging consequences which will be reported to Committee as appropriate.
- 6.2 To assist with paragraph 3.12 it is proposed to make available grant support to enable voluntary managed breakfast clubs to be established as alternative models of breakfast provision where a need exists. This would ensure that where Breakfast Clubs are not available, then alternatives could be established. Head Teachers will continue to have the discretion to meet individual needs on an as and when basis in terms of providing a nutritious morning snack.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

The Head of Democratic Services, Acting Head of Finance, Head of Legal Services and Tayside Contracts have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current financial position is that there is an estimated underspend on Breakfast Clubs of £60k for financial year 2012/2013.

£10k will be set aside for paragraph 6.2 with the remaining funding of £50k being left uncommitted until further information on the impact of the current welfare reform is known.

## 9 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. This report relates to:-

- (iii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens

The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Change and Improvement

## 10. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

10.1 The strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (Eq1A) with the following outcome:

Assessed as **relevant** (undertaken and presented as at June 2011)

Consequently the following points have been identified for action:-

- Monitoring of attendance and participation in Breakfast Clubs will take place to ensure this reflects local community demographics and social needs.
- Attendance at Breakfast Clubs will be encouraged in such a way as to promote equality of access including, as appropriate, community group liaison.

## 11. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

11.1 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

## 12. CONCLUSION

12.1 This report allows Perth & Kinross Council to continue its current Breakfast Club strategy and allows for any future developments to be undertaken when the full implications of the Welfare Reform Bill are known.

**JOHN FYFFE**  
**Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)**

**Note:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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**Appendix List:**  
Appendix 1 – Current breakfast club schools

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E-mail: [ecsgeneralenquiries@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecsgeneralenquiries@pkc.gov.uk)



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

**CURRENT BREAKFAST CLUB SCHOOLS**

**Based on free school meal entitlement and deprivation.**

**Free of charge to P1 to P3 pupils and free meal registered pupils; £1 for all others**

Alyth PS (in partnership with Alyth Out of School Care)  
Balhousie PS  
Breadalbane Academy (Primary)  
Coupar Angus PS  
Crieff PS  
Goodlyburn PS  
Inchview PS  
Letham PS  
Newhill PS  
North Muirton PS  
Our Lady's RC PS  
Rattray PS  
St John's RC PS  
St Ninian's PS  
St Stephen's RC PS  
Tulloch PS

**Note:**

Additional clubs (operating under Care Inspectorate standards) are active at:

- Luncarty PS
- St. Dominic's RC PS
- Robert Douglas Memorial PS

