

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 - 2018

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No. 3

Date: 25th October 2017

**REPORT OF:
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT
PROGRAMME PILOT**

Author: - Andrea Richards

(Tel No 01443 744002)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the provision of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) pilot (also known as the 'Food and Fun Programme') in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School over the summer holiday period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Scrutinise and comment on the information contained within this report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To raise Members awareness on the provision of the SHEP pilot in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School over the summer holiday period.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 In January 2017, the Welsh Government (WG) [announced](#) that it was committing £500,000 to further roll out the 'Food and Fun Programme' in 2017. The Programme was coordinated by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), working closely with Local Authorities and partner agencies including Cwm Taf University Local Health Board.

4.2 The SHEP was first piloted by Cardiff Council in 2015 and has since won numerous national awards from the health and catering sectors. In 2016, the WLGA piloted the SHEP nationally in ten schools across Wales with numerous benefits gained including:

- Reduction in ‘holiday hunger’ and social isolation;
- Provision of intellectual stimulation;
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle choices;
- Facilitation of collaboration between agencies;
- Encouragement of community engagement; and
- Provision of childcare allowing parents to work.

4.3 In March this year, the Council successfully submitted a funding application to the WLGA to pilot the SHEP in two schools in the County Borough:

1. Heol y Celyn Primary School; and
2. Penywaun Primary School.

4.4 The above mentioned primary schools were selected due to the high percentage of pupils who access Free School Meals. The table that follows, Table 1: Free School Meals, illustrates the percentage and number of pupils in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School who access Free School Meals compared to the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the all Wales percentages over the previous three years.

Table 1: Free School Meals*								
Heol y Celyn Primary School			Penywaun Primary School			RCT CBC % FSM Pupils	Wales % FSM Pupils	
Total Pupil Number s (Recepti on – Year 6)	% FSM Pupils	Number FSM Pupils	Total Pupil Number s (Recepti on – Year 6)	% FSM Pupils	Number FSM Pupils			
2014	295	46.3%	137	198	67.0%	133	25.6%	20.5%
2015	298	43.7%	130	200	61.7%	123	24.4%	20.1%
2016	308	40.9%	126	199	56.7%	113	23.4%	19.6%

Source: My Local School Wales

**Pupils of statutory primary school age (age 5 – 11) that are known to be eligible for Free School Meals.*

5. DELIVERY OF SHEP PILOT

5.1 Working closely with the headteachers of Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School, all pupils aged 5 – 11 years of age, were invited to participate in the SHEP pilot.

5.2 The SHEP pilot aimed to provide a safe, supervised place for pupils to socialise with one another, receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch and be encouraged to participate in activities that combined sports with education.

5.3 The SHEP pilot took place between the following dates / times:

- Tuesday 1st August – Thursday 3rd August between 09:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 8th August – Thursday 10th August between 09:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 15th August – Thursday 17th August between 09:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 22nd August – Thursday 24th August between 09:00 – 13:00

5.4 During these dates / times a number of activities were organised for the pupils to participate in including:

- Food and Fun sessions;
- Sports activities;
- Arts and craft activities;
- Parent and child food preparation sessions;
- Parent and child shared breakfast and lunch sessions.

5.5 In total, 49 individual pupils from Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School attended 305 SHEP sessions with over 600 meals being served.

5.6 The table that follows, Table 2: Breakdown of the SHEP Pilot Pupils by FSM, illustrates the percentage of pupils who participated in the SHEP pilot who are known to be eligible for FSM:

	Table 2: Breakdown of the SHEP Pilot Pupils by FSM	
	Heol y Celyn Primary School	Penywaun Primary School
Total Individual Pupils	21	28
% Individual Pupils Known to be Eligible for FSM	42.8%	46.4%

5.7 21 pupils from Heol y Celyn Primary School and 28 pupils from Penywaun Primary School attended the SHEP pilot. Of those pupils attending, the percentage known to be eligible for Free School Meals in Heol y Celyn Primary School was 42.8% whilst in Penywaun Primary School the percentage was 46.4%.

6. EVALUATION OF THE SHEP PILOT

6.1 Evaluations conducted via questionnaire at the end of the SHEP pilot gained largely positive feedback from both pupils and parents. Comments from parents included:

- “An excellent way to continue a child's routine through the holidays”;

- “Perfect for my autistic daughter, the familiar staff and location made her feel safe and helped her socialise and exercise”;
- “It helped with childcare as we both work full time, and encouraged the children to eat new foods at home”; and
- “It reinforced what I have been teaching them about healthy living – they want to help cook now”.

6.2 Whilst comments from pupils included:

- “I wish there were more days at club and longer sessions – I liked everything” and
- “I like eating new things and I made a new friend”.

6.3 Taking this into consideration, it is highly likely that the Council will submit another funding application to the WLGA next year for further funding for the delivery of the SHEP.

6.4 If successful in gaining funding, we intend to work closely with colleagues from Children’s Services and partner agencies including Cwm Taf University Health Board in order to increase participation and to target those pupils in need of the SHEP. We also feel that alternative start / end times may be beneficial for parents whilst pupils may benefit from a larger variety of activities and a greater number of shorter sessions as opposed to fewer lengthier sessions.

6.5 Overall, we feel that the SHEP pilot was successful and consequently next year the Council intends to increase the number of primary schools participating in the SHEP from two to four subject to the Council successfully submitted a funding application to the WLGA.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 No consultation exercises have been undertaken.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Successful submission of a bid to the WLGA to pilot the SHEP in two schools in the County Borough has meant that the Council has gained match funding to half of the total cost of delivering the SHEP pilot in the County Borough.

9.2 The total cost for the provision of the SHEP pilot in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School was approximately £8,500. An application for match funding for approximately £4250 was been submitted to the WLGA for approval.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / CORPORATE PRIORITIES / SIP

11.1 The provision of the SHEP pilot in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School over the summer holiday period links to the 'People' and 'Place' priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan, the 'Safety', 'Health and 'Prosperity' priorities within the SIP as well as contributing to all seven wellbeing goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 Clear links can be seen between the provision of the SHEP pilot and the achievement of the Councils priorities. The provision of the SHEP pilot in Heol y Celyn Primary School and Penywaun Primary School over the summer holiday period has gained largely positive feedback from both pupils and parents.

This page intentionally blank