



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 21/22

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22ND SEPTEMBER 2021

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the provision of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) (also known as the 'Food and Fun Programme') that was delivered over the summer holiday period of 2021 in a number of mainstream and special school settings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members scrutinise and comment on the information contained within this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2021, the Council submitted a grant application to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to deliver the SHEP programme in a range of mainstream and special school settings over the summer holiday period of 2021. The schools were selected to support the communities with a high percentage of pupils who access free school meals. SHEP funding was provided for 15 school settings, and the Council funded a further summer provision in an additional mainstream setting.

| Primary School/Special School | Target Number of Children | Target Age Range |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Caegarw Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 2. Craig-yr-Hesg Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 3. Darran Park Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 4. Glenboi Community Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 5. Hawthorn High School (pupils attended from Hawthorn Primary School and Heol-y-Celyn Primary School) | 40 | 5-11 |
| 6. Llanharan Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 7. Penrhys Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 8. Penywaun Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 9. Perthcelyn Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 10. Porth Community School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 11. Tonyrefail Community School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 12. Ynysboeth Primary School | 40 | 5-11 |
| 13. Ysgol Nantgwyn | 40 | 5-11 |
| 14. Ysgol Ty Coch | 20 | 7-19 |
| 15. Ysgol Hen Felin | 20 | 7-19 |
| 16. Ysgol Llyn-y-forwyn | 40 | 5-11 |

- 3.2. In May 2021, the WLGA informed the Council that the grant application had been successful for 15 settings. The grant funding allocated to deliver the SHEP was £10,000 per unit of 40 children, with additional funding available for ALN support if required. This was a significant growth from 2019 when SHEP was delivered from 7 school settings.
- 3.3. This year, application numbers for places in our special schools were oversubscribed. To enable much needed support to families of pupils attending our

special schools, the Council's School Governor Support team worked in partnership with Children and Young People Services to provide an additional 25 places for pupils in the special schools at a cost of £20,000. This was funded from the Care 2 Play grant scheme to support the additional pupils.

- 3.4 One school site was selected due the quality of leisure facilities available, but this provision was then made available to children from a neighbouring school with high levels of learners that were eligible for free school meals (e.g., Heol Y Celyn and Hawthorn learners were able to access the provision in Hawthorn High School). School selection was also informed by the summer capital works programme.

4. DELIVERY OF SHEP

- 4.1 In collaboration with the headteachers of selected schools, all pupils aged 5–11 years of age in the primary schools and all-through schools, and 7–19 years of age in the special schools were invited to participate in the SHEP.
- 4.2 The SHEP programme provides a safe, supervised place for pupils to socialise with one another, receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch and participate in sports, education and craft activities. This scheme has been particularly important for our vulnerable children and their families as we continue to support our Communities through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 The SHEP took place between Wednesday the 21st of July – Thursday the 5th of August 2021 from 09:00 to 13:15.
- 4.4 As part of this programme a number of different activities were organised for the pupils to participate in including:
- Arts and craft activities;
 - Food and Fun activities, which included educating children about healthy eating;
 - Various sports activities, supported and delivered by the Council's Leisure Sports Development and Coaching Team.
- 4.5 All pupils who participated in the National Play Day on the 4th of August 2021, were provided with t-shirts from grant funding secured by Children and Young People Services.
- 4.6 Unfortunately, the parent and child food preparation activities and shared breakfast and lunch sessions were not held this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 4.7 In order to ensure that the school settings operated in a safe manner, all appropriate measures and risk assessments were put in place to ensure the health and safety and welfare of the pupils. Additional staff were recruited to support SHEP this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions and to ensure the pupils' wellbeing and public health measures were safeguarded. Each mainstream site was provided with an additional

member of staff over and above the usual staffing compliment to support pupil bubbles and contact groups.

- 4.8 Due to positive COVID-19 cases, Darran Park provision closed early on the 23rd of July. This was also the case in Penrhys and the provision in this setting also closed early on the 4th of August.
- 4.9 Additional cleaning was organised and provided to comply with identified COVID-19 safety measures. The additional costs relating to COVID-19 will be claimed from the WLGA.

5. EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

- 5.1 In total, 563 individual pupils applied to attend the programme and 413 actually attended at least one session in a school setting.
- 5.2 The Council in-house Catering Team served 5,834 pupil meals. The table below illustrates a breakdown of the number of applications, children that attended at least one session and meals served across each school setting:

| School | Number of Applications | Number who attended at least once | Number of meals served |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Caegarw Primary School | 31 | 18 | 186 |
| Craig-yr-Hesg Primary School | 31 | 29 | 326 |
| Darran Park Primary School | 60 | 32 | 114 |
| Glenboi Primary School | 24 | 21 | 350 |
| Hawthorn High School | 52 | 28 | 442 |
| Llanharan Primary School | 51 | 45 | 850 |
| Penrhys Primary School | 22 | 20 | 286 |
| Penywaun Primary School | 32 | 29 | 412 |
| Perthcelyn Primary School | 14 | 12 | 204 |
| Porth Community School | 16 | 13 | 214 |
| Tonyrefail Community School | 47 | 40 | 674 |
| YGG Llyn-y-forwyn | 22 | 21 | 304 |
| Ynysboeth Primary School | 38 | 29 | 432 |
| Ysgol Nantgwyn | 30 | 22 | 416 |
| Ysgol Hen Felin | 61 | 29 | 436 |
| Ysgol Ty Coch | 32 | 25 | 188 |
| Total | 563 | 413 | 5834 |

- 5.3 The WLGA provided an on-line questionnaire for parents/carers and pupils to complete. The Council is yet to receive the report in relation to this but a full

breakdown of the feedback from pupils and parents/carers will be circulated and shared once received from the WLGA.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment were included as part of the delegated decision process.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation exercises have been undertaken.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The total cost of delivering the SHEP programme was estimated to be £178,000.00. A successful funding application for £165,000 has been approved by the WLGA for 15 settings. The costs for the additional one mainstream setting will be covered from existing Education revenue budgets. The additional cost for cleaning and ALN, estimated to be £13,000.00 will also be claimed from the WLGA.
- 8.2 An application for additional funding will be submitted to the WLGA in relation to the additional ALN costs.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

- 10.1 There are links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the following priority:
- People: Are independent, healthy and successful
 - Encouraging all residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing; and
 - Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do.
- 10.2 Due regard has been made to all seven well-being goals and the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 10.3 This would contribute to achieving the well-being goals by:
- promoting participation in sport and physical activity and ensuring that these

were both accessible and inclusive;

- increasing levels of engagement and participation in the arts and culture;
- working in partnership with WLGA, striving to reduce child poverty, providing healthy meals and nutritional messages throughout the provision of SHEP.

10.4 The programme had five outcomes:

1. Improved mental health & wellbeing;
2. School engagement and education attainment;
3. Improved aspirations;
4. Improved physical activity;
5. Improved dietary behaviour.

The long-term vision for the Council is to provide the learners with nutritional education through fun and play. The project also encouraged learners to be physically active.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 Clear links can be seen between the provision of this enrichment programme and the achievement of the Council's priorities. The provision of this initiative has supported some of our most vulnerable young people in the County Borough and provided much needed support during the school summer holidays and the challenging period of the COVID pandemic.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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