

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2004

BREAKFAST CLUB PROVISION

Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members of the Education Committee for the phased development of breakfast clubs across the Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Research has established positive links between breakfast services, educational achievement and behaviour in school children. In addition to health benefits, services are thought to improve children's attendance, punctuality and educational performance.

Addressing health and educational inequalities are priorities for the Scottish Executive and in this context breakfast services feature in a range of national initiatives. These include:

- New Community Schools : Health Promoting Schools;
- Hungry for Success – A Whole School Approach to School Meals in Scotland;
- School's Out – Framework for the Development of Out of School Care.

A report was presented to the Education Committee on 23 March 2004 setting out the implications of Schools Out for the Authority, including the intention to return to Committee with Breakfast Club proposals.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1 There are currently 13 breakfast services in East Ayrshire supported by a range of funding streams including;

- Quality of Life
- Health Improvement Fund
- New Opportunities Fund
- Scottish Community Diet Project Fund

An initial evaluation of services in the Doon Learning Partnership shows that the services were well received by parents, teachers and the school board.

Teaching staff reported improvements in children's social skills, alertness and readiness for the day's work and a reduction in late coming. Parents indicated that children looked forward to the breakfast services and were keen to get to school.

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 This proposal seeks to further the development of services within a strategic and consistent framework based on an agreed definition, clear criteria, delivery and funding models.
- 4.2 Breakfast services will be set within the context of the proposed vision statement for the Department of Educational and Social Services ; “committed to providing choice, maximising opportunity for all, developing the potential of individuals and meeting needs through inclusion”.
- 4.3 Within this overarching vision the aim of breakfast service provision is to give children and young people access to a healthy breakfast to support the best possible start to their day in readiness for learning.
- 4.4 Criteria for inclusion in the proposed roll out is:
- Services already in place and with established demand;
 - Schools with over 20% of the roll eligible for free meals;
 - Voluntary sector before school care services
- 4.5 Three models for delivery are proposed:
- Breakfast Clubs – available in primary schools providing breakfasts, social, physical and educational activities including homework support. Good practice guidelines indicated a minimum of 2 adults in attendance at all times, but with an overall adult child ration of 1:15
 - Before School Care Services – voluntary sector services which would offer breakfast club places as well as before school care. Services are registered with the Care Commission and must adhere to relevant national care standards
 - Breakfast Services – operating in secondary schools providing school canteen facilities.

Learning Partnerships can enhance these models if resources are available.

All services will operate for 23 weeks from October to April (i.e. second and third term). Schools with a roll of 100 will offer 30 places, roll of 200-300 will offer 45 places and a roll of 200 plus, 60 places. Before school care services will offer 30 additional places.

The average unit cost per place across all services is £1.41 per day assuming all places are filled. A minimum attendance level of 20 children per day is required to ensure viability.

Identified resources will support 3 secondary school services, 17 primary schools and 13 before school care services.

4.6 Delivery costs have three main components as follows;

- Onsite Services breakfast and kitchen staff costs
- Supervisory staff costs based on average hourly rate for classroom assistants
- School Crossing Patrol costs.

Children eligible for free school meals will receive free breakfasts. Other places will be charged at 70 pence per child, £1 for two children from the same family or £1.50 for three children.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The total delivery cost of £145,895 for 2004-05 will be met from a package of funding supported through Hungry for Success, Quality of Life, Scottish Community Diet Fund and Childcare Strategy funding. Provisional allocations have been made for 2005-06 from the same sources of funding which will allow small scale expansion. Further development of services will be pursued as and when resources become available, including the potential to attract European funding.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Addressing health and educational inequalities are key priorities of the Eliminating Poverty, Improving Health and Improving Opportunities themes of the Community Plan. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) approve the proposals detailed in this paper; and
- (ii) otherwise, note the content of the report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

KG/DMcA/SR
28/4/04

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. School's Out Framework for the Development of Out of School Care – Education Committee 23 March 2004
2. The Implementation of Hungry for Success: A Whole School Approach to School Meals in Scotland – Education Committee 23 March 2004

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: 01563 576104 or Dorothy McAvoy, Childcare Partnership and Development Officer, Tel: 01563 554956.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR