

Feedback on proposals, following the Elected Member Workshop

Playschemes/Protected Places

This is a difficult thing to do correctly. The main concern is that children who were attending because of a referral weren't being handed a bag of food on the way out while those paying were not, clearly highlighting the ones who were there due to poverty.

~The pre-paid cards are a good way of allowing families to purchase the food they want, maybe not healthy options though.

A difficulty could be that certain things will be blocked, such as alcohol, and how a family going through a checkout with a few cans of beer or a bottle of wine along with their weekly shop will deal with this, or be dealt with by the shop. Also what the cards look like. Bank cards and credit cards can have a wide variety of designs so it should be possible to have the cards not standing out as the ones from the council.

Potential Outcomes

Proposals should see a reduction/end to duplication and thus, lead to a saving.

Regular feedback (quarterly?) to the E&CS Sub-Committee is essential as the model is developed.

Breakfast Cafés

Support a commercialised model. The gap between budgetary decision and actual cost suggests that little modelling was carried out. If schools are able to directly run these and within budget this is a move that should be supported – provided no impact on staffing arrangements and no further budgetary implications.

The fairly mixed attendance rates (as per slide 10) could suggest that some have advertised the café more effectively than others?

Out of School Care

Merging of non-viable clubs makes sense, signposting though must be clear and well-advertised. Sometimes comments of a disconnect by parents and what is happening appears.

ASN service need to be absolutely clear before any changes and the impact. Data was requested on the uptake of ASN users across Fife.

For both Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs – data on all of these would be useful for members. Either to E&CS Sub-Committee or presented as a report within this context to each Area Committee.

Holiday Clubs

Merging Protected Places and Playschemes makes more sense. Removal of segregation between those who can and cannot pay is more equitable and inclusive.

Early Learning & Childcare (1,140hrs) Crèche Service

Increased hours will further negate the need for a crèche service. Given the model is running at a loss the service should be removed from the childcare offering, provided it is clear that there is an alternative and parents who do utilise the services are not left with no alternative option.

Fife Play Resource

COVID impact means this is unlikely to run in the medium term – the targeting of resource from “very young children in nurseries to elderly residents in care homes” – this is not going to happen.

Side point – Intergenerational working? The end?

Further Areas of Reform

Possibly some further detail is required on consultation with voluntary sector service?