



Northumberland County Council

Families and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 4TH JULY 2019

Summer Activity: Development of Place Based Provision

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Children's Services, Cath McEvoy Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Wayne Daley

Purpose of report

To inform members about the development of holiday provision, future opportunities, and improving social mobility in Northumberland.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Living, Enjoying and Learning priorities within the Corporate Plan.

Key Issues

- 1 Pilot targeted summer provision was delivered in summer 2018, funded by the Department for Education¹ via Children North East, with a focus on food and enrichment for children entitled to Free School Meals.
- 2 Following on from successful delivery in Blyth and Hadston, work has been ongoing to source funding for repeat provision with an external evaluation to inform further development across the county.

¹ [Holiday Activity Fund 2018](#)

- 3 Initially delivered under “holiday hunger” funding streams, resulting from evidence of learning loss, children and young people missing meals through school holidays, and families being under increased financial pressure.
- 4 Northumberland is taking a broad approach encompassing mixed disadvantage, learning loss, increased activity, enrichment, and social mobility - working with families, children and young people in their community. This is in line with the development of our multi agency Children and Young People’s Plan.
- 5 In Northumberland we recognise that many children and young people experience periods of disadvantage for complex reasons, including financial hardship, and that accessing opportunity can be difficult, it is in this sphere that this work sits.
- 6 The Northumberland provision is defined by place based, collaborative working. Activity is co-designed with local assets, schools, families, young leaders, and key ambassadors, and therefore best suited to our geography, supporting empowered communities, and focused on impact.
- 7 The partnership approach allows a straightforward reach into prevention work; role modelling key messages, and relationship based introduction to services and partners. Provision is complemented with contribution from Active Northumberland, Public Health, and Children’s Centres.
- 8 Successful securing of cocktail funding from mixed sources, currently embargoed, means we will continue to deliver provision from 2019-2021 and include a year long external evaluation in partnership with University of Newcastle. Impact reporting will inform the development of strategic up-scaling of the provision, weighted by need and opportunity.
- 9 The summer provision is a flagship amid the development of a year round programme of activity and enrichment, involving schools, partners and communities, and using the vehicle of Children’s University Northumberland, and other existing programmes to coordinate and quality assure the offers.

Background

1. The Model

- 1.1 The Northumberland model is drawn from evidence of the 4x4x4 model², (4 weeks, 4 days, 4 hours a day), our own learning, and mobilising local assets and community leaders.
- 1.2 Recognising expertise in schools, and that Free School Meals as a blanket measure is not always the most effective targeting tool, teachers are asked to invite children they know will benefit from the provision. Local community organisations make time to build relationships with the families ahead of the summer. Families may be experiencing mixed difficulties and the focus of the provision is that it is safe, high quality, and enriching.
- 1.4 The schools committed at time of reporting are Horton Grange, Bede Academy, St Wilfrids, Newsham, and Red Row County First School. Key partner organisations are Leading Link³, Hadston House⁴, Briardale House, Active Northumberland, Clarty Commandos, Northumberland Estates, Dragar, Phoenix Travel and University of Newcastle.
- 1.5 The 2019 provision will be offered to 90 children in Blyth and 50 children in Red Row, with activity groups of up to 15 children supported by a key worker and two young leaders. The weekly programme includes, physical activity, life skills, bushcraft, a trip, and breakfast and lunch, all delivered in and from universal community assets.
- 1.6 All children who attend are invited to join Children's University⁵, be awarded achievement stamps from summer activity, and be invited to local activities beyond summer, advancing curricular and extra curricular achievement.
- 1.7 This flagship programme leads into wider work with children, young people and families in local communities and contributes significantly to developing social capital, confidence and life skills which directly impact social mobility and life chances.
- 1.8 Unique to Northumberland is the recruitment and development of Young Leaders, who enjoy many experiences throughout the year in life skills, ready for work training, and adventure. The leaders contribute to the development

² :[A Day Out Not A Hand Out Research Summary slides](#)

³ [Leading Link](#)

⁴ [Hadston / Briardale House](#)

⁵ [Children's University](#)

and delivery of activities for younger children in local settings and make excellent accessible role models.

2. Success of 2018

- 2.1 Last year of 120 children attending, 90% attended 100% of the time, evidence shows higher attendance correlates with greater impact.
- 2.2 Children returned to school enthused, more confident, and full of stories. At mid-term headteachers continued to report children notably more confident, higher level of engagement, more trust of adults, more willingness to try new things, increased confidence and in several cases some astounding efforts such as becoming class representative, less phone calls home to parents, reduced aggression, and more care taken with peers and behaviour choices.
- 2.3 Aside from positive feedback from children and young people, which was plentiful, parents became increasingly engaged, and were keen to support the development of further activity and provision. Families have continued to engage with schools and community groups involved, including the running of a breakfast club, volunteering and taking part in further activities as families, with more than 60 people at Port of Blyth's STEM day offered to Children's University Northumberland.
- 2.4 All schools in Blyth are now involved with Children's University, funded for 2018-19 by Dragar. This platform allows the development of a quality assurance framework to ensure provision is delivering the impact we need to see, and is a valuable source of information and national partnership.
- 2.5 Following 2018 increasing numbers of mixed sector partners are looking to work together to create portfolios of offers for our children and young people, during the summer, and throughout the school year, with activities, cultural trips, work placements, and sponsorship. There is significant networking and partnership with a focus on the workforce of the future, and strong alignment with young people asking for curriculum for life education.
- 2.6 Choppington and Seaton Delaval are in early stages of developing the model, and hope to offer skeleton provision in summer 2019 and further develop a place based partnership.
- 2.7 Some early scoping outreach work is planned for Newbiggin-on-Sea (4 days over the summer).
- 2.8 CELL villages (Cresswell, Ellington, Lynemouth and Linton) are developing a place based, partnership response for summer 2019.

3. External Evaluation

- 3.1 To fully understand the success of Northumberland Summer provision and its relationship to term time activity and engagement, we are co-developing a Theory of Change with University of Newcastle. The evaluation is in partnership with the providers, partners, families and schools to capture positive impact and learning from all perspectives.
- 3.2 The evaluation will cover a full year of activity, including the summer provision, the young leader development, place based approaches, and longer term engagement of our young people with school, activity, and enrichment offers.
- 3.3 The university will provide interim reports to inform and support strategic development, with insight for three age groups: First School, up to 12 years, and young leader age group (15-23years), as well as a rural and urban picture.

4. Future Plans

- 4.1 Using the Northumberland evidence base to inform our work with schools as part of communities to develop quality assured, place based provision and activity for children and young people, using existing assets and resources.
- 4.2 Strategic support to Children's University Northumberland to recruit and develop their Young Leader Programme working with partners who also have young leaders. This development must be weighted to need and opportunity, ensure quality activity and offer accessible role models for our younger children all over the county.
- 4.3 We continue to work with everyone and grow place partnerships and capacity to ensure what is offered is appropriately targeted, sustainable, and delivers impact.

Implications

Policy	n/a
Finance and value for money	n/a
Legal	n/a
Procurement	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Property	n/a
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Report for information only
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	n/a
Customer Consideration	
Carbon reduction	n/a
Wards	Blyth Wards and Red Row

Background papers

Report sign off

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	CMc-C
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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