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**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME – BRIEFING**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. As part of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee 2017-18 Work Programme, the Chairman agreed to receive a verbal report on the School Holiday enrichment programme “Food and Fun”.

**Background**

2. The Food and Fun is an innovative programme to prevent children going hungry in the school holidays and reduce the impacts of poverty and social deprivation. The school holidays are a crunch point for low-income families. Children who benefit from free school breakfasts and lunches often miss meals and go hungry once their school shuts for the holidays, while the lack of free play schemes and sports activities impacts most on disadvantaged children. Missing meals, a sedentary lifestyle and social isolation in the holidays reinforces existing health inequalities and undermines the success of free school breakfast and lunch policies.
3. The Food and Fun summer holiday enrichment programme was developed and piloted in Cardiff in 2015 and then introduced across more areas of Wales in 2016. It is the first UK example of a multi-agency project providing healthy meals, nutrition skills, sports and other physical activities in the school holidays. It aims to improve children’s health and promote learning through a programme of enrichment activities.

**Issues**

4. Free school meals during term time are a vital support to low-income families in regards to easing financial burden, maintaining health and wellbeing and combating social exclusion. With this in mind, Food Cardiff (a cross sector food partnership co-hosted by Cardiff and the Vale Local Public Health Team and

City of Cardiff Council) collaborated with City of Cardiff Council Education Catering, Sport Cardiff and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to tackle this gap in provision.

5. The Food and Fun club model was shown to be an innovative and cost-efficient multi-agency model that can be implemented across a range of school sites and local authorities in Wales to reduce the impact of poverty and social deprivation during the school holidays. Targeting families on a geographical basis also provided an effective means of reaching and engaging deprived families while avoiding the labelling, stigma and unintended consequences associated with selecting individual families.
6. Welsh Government has now made a commitment to support the roll out of the Food and Fun model in the most deprived parts of Wales. £500,000 of funding will go towards lunch and fun clubs in some primary schools during the school holidays. The money will help provide breakfast, lunch, education about eating healthily and a programme of activities developed through the schools taking part.
7. In 2016, five local authorities in Wales were able to run schemes as a result of the collaboration between Food Cardiff and the Welsh Local Government Association. The new funding for the 2017/18 financial year has enabled 39 schools across 12 Welsh local authorities to access the scheme. The precise makeup of each club may vary in each area. The Welsh Government is working closely with the Welsh Local Government Association to distribute the funding.
8. The summer 2017 Cardiff programme delivered across 13 sites for children from 21 schools. All SHEP coordinators have been trained in nutritional skills for life level 2, designated senior person safeguarding and making every contact count. A Quality assurance framework has been developed and was trialled this year in conjunction with the Healthy Schools Team.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

9. This report and verbal briefing enables the Committee to review, assess and comment of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme in Cardiff. In particular Members may wish to enquire whether, the programme has achieved the desired outcomes envisaged for the programme.

10. Members may also wish to examine, how effective the programme has been in 2017 and what enhancements could be made in 2018.

### **Way Forward**

11. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) Katie Palmer, Food Cardiff; Judith Gregory, Education Catering, City of Cardiff Council and Emma Hill, Sport Cardiff will present a verbal report to the Committee on the programme it's operation and achievements, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
12. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and the steering group on the programme.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this

report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Committee reviews the information presented at the meeting and provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and steering group.

**Davina Fiore**

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 September 2017