
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	20 May 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/42/25/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	
Subject:	ASN Summer Provision		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The budget process allocated £600K one off reserve to additional ASN provision.
- 1.3 Officers have undertaken work to expend the summer provision for the summer of 2025 and this is outlined in section 4.2 of this report. This expansion will form a test of change to inform a longer-term strategic approach to out of school support for ASN.
- 1.4 A consultation will take place with families, and this will inform a wider holistic collation of the totality of the offer in Inverclyde for families with young people with Additional Support Needs. The review will take into account offers from HSCP, the third sector, community services as well as education.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to approve the actions proposed in section 4.2 of this report.
- 2.2 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note that further reports will be brought back to the committee as required.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The budget process allocated £600K one off reserve to additional ASN provision. This was to provide additional provision for young people with Additional Support Needs, particularly out of school hours. Families have raised concerns in recent months about provision for care, respite and activities for young people out with school hours, specifically during the summer holiday period. Families have shared the need for more respite and support through the ASN holiday provision due to the significant challenges they face in supporting their children over the longer holiday periods.
- 3.2 A complaint was upheld about the allocation process for the Out of School Holiday Childcare provision held at Craigmarloch and as a result a consultation was undertaken and a paper taken to the March Education and Communities committee to revise the allocation process. Although the survey was only aimed at childcare, it became apparent that parents needed different things from services. Some wanting childcare to enable employment, some wanting respite and others simply wanting activities for their children to be able to access.
- 3.3 Over the past years the ASN holiday club offered in addition to the summer “Play4All” Out of school care, has been oversubscribed. This to date has resulted in every child being offered at least some guaranteed provision during the summer holiday period but this could be limited to only one day. The service is registered as a care service because of the complex needs of those attending and the duration of the offer, which is for the full day. There can be no direct correlation between the ASN summer club and the other playschemes because playschemes are not registered with the Care Commission, do not provide transport, are provided on a morning and afternoon session basis and are not considered to provide childcare. Playschemes have no booking system, whereas plans need to be in place for ASN provision requiring a booking system to be in place. Playschemes are aimed at primary school ages only whereas the ASN holiday club takes all children of school age.
- 3.4 Last year during the summer of 2024 following feedback from parents, “Stay and Play” sessions were introduced specifically for young people with ASN and their families. Feedback on this was positive on the whole and parents welcomed the opportunities it gave. However, some parents were unable to access this and felt it didn’t meet their needs. The booking system was particularly difficult because of a high nonattendance rate for those who had prebooked places.
- 3.5 The money allocated to ASN provision has allowed officers to explore expanding the holiday services. In addition to planning for the summer of 2025, a longer term, holistic view of ASN provision will also be taken forward. This will involve working with HSCP to offer a suite of packages to meet the needs of families. This work will take time to take forward, so this paper proposes a test of change to test additional provision over the summer of 2025.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The following table identifies the proposed actions being put in place for the summer of 2025 as a test of change. This of course depends on availability of suitably qualified staff and the registration of services. Officers have been working at pace on this and given the short timescales are currently working through processes to put different provisions in place. It has become clear that given the complexity of the undertaking, a resource is required to undertake a strategic review as well as linking with third sector providers and families. As yet some of the costs are unknown.

4.2	Proposed Action	Costs are approximate
	Appoint an officer to lead on the ASN support and holiday provision and to undertake a strategic review of the totality of service offered in Inverclyde. It is proposed that this takes place at Quality Improvement Manager Level but the cost would be for an Education Officer backfill to be put in place for up to 18 months.	£152K
	Commission listening events to hear the views of families with young people who have ASN	£6K
	Endeavour to provide additional holiday service through the third sector. This will depend on appropriate registrations being in place if needed and also their ability to recruit staff	£6K
	Following feedback, explore the possibilities to adapt the stay and play sessions to introduce a soft play activity and introduce a small booking fee which can be exchanged for a coffee	Not yet known
	Work with IL to allocate additional workers to some mainstream playschemes to provide support for those who may have previously struggled to attend. This will depend on recruitment of suitable staff.	Not yet known
	Carry out recruitment for suitably qualified staff. This allows the service to fully maximise the spaces it can offer through the existing ASN holiday provision.	Not yet known
	The changes to the priority of the allocation of places for the Play4All Out of School and Holiday care service (which is a paid for childcare service) will be implemented, thus allowing more families to access the service during the summer. Additional staffing hours for the service will be recruited to enhance the resilience of the offer during holidays.	£5K
	Improve the application process for ASN summer support by working with ICT to provide applications online.	£2K

It should be noted that the fair allocation of places for new provisions is difficult to undertake because this will be a pilot and as yet, the take up of different services will not be known. Officers, will of course, endeavour to be as fair as possible and evaluations of the allocation process will take place.

- 4.3 In the longer term, Education and HSCP services will work together to identify holistic offers for families to best suit their needs. This work will be informed by a collation of the current offer as well as the outcome of the listening events and will take into account provision throughout the year as well as the holiday period.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources	X	
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing	X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Education	ASN	2025/27	£600k	N/A	£600k earmarked reserve approved March 2025 budget process. Proposals in report to be contained in available reserve.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

5.4 Human Resources

The provision of any additional provision relies on the ability to attract suitably qualified staff.

5.5 Strategic

The aims of this report match the outcomes of the Council Plan.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report introduces a test of change rather than a new policy. An EQIA will be introduced once further information is known.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not being needed as this is a test of change.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – As above.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This paper has taken into account result of the consultation undertaken with parents and carers of those attending Play4All Out of School and holiday care.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 N/A