



Subject:	Community Summer Schemes
Date:	4 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac Mc Cann, Lead Officer Community Provision Lisa Wilson, Community Services Unit Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide Committee with information on delivery of community centre summer schemes and seek approval for open access registration and reinstatement of fees.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that registration is open access for Belfast residents. • Agree re-introduction of registration charge in the amount of £1 per hour of registration.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background
3.2	<u>Community Centre Summer Schemes</u> Community Centre summer schemes are delivered in each of Council's 27 directly managed community centres during July and August. Each scheme has an Assistant Community Development Officer who designs a programme to cater for children between five and 11 years of age, with either two hours or four hours per day available for the two-week schemes.
3.3	<u>Programming</u> Each Community Centre Summer Scheme programme included in-centre activities such as baking, arts and crafts, board games and sports as well as having facilitators coming to each facility and delivering a wide range of workshops such as sports, arts, and crafts, environmental, technological and environmental sessions. Each centre also delivered an out of centre programme which included trips to parks, play and activity centres, forests, and areas of nature as well as local tourist destinations.
3.4	<u>Staffing</u> Each centre's programme is delivered in line with appropriate supervision ratios and our staff teams are supported by recruitment of 45 temporary assistants. The number of staff at each site and the age of the participants determines the number of places available at registration.
3.5	<u>Registration</u> Registration takes place at the start of May and is administered at each location. Promotion is carried out locally to include posters in the community centres, local shops, schools and facilities, advisory information is sent to the local community and voluntary sector organisations and to parents of children who attend programmes within the community centres. Places are provided on a first come first served basis and the scheme is open to all children aged P1-P7 who reside in the Belfast City Council area. Each child is only permitted to attend at one location. Demand regularly exceeds supply at each location and following registration. A total of 841 children were registered, with 88 children placed on waiting lists. Registration detail shows that 145 children were from minority ethnic backgrounds and 137 children had additional needs.
3.6	<u>Open access</u> At two sites, complaints were received about registration criteria. In both cases the complainants believed that registration at those sites should be limited to people living in specific neighbourhoods. Officers responded to the complaints confirming that registration at each site is available for all Belfast residents. Local access criteria would limit registration to children living in neighbourhoods where there is local community centre.

3.7	<p><u>Registration fee</u></p> <p>Departmental estimates include an income target, there has been no income from community summer schemes since 2019. In 2021 when this service was re-instated post pandemic, it was agreed that the registration fee would not be levied as a mitigation to support return to normal. As demand for places has now returned to full capacity a fee should be reintroduced at £1 per hour, equivalent to £10 per week for a morning or afternoon scheme and £20 per week for a morning plus afternoon scheme. This will support achievement of income targets and ensure the budget is available to continue to offer provision at current levels.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The reintroduction of charges for community centre summer schemes will support the achievement of agreed income targets.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The community centre summer schemes are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, primarily children, and children from ethnic minority backgrounds and children with additional needs.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
4.1	<p>None</p>