

Extended Schools Agenda Scrutiny Review

Findings from Visits to After School Clubs

Yearsley Grove Primary School

Members recognised that:

- the After School Club is run by a voluntary management committee and is based on site, in the former caretakers bungalow. It is registered for 24 places, but take up is low - only 7-16 children currently use the provision (300 pupils on the school roll)
- parents are charged £5 per session (3:15pm to 6pm) and that is relatively cheap for childcare in York, compared to some other after school provision.
- the After School Club is looking for ways to develop, such as offering places to nearby Huntington Primary School and applying for grants towards the cost of the transport which is not currently being covered by the charge, from their local Ward Committee and Awards for All
- the Breakfast Club folded as there was a lack of numbers, even with constant advertising through newsletters and flyers
- in regard to out of school activities, most were free for children, but a number of expensive providers had to be paid for. For example, some parents have expressed concern about even a £1 cost for pupils. The headteacher was keen for any extended services funding through school to go for the benefit of all pupils not just a few

It was also reported to Members that:

- the quality of the resource is good, and the unit receives good support from council officers
- maintaining parent's confidence is an issue i.e. will the After School Club remain, the high cost for the area, and partnership working with the school e.g. need for reduced rent and working together
- although the After School Club has enjoyed a period of reduced rent from the school, there is concern that if the reduced rent and partnership working does not continue, the viability of the club may be in jeopardy
- as a consequence to the visit there is now a better working relationship between the school and After School Club

Wheldrake Primary School

Members recognised that:

- the After School club is run by a voluntary management committee, which maintains a good relationship with the school, especially on child protection issues. They have regular partnership meetings and there are other extra curricular clubs at the school
- the club is registered for 24 children, but as there is no space in the school they use the local village hall.
- The annual rent for the village hall is £2,300. Parents are charged £7.20 per session, which runs from 3:30pm to 6pm and includes a snack.

It was also reported to Members that:

- cost is not a major issue for parents
- there is concern that the Council is looking at developing a pre-school playgroup on the site in the future, as this may affect their numbers
- the management committee does not appear interested in developing a breakfast club provision from the After School Club

Fishergate Primary School

Members recognised that:

- the After School Club is run by a voluntary management committee
- they have their own building on the Fishergate Primary site and are able to offer a breakfast club, playgroup, lunch, after school club and limited holiday provision - this is a good model in relation to the variety of provision
- the club is registered for 40 children, and therefore is one of the larger provisions in the City. Attendance does fluctuate and it currently has a waiting list
- the club takes children from Fishergate Primary, St. George's Primary and the York Steiner School, and responds to needs in a number of communities, including Polish children.
- It has a good partnership from both headteachers.
- the rent is currently low at £752 half yearly, but it is being reviewed.
- charges for parents are £3.00 for the breakfast club and £6.00 for the after school club. There is a 50p discount for siblings and both costs include a snack

It was also reported to Members that cost was not a major issue for parents as they promoted benefit take up.

Westfield Primary School

Members first attended the after school club run by the school, and recognised that:

- The After School Club was run by ?
- No rent to pay and closely integrated with the school; good relationship with Headteacher
- Good access to school facilities i.e. sports
- All its intake were from the school
- Charges for parents are £4 for After School Club, 50p for Breakfast Club and £70 for Holiday Club (mon-fri 8am to 6pm)
- Registered for 40; average take-up between 34-38 for After School Club, and between 12-20 for Holiday Club
- Both Manager and deputy employed to work in school as well as teaching assistants creating an atmosphere of continuity for children
- Parents delighted with provision, some helping out on a voluntary basis

Members went on to visit the private provision and learnt that:

- 75% of the building was owned by the providers and 25% by the Local Authority
- Intake is generally from other schools in the area e.g. English Martyrs, Carr, Woodthorpe, Dringhouses

- Charges for parents are £9 for After School Club, £13 for breakfast club and after school club (including snack), and £22 a day for Holiday Club
- There is a nursery provision for younger siblings – registered for 32 with uptake of around 20
- There is a higher staff to child ratio than at school run club
- Registered for 45 3-8 yr olds and can also take a few over 8s when needed
- The Local Authority pathfinder is currently paying for a majority of the users

It was also reported to Members that the private providers have strong links with the school nursery and that there is a good relationship between both providers on the site.