



Glasgow City Council Breakfast Clubs in Primary Schools

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This briefing paper provides a summary of the Breakfast Club Service report that was presented to the Children and Families Policy and Development Committee of Glasgow City Council. The full report can be accessed [on Glasgow City Council Website](#).

2. Background to the consultation

- 2.1. Glasgow City Council introduced breakfast clubs in all primary schools across the city a number of years ago. The objective was to provide children with the best possible start to the day. In the 2010 budget, it was agreed that breakfast would be provided free to those children who were entitled to a free school meal.
- 2.2. The current financial position of public services means that services, such as the breakfast clubs require to be reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, target resources to most in need and achieve best value.
- 2.3. Children can come into the school from 8.00 am. They are able to have fruit, toast or cereal and a drink. There are at least 2 members of staff from Cordia.
- 2.4. Education Services currently operate 135 breakfast clubs across the city (shared campuses have 1 breakfast club) at a net annual cost of £2.0 million.
- 2.5. As at November 2014:
 - 10% of Primary school children attend a breakfast club
 - 45% (1646) of those attending are eligible for free school meals including a free breakfast
 - 55% (2046) of those attending pay for the breakfast club
 - 14% of primary school children eligible for free school meals attend a breakfast club
 - The highest percentage of pupils attending a breakfast club is 32% of all pupils in the school
 - The lowest percentage of pupils attending a breakfast club is 2%
 - The highest number attending a breakfast club is 112
 - The lowest number attending a breakfast club is 7
 - 69 primary schools have an uptake of less than 10% of the school roll.
 - 61 primary schools have an uptake of between 10% and 19.9% of the school roll.
 - 6 primary schools have an uptake of more than 20% of the school roll.
- 2.6. A detailed review was undertaken that focused on:
 - Clustering of breakfast clubs with schools adjacent to each other
 - Price increase

- Thresholds below which we would not provide a Breakfast Club

3. Options for consultation

3.1. Option 1 Discontinue breakfast provision

3.1.1. Possible consequences

- Vulnerable children do not receive breakfast
- Working parents need to find alternative arrangements to enable them to get to work on time
- Considerable savings to Education Services

3.2. Option 2 Clustering

3.2.1. This option would offer a breakfast club in one local school for the pupils in two or more primary schools. Children would attend breakfast club and then make their way to their own school. This option would be targeted at schools in close proximity of each other and with a safe walking route between them. Due to these factors the scope for introducing this option is limited.

3.2.2. Possible consequences

- A Breakfast Service would continue to be available for all Glasgow primary school pupils
- Some cluster arrangements will result in small savings
- This option could only apply to schools in close proximity and these schools may not always be those with low attendance.
- Schools with high attendance may still require the same ratio of Breakfast Assistants so no savings can be gained.
- Due to walking routes health and safety issues need to be addressed and costed
- Addressing health and safety issues is likely to incur additional costs which may offset any potential savings and in some cases may result in higher costs.
- Breakfast Assistants would require changes to their contracts
- Redeployment of Cordia staff would be required

3.2.3. This option will only provide small scale savings and is the option that is of highest risk to the Council due to health and safety considerations and is the most complex to implement.

3.3. Option 3 Cash Breakfast Charge

3.3.1. A range of price increases have been applied to cash breakfasts to identify potential savings for different levels of cost. A saving between £77,748 and £777,480 is possible depending on the increase in charge.

3.3.2. Possible consequences

- This option is relatively easy to implement
- GCC subsidy would be reduced
- Reduced charges can be applied to siblings reducing the overall impact on families with more than 1 child attending.
- Those accessing free meals would not be affected
- Redeployment/voluntary severance of Cordia staff would not be required

- The uptake may reduce further as some parents could not afford the new cost which would impact further on working parents

3.4. Option 4 Discontinue breakfast clubs that do not meet certain criteria e.g. number of children attending/cost to run the breakfast club

3.4.1. There are two key criteria that can be used to assess the viability for Breakfast Club efficiency

- Attendance rates
- Unit cost

3.4.2. Analysis of the attendance and income generated from cash breakfasts has been conducted and the SIMD category of the schools with the highest gross unit costs and lowest attendance rates identified.

3.4.3. The number of breakfast clubs whose viability may be questioned when different attendance rates are applied is as follows:

- Attendance 10 or under – 7 breakfast clubs
- Attendance 15 or under – 26 breakfast clubs
- Attendance 20 or under – 52 breakfast clubs

3.4.4. The number of breakfast clubs whose viability may be questioned when different levels of subsidy are applied is as follows:

- Cost per breakfast £3.50 and over – 11 breakfast clubs
- Cost per breakfast £3.00 and over – 20 breakfast clubs
- Cost per breakfast £2.50 and over- 37 breakfast clubs
- Cost per breakfast £2.00 and over – 64 breakfast clubs

3.4.5. Possible consequences

- This option can establish a clear measure of efficiency as a driver for service provision.
- GCC subsidy would be reduced
- Inclusion of income in the assessment of subsidy assists in continuity of provision for the vulnerable
- A standard service provided across all schools would change to a selective service
- Some pupils currently eligible for free breakfasts would no longer benefit
- Working parents using the service would need to find alternative provision
- Redeployment/voluntary severance of Cordia staff would be required

4. Conclusion

- All options offer the potential for improved efficiency.
- Options 2 and 3 offer the greatest scope for efficiency.
- Option 2, increased charges, offers the greatest scope for efficiency whilst maximizing service continuity potential for the vulnerable.
- It may be that a combination of options should be considered.