

To: Leadership Board

On: 19 June 2019

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Park Mains High School Fitness Suite

1. Summary

- 1.1. Since October 2018, Renfrewshire Leisure (RLL) have had shared use of the fitness suite at Park Mains High School. Part of the area is partitioned off for exclusive use by the school, and members of the public using RLL facilities use a separate entrance and have no access to the school (including the school's section of the fitness suite).
- 1.2. Following concern raised by some stakeholders it was agreed at the Leadership Board on 5 December 2018 that access arrangements to the fitness suite would be reviewed.
- 1.3. A review of the access to the provision has now been completed.
- 1.4. In partnership with Renfrewshire Leisure this review included focus groups of pupils, Park Mains High School staff and Renfrewshire Leisure staff. In addition, an open evening for parents and others provided an opportunity for all other stakeholders to express their views and concerns.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Leadership Board is asked to:
 - note the findings of the review of access arrangements to the fitness suite at Park Mains High School;
 - agree that the access and safeguarding arrangements are working as intended and that no further modifications are therefore required at this time; and
 - note that the agreed set of operating procedures will be issued to all staff and that both the school and Renfrewshire Leisure will continue to monitor arrangements as part of their normal duties.

3. Background

- 3.1. Prior to the move of the fitness suite to Park Mains High School, a full risk assessment was completed. Access arrangements were also established in order to ensure the safe running of the facility as part of the normal school day.
- 3.2. A review of the access arrangements to the community sports hub at Park Mains High School was agreed at the Leadership Board at its meeting on 5 December 2018. The review was in response to some concerns raised. These included parental concerns about public access to pupil areas, pupils using the public entrance, pupils passing public changing areas and the general safety of their children.
- 3.3. Renfrewshire Leisure members access the sports complex via a dedicated entrance. School pupils are not allowed to use this entrance at any time. All fitness suite users are required to be members of Renfrewshire Leisure and present their photo ID membership card upon arrival. Member access and egress during the school day (0850 – 1800) is managed by a team of RLL staff. Members enjoy sole use of dedicated changing rooms and only have access to a partitioned section of the fitness suite (approximately 33% of the total floor area). Members cannot access areas zoned for exclusive use by the school. This is managed by RLL and school staff, and doors are secured with a magnetic locking system. CCTV is also in place throughout the sports complex to provide further security and safety for all users. Windows and glazing that would permit public viewing of areas zoned for exclusive use by the school have been frosted.
- 3.4. Renfrewshire Leisure's Head of Leisure and Community Services meets with the Head Teacher and School Education Support Manager on a regular basis to review arrangements and to ensure that agreed protocols are in place. To date, there have been no incidents causing any concern about the arrangement.
- 3.5. The review included focus groups of pupils, staff and an open evening for parents.
- 3.6. The focus groups found that school pupils had no concerns about the fitness suite. They understood and followed the arrangements that had been put in place and now see it as part of the school. Pupils fully understood that they were not able to use the public entrance and have not witnessed any incidents of the public being in areas designated for school pupils. Some also commented that they now found it easier to access the gym outside of school hours. The pupils advised that everyone was aware of the procedures for using the fitness suite and knew who to speak to if they did have concerns.
- 3.7. An open evening for parents was attended by six parents and carers of Park Mains High School pupils. The parents who attended still had concerns about the current arrangements. While they accepted that the pupils consulted had not raised any concerns, they commented that the sample size of pupils in the focus groups was small and perhaps not representative of all pupils. The parents' main areas of continued concern focussed on ensuring doors are

magnetically locked at appropriate times, continued supervision and the use of an accessible toilet. Suggestions on how they believe arrangements could be further enhanced were put forward and these will be considered as part of the ongoing monitoring of the arrangements in place. However, the parents reflected that they were happy to see the safeguarding procedures that had been put in place.

- 3.8. The Park Mains High School PE staff commented that they have no issues or concerns and indeed feel the transition to the new arrangements have been smoother than they first thought it might be. They stated that there have been no incidents where members of the public have accessed the school areas at all. They also commented on a range of benefits including the use of better equipment being available for pupils. The Senior Management team in the school also report no issues and are very comfortable with the arrangements in place.
- 3.9. RLL staff highlighted some teething problems but also commented that these were resolved once new arrangements bedded in. Most staff consulted and those spoken to reflect an understanding of the concerns that were around ahead of the move but that since October 2018, there have been no incidents, or any major concerns expressed. However, not all Renfrewshire Leisure staff were fully confident in their knowledge of the operating procedures.
- 3.10. The feedback from the sample of pupils, PE Staff and Renfrewshire Leisure staff is that the safeguarding systems they have in place are working effectively. Although a relatively small sample of pupils were used in focus groups, their experiences echo that of the PE staff and the Renfrewshire Leisure staff that took part.
- 3.11. To ensure that parents can share this confidence, a formal Standard Operating Procedure will be developed and shared with all stakeholders, including parents. This will outline exactly how things work, where to go if you are concerned and who you should contact.
- 3.12. In light of the findings of the review, it is proposed that the existing arrangements at Park Mains High School be continued. There is no recommendation for a requirement for any further modifications at this time.
- 3.13. All staff will continue to review and monitor the arrangements in place and will communicate periodically to parents through the normal school communication channels.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial**
None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development**
None.

3. Community/Council Planning

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| Our Renfrewshire is safe | - Appropriate risk assessments have been undertaken. |
| Reshaping our place, our economy and our future | - The fitness suite provides inclusive access for communities in Erskine. |

4. Legal None.

5. Property/Assets None.

6. Information Technology None.

7. Equality and Human Rights The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because no changes are proposed.

8. Health and Safety None.

9. Procurement None.

10. Risk None.

11. Privacy Impact None.

12. Cosla Policy Position None.

List of Background Papers

None.

Children's Services
GMCK/LG
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