

To: Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board

On: 5 March 2015

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Children and Families Mobile Library Service Update

1. Summary

- 1.1. The sport, leisure and culture policy board, approved the change of use of one of the existing mobile libraries into a children's play, read, discover and learn bus at the meeting of 8 May 2014.
 - 1.2. This report outlines the progress made following the board decision.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the sport, leisure and culture policy board note the contents of this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1. The sport, leisure and culture policy board, approved the change of use of one of the existing mobile libraries into a children's play, read, discover and learn bus at the meeting of 8 May 2014.
- 3.2. The children and families mobile library service is aimed at children aged 0-12 years and their families. The bus will visit early years establishments and schools to promote reading and a love of books, as well as providing opportunities for storytelling and play sessions for children, parents and carers. Working with other services and the third sector, the bus will also visit communities across Renfrewshire, to enable parents to access information, advice and support.
- 3.3. The cost to redesign and establish the service will be met from the Scottish Government early years change fund: family centres and family support grant and from libraries' existing resources

- 3.4. Renfrewshire Council and its community planning partners are committed to improving outcomes for all children and young people by working with parents, communities and staff to give our children a better start in life, and the children and families mobile service will support this objective.
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4. Current developments

- 4.1. A temporary post of co-ordinator of the mobile service was appointed in October 2014, to establish and manage the new service, which will be based at Foxbar Library. The co-ordinator is presently contacting head teachers of schools and managers of pre-5 establishments to organise the programme of visits, and also promote the benefits of using the mobile service to educational establishments, as well as community groups. The co-ordinator is developing the model of service delivery and is working with a pilot school to plan an intensive visit schedule which can be replicated with other schools in the priority areas. Stock and resources are currently being ordered and processed and staff training is being carried out. The co-ordinator is making contact with other services that work with children and families including children's services and health to plan a programme of initiatives to share information and provide support on health, childcare, money advice and other services across Renfrewshire.
- 4.2. The bus is currently being redesigned to create a new family friendly space which will accommodate Bookbug sessions, play activities, reading and learning activities using ICT and books. The bus will be rebranded as "Read, discover, learn and play at the library", and will also feature the Families First in Renfrewshire logo. The interior and exterior of the bus will be bright and colourful featuring the library mascots, the 'Skoobs'. It is anticipated that this work will be completed before the end of March 2015.
- 4.3. Resources are being purchased including books, play and craft materials. The ICT offer will include an interactive screen and i-pad and tablet devices that can be used by children and their families. The devices will connect to online resources via Wi-Fi.
- 4.4. Two permanent posts of children and families mobile library workers have been appointed from the library service. A temporary playworker has been appointed to provide skills and expertise to deliver quality play sessions and support the day to day running of the bus. Staff are currently assisting with the ordering and processing of resources and are taking part in training sessions.
- 4.5. A project plan is being created following the Council's Project Management Framework which will outline service aims and priorities including key milestones and an evaluation in March 2016.
- 4.6. A marketing strategy is being developed with the Council's Communications team to raise awareness of the service including a launch event. Information about the remit of the service and how to access it will be made available to schools, pre-5 establishments, and partner organisations.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

None.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People	- Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people
Community Care, Health and Well-being	- Improved health, well-being and life chances for children and families
Empowering our Communities	- Local services will benefit children, young people and members of the community
Safer and Stronger	- The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents and children

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

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 for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Giving our Children the Best Start in Life: Renfrewshire's Strategy for the Early Years, Education Policy Board, 7 March 2013
- (b) Children's Play, Read, Discover and Learn bus, Sport, Leisure and Culture Policy Board, 8 May 2014

The foregoing background papers will be retained within ELS for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Andrew Givan, Children, Young People and Families Officer, 0141 618 5428, Andrew.givan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

JMcF/JL
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