

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee – 14 March 2016

REPORT ON: Active Schools - Transfer to Leisure and Culture Dundee

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Culture

REPORT NO: 77-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Committee's approval to the proposed transfer of the Active Schools Service to Leisure & Culture Dundee, subject to the agreement of the Leisure & Culture Dundee Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to approve:

- 2.1 the transfer of the Active Schools Service to Leisure & Culture Dundee on 1 April 2016;
- and
- 2.2 that officials finalise how best to provide for the current provision of administrative and clerical support the Active Schools Service receives from the Council as part of the transfer arrangements.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Active Schools Service has a budget allocation of £458,858 for 2016/17, pre pay award and National Insurance adjustment, which will be included in the services fee paid to Leisure & Culture Dundee. This is made up of contributions from sportscotland of £316,200 and Dundee City Council of £142,658.

Dundee City Council will continue to provide partnership funding in the manner stated in the partnership agreement with sportscotland. Furthermore the Council will be responsible for any redundancy costs should the Active Schools Programme cease to exist either at the end of the current partnership period (March 2019) or at any other point in the future.

4.0 BACKGROUND

Following decisions on the restructuring of the Council which were driven by maximising efficiencies and the congruity between different service functions, the Council Management Team looked at a number of areas of service to consider their future location with effect from April 2016. This included the Active Schools Service which is currently managed in the Children's and Family Service of the Council.

A partnership agreement is in place between Dundee City Council and sportscotland which identifies and delivers shared national and local priorities for sport, and secures an in principle commitment to investment and working together over the period April 2015 – March 2019. Active Schools is funded to promote sport and physical activity for school age pupils and to strengthen the pathway from school focused activity, strengthening in particular links between sports clubs and other out of school sports activities. The Active Schools Programme is funded on two thirds basis by sportscotland and a one third contribution from the City Council's budget.

The Active Schools Service also receives administrative and clerical support, including support for PVG checks, from the general central support service of the Council.

The level and range of support is still being determined and will be subject to further discussion with Leisure & Culture Dundee.

To maximise integration with sports clubs, sports hubs and programmes run by Leisure & Culture Dundee, the Council's Management Team came to the view that it would be logical to integrate these programmes under the one management structure. This follows on from an earlier decision in relation to the future management of out of school sports and leisure facilities, and while this will not achieve any direct savings, it should provide greater efficiency and integration, while in no way impacting negatively on the current programmes delivered by Active Schools in Dundee.

The main benefit derived from the proposal to transfer the Active Schools Service to Leisure & Culture Dundee is the creation of greater opportunities to grow and develop participation in physical activity and sports by young people through utilising Leisure & Culture Dundee's network of sporting and physical activity agencies, governing bodies and local and national groups as well as its 3,000,000 annual visitors. The profile of the service will be increased and its status enhanced by being part of an organisation specialising in the provision of leisure, cultural and sporting experiences for people in Dundee. It will be valued as part of a managed service which provides a lifelong pathway for engagement in physical activity and health and well-being pursuits.

The priorities for improvement for the Active Schools Service will be adopted by Leisure & Culture Dundee and are:

- To maximise the impact of Active Schools over the next three years, co-ordinators and managers will continue to strengthen connections, ensure opportunities are accessible to more children and young people and embed continuous improvement in their practice.
- Collaboration and partnership working is critical to the success of Active Schools. Co-ordinators work closely with partners, school staff and pupils to provide opportunities that reflect young people's interests and connect to physical education and local community opportunities.
- Beyond the school environment Active Schools co-ordinators work with a range of partners including local sports clubs, sports development officers, community sport hubs, colleges and universities to provide pathways to support young people to stay involved and progress in sport.
- Children and young people are at the heart of Active Schools and co-ordinators work closely with them to ensure a wide choice of activities and leadership opportunities are available to meet their needs and interests.
- It is vital for Active Schools co-ordinators to understand and meet the specific needs of children and young people who may experience barriers to participation, with a particular focus on age, disability, gender and socio-economic disadvantage.
- Embedding continuous improvement is essential to ensure progress and provide the best experience for children and young people. Co-ordinators use monitoring and evaluation information and the School Sport Awards to inform planning enhancing existing provision and identify areas for further development.
- Managers and co-ordinators communicate progress and success stories to raise the profile of Active Schools and the Network's significant contribution to the lives of children and young people in Scotland.

Employees will transfer on their existing terms and conditions to Leisure & Culture Dundee, i.e. pay, pension, annual leave entitlement, etc. will be preserved.

The TUPE regulations will apply and the staff transfer would be on the same basis as other former Dundee City council staff who transferred to Leisure & Culture Dundee. .

The permanent full time staff posts affected by the transfer are:

- Active Schools Manager
- 10 x Active Schools Coordinators

The Active Schools Service's staff have been consulted on the transfer and senior staff from Leisure & Culture Dundee have met with them to provide information on the organisation and to answer queries. No significant issues have been raised.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted. The Board of Leisure & Culture Dundee has also been advised and agreed in principle to this proposal. Trade Unions have been consulted separately.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Stewart Murdoch
Director, Leisure and Culture
2 March 2016