

HOLIDAY PROVISION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

IN THIS ISSUE

In this edition of the Holiday Provision Newsletter:

- Programme for Government commitments for school age childcare
- Monitoring and Evaluation update
- An update from the Design and Engagement team

PFG



On 6 September 2022, the First Minister set out the 2022-23 Programme for Government (PFG), in a statement to the Scottish Parliament. The Programme for Government prioritises actions to support households, businesses, and public services in response to the cost crisis.

In the Programme for Government 2022-23 we have committed to investing £20 million to design and test options for all-year-round-school-age childcare systems that meet the needs of children and families. This work will include co-design with parents, carers,

children and young people who will use these systems, and will be targeted at those families and communities who could benefit most.

We know the important role food plays in supporting children's health and wellbeing, and their impact on readiness to learn. That is why we are also continuing to support access to nutritious food as part of this offer.

School age childcare services play a vital role in enabling parents and carers to access work, addressing economic and social exclusion, offering respite, and improving outcomes for children.

We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to build a system of school age childcare to support children and families with childcare all year round – both term time and during the holidays. Families on the lowest incomes will pay nothing.

By the end of this year, we will publish a School Age Childcare Delivery Framework and the Strategic Childcare Plan which will set out the approach and principles that we will apply to designing and building a new system of school age childcare.

This year we are focusing on research and engagement with families, the sector and academic experts to build a

robust evidence base and inform how the new offer can best support children and families. We will also work to map what provision is already available in Scotland for one and two year olds, and identify what we can learn from what already works well.

M&E UPDATE

The HCAF team wants to thank Local Authorities for reaching the first milestone of the M&E exercise and submitting the quantitative templates, who are now being processed by Ipsos to inform the final evaluation of the Summer 2022 programme.

If you still haven't had the chance to submit the template, please by Friday 30th September by sending it to the holidayfoodandchildcare@gov.scot inbox.

We are also pleased to confirm that Ipsos are wrapping up interviews with children, young people and families, and starting to interview Local Authorities staff and Delivery partners this week.

The HCAF team urges staff in Local Authorities or Delivery Partners who are approached by Ipsos to grab the opportunity to share their views and experiences so we can learn from and build upon delivery of Summer 2022.

M&E WORKSHOP

Ipsos and the Holiday, Childcare and Food team are looking into holding a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop with all 32 Local Authorities in December 2022. The purpose of the

workshop is to provide LAs with the opportunity to reflect on the initial findings of the Summer 2022 Evaluation report and provide further feedback on the M&E approach for this year's holiday provision.

The workshop will take up to half of a working day. We are asking all LAs to please complete the survey, choosing one of the six options via Survey Monkey by following this link www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZWS6N5T

Please, let us know which option would better suit you by 7th October 2022, when the survey will close. Further information and details on the workshop will be sent out in October.

DESIGN & ENGAGEMENT

The Design and Engagement team are having a really busy and exciting few weeks.

The first phase of our People Panel work is about to come to a close – our partners Thrive have met with over 120 parents and carers and 40 providers in a number of locations, to speak about how school age childcare can support families to take up and stay in work. We're really looking forward to hearing more about the findings, and to planning how we use them in the next stage of co-design.

We're also delighted to have started work with A Place In Childhood to develop a draft Children's Charter for school age childcare. Over the next few weeks, we'll be helping them to identify a number of communities and schools to start their work in. They'll be working with children to map the places in their local

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community which they go to around about the school day and in the holidays, and to talk about what's important to them about those places. These maps will be the starting point for what will become a Children's Charter, and we hope to be able to share a draft of it early in 2023.

If you want to find out more or chat to us about our design and engagement work, please email outofschoolcare@gov.scot.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Within the Early Learning and Childcare directorate there have been a few publications that our teams think may be relevant to you.

The first is research into accessing school age childcare in rural and island areas. You can find the full report here - www.gov.scot/publications/accessing-school-age-childcare-rural-island-areas/

The Scottish Government launched and published a consultation on inspection of ELC and school age childcare services in Scotland on 11 July (www.gov.scot/publications/inspection-early-learning-childcare-school-age-childcare-services-scotland-consultation-paper/), following the recommendations of the independent review of the Curriculum for Excellence and the findings of the independent adviser on education reform.

The consultation seeks views and feedback on a proposed vision and principles for inspection of ELC and school aged childcare services in Scotland; the current approach to inspection, and a proposed shared quality

framework for inspection.

The consultation is open until 28 October can be accessed on the Scottish Government's consultation portal at <https://consult.gov.scot/early-learning-and-childcare-directorate/inspection-scrutiny-and-regulation-of-the-elc/>

UPDATES

Thanks to everyone who completed the engagement survey. We have considered your feedback and, having listened to your views, will now send out our newsletters monthly now rather than fortnightly. The next issue will be sent out late November.

SUSAN



Name: Susan Wallace

Job Title: Unit Head

Started in HCAF: June 2022

Previous role before joining HCAF: Clinical Priorities Unit Head

Favourite thing about working in this role: The People

Fun Fact: I've done a helicopter trip into the Grand Canyon!

Favourite Song: Never Forget, Take That

Favourite Meal: Anything Mexican!