



Scottish Out of School Care Network
supporting children's rights to play, care and learning.

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE IN-DEPTH FINANCIAL SURVEY RESULTS January 2021

INTRODUCTION

SOSCN conducted this online survey via freeonlinesurveys.com; it was launched on 16th December 2020 and closed on 22nd January 2021. It is important to note the survey was launched prior to the lockdown we are currently experiencing, and the majority of the responses were based upon the previous situation. The extended lockdown since 26th December 2021 and closure of services except for critical childcare will potentially mean all services (whether open or closed) are facing different, and possibly increased, financial and sustainability issues/pressures to those discussed in this survey.

RESPONSES

A total of 82 valid responses were received from 23 Scottish local authorities. Of the 82 responses, 52% were from the voluntary/charity sector, 41% from the private sector, 4% from the public sector and 2% were unknown.

QUESTION RESPONSES

NUMBER OF OSC SITES OPEN

How many sites did you operate pre-COVID? **154**
How many sites do you operate now? **140**

NUMBER OF FAMILIES REGISTERED WITH SERVICES

What was the total number of families registered with your organisation pre-COVID? **9469**
What is the total number of families registered with your organisation now? **6689**

FINANCIAL HELP FOR PARENTS TO PAY FOR CHILDCARE

Do you provide information about government support to parents to pay for childcare through Universal Credit, tax credits, childcare vouchers or Tax-free Childcare?

	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Yes	74	90
No	5	6
Don't know	3	4

Is this information highlighted on your marketing material/website etc when talking about childcare costs (i.e. prior to families using the service)?

	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Yes	47	57
No	27	33
Don't know	3	4
No answer	5	6



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FACTORS DRIVING REDUCED NUMBERS

Over the last 4 weeks period what level of occupancy has your service been operating at?*

*(NB Most answers were provided prior to current lockdown i.e. in Dec 2020.)

	No. of total responses	% of total responses
50% or less of registered capacity	45	55%
51-60% of registered capacity	12	15%
61-70%	14	17%
71-80%	2	2%
81-90%	7	9%
91-100%	2	2%

For those children currently not attending (but who would in normal circumstances) can you indicate which issues apply to your service. The issues below have been identified through the previous survey and engagement, but please add any others you have identified. If possible, could you assign a rough % to each absence e.g. fear factor 10%, working from home 50%, studying from home 10%, furloughed 20%, unemployed 10%.

	Average % per individual response	Range per individual response
Fear factor – parents are keeping children away from OSC (%)	9%	5% - 20%
Parents working from home (%)	47%	5%-100%
Parents studying from home (college/university students) (%)	10%	5%-30%
Parents on furlough (%)	16%	5%-40%
Parents made unemployed (%)	11%	5%-40%
Other - please specify (%)	26%	4%-99%

'Other' included: "reduced and capped number of registered places", "stopped picking up from other schools", "children now too old for the service", "using extended family", "using unregulated care", "shielding".

Have any of the families in the above groups indicated when/if they might return to the service? If possible, could you assign a rough % to each:*

*(NB Most answers were provided prior to current lockdown i.e. in Dec 2020.)

	Average % per individual response	Range per individual response
Won't return (%)	31%	5%-85%
Don't know (%)	65%	5%-100%
January 2021	11%	5%-20%
February 2021	68%	5%-100%
March 2021	31%	2%-100%
April 2021 and beyond	26%	5%-80%



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ACCESS TO BUSINESS SUPPORT

Please could you indicate if you have looked at and/or have accessed/are accessing any of the following business support schemes through government:

[\(https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-childcare-sector/pages/private-and-third-sector-providers-financial-support/\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-to-childcare-sector/pages/private-and-third-sector-providers-financial-support/)

Furlough Scheme	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Accessed earlier in the year	36	44%
Chosen not to access	2	2%
Currently Accessing	38	46%
Not eligible	2	2%
No answer	4	5%

Bounce Back Loan	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Accessed earlier in the year	17	21%
Chosen not to access	24	29%
Currently Accessing	3	4%
Not eligible	23	28%
No answer	15	18%

Coronavirus Interruption Scheme	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Accessed earlier in the year	5	6%
Chosen not to access	16	20%
Currently Accessing	2	2%
Not eligible	37	45%
No answer	22	27%

Deferred VAT Payments	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Accessed earlier in the year	0	0%
Chosen not to access	15	18%
Currently Accessing	1	1%
Not eligible	44	54%
No answer	26	32%

Non Domestic Rates	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Accessed earlier in the year	5	6%
Chosen not to access	10	12%
Currently Accessing	1	1%
Not eligible	46	56%
No answer	20	24%



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Currently are any staff furloughed either in full, or for part of their hours, through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme?

	No. of total responses	% of total responses
No	33	40%
Yes	49	60%

If you answered 'yes' to question 15, then over the last 4 weeks period on average what proportion of your total staff hours were you claiming support for through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme?

	No. of responses	% of responses
0-10% of total hours	9	17%
11-20%	7	13%
21 - 30%	2	4%
31 - 40%	6	12%
41 - 50%	3	6%
51 - 60%	7	13%
61 - 70%	2	4%
71 - 80%	3	6%
81 - 90%	3	6%
91 - 100%	9	17%

We would be grateful if you could provide any further information regards your organisation's eligibility for any of the above support mechanisms, as well as if you have accessed them, or reasons for choosing not to:

- We are based in a school and do not pay rates so not eligible for some schemes. We still have reserves so don't need a loan as yet.
- As a charity, our volunteer Trustees are not comfortable with loans and especially just now, with an uncertain future, do not anticipate having the extra surplus at any point to pay these back.
- Many funds do not apply if you are on furlough.
- After looking into all financial support we could only access the Furlough Scheme. A lot of the other supports were more designed for businesses that make profit and pay business rates etc. We are in a fortunate position that we do not have to pay rent (although this may change) and our main outgoings are staff wages. Due to the reduced numbers of children but having to have an additional staff member due to ratios, smaller groups, additional cleaning etc we are now running at a loss each month and as such are losing money. Within 6 months we could well be forced to close.
- The committee have been investigating the grants that we can apply for and during the first lockdown we had a healthy bank balance and were not eligible for some of them, which I cannot be 100% sure of what their names are. We will be looking at applying again if we can to help support our training, cleaning and staffing costs as we have not got the income coming in that we did have pre COVID. Our bank balance has been taking a hit though as



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throughout lockdown first time and now second lockdown we have not taken any fees from our parents/families at all only asked for donations and not many parents have paid anything. There has been a number of parents who have been paid off, furloughed and home working who feel that the service is too risky to put their child in for at the moment, we are monitoring on a daily basis our numbers as during the first lockdown the numbers dwindled before we were asked to close for the school hub.

- We operate two dedicated OSC settings within the same buildings and under same registration with care inspectorate as two nurseries. All under one ltd company making us very much unable to qualify for it seems any help. We have two full time working company directors who took no salary during first lockdown.
- We claimed form the JRS for 5 out of 6 staff during the last lockdown period, we will be claiming for all staff during the next pay period.
- As I operate from a church hall I do not pay rates.
- We received the Transitional Support Grant - This has acted as a stop gap but long term we are not eligible for anything else due to our income levels. What we can't do is provide individual club incomes for each service. Some of our services receive free lets in local authority schools. Some schools say that they don't have space which means these services pay large monthly rents to private organisations putting pressure on the sustainability.
- We have accessed all that we are able to. We rent from the local school which is not a rateable business so can't access that fund. The bounce back loan is fine but it has to be paid back and we are running at 50% capacity so that is a concern. We have chosen not to use this loan but we have it just-in-case.
- This current lockdown is the first time we have accessed the furlough scheme due to closure. I answered the capacity questions about the weeks prior to the Christmas holidays.
- We are not in a position as a not for profit of paying back debt, the trustees felt it was unethical to apply for money that we may never be able to repay.
- Because we have a service level agreement and get our rent paid for us by the local authority, it means we are not rate payers and not eligible for business interruption support.
- The sector needs more financial support during this lockdown as many are not going to survive this lockdown.
- We are based in a community building, who gratefully did not charge us rent, therefore the only main out going for the club which was salaries, which the job retention scheme helped.
- During COVID I was working from home or within a hub for critical childcare.
- Our OSC business would have had to close down if the furlough scheme had not been in place. Rates rebates were not available as we leased the facility form a local church so no financial assistance was available from this channel. We have chosen not to access CIBLS as we did not wish to borrow money when the future of the business was in doubt.
- We are based within a local authority school and a private company so we have not been able to access funds.
- We have enough in reserve- I feel we don't have to apply for any other funding.
- We were not eligible for business interruption schemes, we did however get a bounce back loan to try sustain business which we will pay pack.
- I have accessed what I am eligible for.
- We are directors and finding it difficult financially, as well as trying to support families during the isolation period. Well-being is at the highest level of our priority and financially it just doesn't add up numbers wise. We have used all savings in the business to support the families and keep the business afloat during this time of uncertainty.



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- Used the furlough scheme up to October. We brought back staff as numbers increased in Clubs. We don't pay rates for clubs or office pre COVID. We don't pay VAT. We received business support and 3 grants for resources for outdoors play. We did not apply for rent holidays or loans as don't know long term future of Club and therefore an ability to pay them back.
- As a self-employed business with no business rates we are not eligible. The business loan was applied for but we were not eligible for the COVID terms, we were only offered a normal rates loan so chose not to take it. Self-employed grant has been accessed and is the only thing keeping us going otherwise we would have had to close by now with substantial reduction in income. Unable to have staff on any less hours as they are still needed despite the drop in numbers of children with our bubbles and extra cleaning.
- If it wasn't for the furlough scheme- we would have closed for good by now.
- We have accessed the furlough scheme for staff retention so we have staff available to reopen when we can.
- As we are based in a primary school, we don't pay rates. Have applied for several government grants but was unsuccessful and they will not give feedback.
- Due to not owning our own building lots of grants not available.
- We did apply for the Transitional Fund and have heard nothing back.
- We have used the job retention scheme for staff who cannot work in our setting due to working in another setting as well. Staff are also working reduced hours at the moment.
- CJRS is the main support we have used because it doesn't have to be repaid. We took a small loan but we do not want to take further loans as we don't know when we would be in a position to repay them and we were not in debt prior to lock down so don't feel this would be a prudent way forward.
- Our staff were on furlough during the first lockdown but we have not needed to use it since. We have a bounce back loan in reserve we do not pay VAT or ND Rates and we did not need a BIL.
- We accessed furlough for 3 months, because of the structure of our service we have not accessed any type of loan.
- The service closed due to parents not sending their children over a 4 and half month period. During the month of November staff were furloughed to ensure that no redundancies would have to be made due to lack of children at the service and the service couldn't offer hours. This also happened in December to help the business function without losing money.
- Furlough payments have been a godsend, we do not pay rates etc as based in a school. We do not want to take on any loans, having the burden of paying back. We have not applied for the business interruption scheme, we understood this was not available until this month therefore will look into this.
- Furlough has been accessed as appropriate but is lessening as we get back to business
- We have been successful in the recent Sustainability Grant from Aberdeenshire Council.
- Accessed Bounce Back Loan in May didn't imagine that in 5 months' time (May 2021) my business would still be in the position of uncertainty facing the first repayment of the loan.
- I rent a hall from the local council I did not apply for a grant as I do not pay rates.
- I do not wish to take out a loan to support my business during COVID.
- Some staff are on zero hr contracts and have not had work since March.
- Had to lay off a staff member and reduce hours for other staff members. Will need to reduce staffing further if people continue to work from home and not use our service.



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- I accessed the Self-Employed scheme as service closed for 5 months, so no income whatsoever and I paid 20% furlough to 4 staff from my own savings. I also accessed the Local Authority scheme.

ACCESS TO GRANT SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY & CHARITABLE SECTOR SERVICES

We hope that all of you have been able to access the Transition Fund money delivery through your local authority. We would like to know if you have looked at/applied for/been awarded money any other grants. Please could you indicate if you have looked at and/or accessed any of the following.

Community & Third Sector Recovery Programme	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	8	10%
Applied but bid not successful	5	6%
Eligible but bid not apply	6	7%
Not eligible	30	37%
No answer	33	40%

Third Sector Resilience Fund	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	16	20%
Applied but bid not successful	6	7%
Eligible but bid not apply	4	5%
Not eligible	27	33%
No answer	29	35%

Supporting Communities Fund	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	3	4%
Applied but bid not successful	5	6%
Eligible but bid not apply	4	6%
Not eligible	31	38%
No answer	39	37%

Wellbeing Fund	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	2	2%
Applied but bid not successful	2	2%
Eligible but bid not apply	6	7%
Not eligible	33	40%
No answer	39	48%



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Connecting Scotland	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	0	0%
Applied but bid not successful	2	2%
Eligible but bid not apply	5	6%
Not eligible	33	40%
No answer	42	51%

Response, Recovery & Resilience Fund (Foundation Scotland)	No. of total responses	% of total responses
Applied and bid successful	1	1%
Applied but bid not successful	4	5%
Eligible but bid not apply	6	7%
Not eligible	28	34%
No answer	43	52%

RE-SHAPING BUSINESS

During this period have you tried to re-shape the business in any way? (E.g. promoting and offering play/activity sessions, running on reduced numbers and reduced staffing levels, closure of some parts of the service etc):

- Yes, we have been promoting our safe activity play for more spaces.
- We have reduced hours available for childcare and have merged the two services in holidays. Staffing levels have had to remain quite high due to working in cohorts safely, and for school drop-offs and pick-ups in rural locations.
- Running on reduced numbers and reducing staffing numbers. We were unable to open until September as the school wouldn't allow us access. Staff are all on flexible furlough including management which restricts the time available to plan any more reshaping etc.
- We are currently running on reduced numbers with reduced staff levels. We are repurposing different areas of the building to reduce costs.
- Yes, we have consolidated services and used furlough to reduce staffing/preserve jobs, with the hope that we can re-expand once things start to return to "normal".
- We are running with reduced numbers but increased staff to support social distancing
- Reduced staff and closures. Having to refund parents and dilute future payments to cancel out over-payments.
- Reduced numbers, reduced staffing (due to staff leaving). Just now we have closed the breakfast club as it is not manageable.
- We have reduced staff numbers, we have minimum children in as we are only open to key workers who have spaces in the school but as some key workers are working from home, they are not using our services and as we are not charging then we are losing money this way.
- Yes, running reduced numbers.
- We cannot reduce staff numbers to below current level, due to number of staff required for regulations. We have moved premises to the nearby primary school building, where we are not paying rent.
- Increased outdoor play. Weather permitting.



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- We have had to close three services, and work with reduced numbers in all our other settings. Staff are also on reduced hours and claiming furlough.
- No. It is not feasible for our service due to the location.
- At the moment we are open to keyworker children who are attending the school, some of these children would normally attend other out of school clubs in the area.
- We have reduced numbers but can't reduce staff as we have small services where mostly only 2 staff on duty.
- Reduced staff /reduced numbers.
- We have tried to offer flexible booking, transport etc but uptake is lower than pre-COVID times.
- We have tried promoting the out of school club on its Facebook page but had no interest.
- We have been fortunate and are managing financially at present, this is only because the club had a healthy reserve amount in the bank account prior to COVID. We have also currently only had one class self-isolating at our catchment school so far, as well as 1 staff member self-isolating for 1 period too.
- Reduced numbers and staffing as management above did not want to employ more staff, despite needed. Reshaped how setting was setup, how parents/carers accessed setting, how and what resources were used. Employing more use of technology for communication with parents/carers.
- Staff numbers have been reduced through redeployment and use of Furlough scheme when schools have been closed. Alternative use of premises is not possible as OSC is run out of a church and access is restricted. OSC Business is effectively running at a loss and being supported by core nursery business with losses being absorbed.
- Reduced resources i.e. removing equipment that is not easy to clean has meant we have to purchase more equipment that is as well as more cleaning/PPE than we would normally have. We have had more of an emphasis on outdoor play but the lighting in the playground is a massive impact (torches have been purchased) more equipment has been purchased.
- Running on reduced staff levels some days.
- Reduced numbers.
- Yes, we have been operating at reduced numbers and staffing.
- I had to recruit an extra worker to make sure appropriate cleaning would be done in accordance with COVID. Have changed comms provider to reduce costs.
- Reduced service which in turn halved our rent for a short period. Staff worked in Nursery and OSC which we can no longer do so staff are all on flexi furlough.
- We have been lucky to continue to run all 4 services the same and October playscheme for one of the weeks.
- Initially we reduced our staffing levels and as numbers are now beginning to recover we have recruited a new staff member. We are now in the process of looking at out-sourcing our Holiday Club provision.
- Offering more hours for children as and when required.
- Closed one morning setting and have all staff on flexible furlough.
- Not able to reduce staff hours any further despite reduction in numbers of children due to picking up from 2 different schools and supervising separate bubbles. Have tried to promote the service but have had no new enquiries.
- We have had to offer part time spaces which we stopped offering 10 years ago.
- Reducing staffing.



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- I have made staff redundant and will make more redundancies if our numbers don't pick up after April. I have promoted our service to the Head Teachers and one said she would use her PEF money to ensure children get play during the holidays.
- Had to give extra hrs to staff to cover each group of children.
- Running on reduced numbers, working from only one site.
- We are running on reduced numbers and availing of the furlough scheme but once this finishes a reduction in staff hours will be necessary and possibly laying off a member of staff.
- We have promoted our service
 - offered discounted bookings on sessions
 - reduced staffing hours but also have to increase some other hours to cover extra time required for cleaning
 - running on reduced numbers (not via choice but restrictions)
- We are looking at being a more flexible service for parents, booking and payments. Our numbers have reduced but staff have increased due to keeping children in bubbles and cleaning rotas.
- We are reducing staff numbers and are looking at structure of club in general.
- Running on reduced numbers and reduced staffing. Not accepting new referrals for spaces
- We are currently running with a much higher than usual staff to child ratio to allow the operation of bubbles.
- Have joined both services together to reduce staffing costs i.e. no overtime if someone is of sick or on annual leave.
- We have been running with reduced number and staff to allow the business to operate. We have also put adverts out in the community newsletter to offer childcare. we haven't had much of a response.
- We have managed to have sufficient numbers to keep the setting open, keep all staff.
- We have had to reduce numbers at sessions and utilise more space to comply with social distancing requirements. We got Back-to-Business on the 1st June 2020 and we were able to extend our offering of our Cafe Holiday Club from the 1st June 2020 - 12th August 2020 (4 days per week). We delivered this alongside our weekend Clubs and our Tuesday evening Youth Club. We have also extended our offering by adding an additional session on a Sunday morning for our older young people.
- We have successfully run with reduced numbers and subsequent reduced staffing levels.
- Our breakfast club has yet to reopen. We attempted to get temporary premises but haven't been successful.
- We have introduced a home drop off service for families working from home unfortunately it is not being fully utilised.
- Reduced staffing.
- Running at reduced numbers.
- Reduced staffing.
- I have not changed anything to do with staff hrs/rates of pay or reduced service hours. I have however looked at trying to reduce expenses in as much bought no new resources at this time.



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For how long do you think you will be able to survive if your current financial circumstances remain unchanged (and you have tried re-shaping your business operations)?*

*(NB Most answers were provided prior to current lockdown i.e. in Dec 2020.)

	No. of total responses	% of total responses
2 months	8	10%
3 months	10	12%
4 months	13	16%
5 months	10	12%
6+ months	31	38%
Don't know	10	12%

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL CLOSURE

If you were to close, have you undertaken an impact assessment on the effects this would have children and families who use your service?

	No. of total responses	% of total responses
No impact assessment	29	35%
Not yet but planning to do so	38	46%
Yes, have impact assessment	8	10%
No answer	7	9%

What specific financial issues are you facing which relate directly to the provision of OSC and the impact of COVID (please select all which apply):

	No of responses	% of total responses
A. In general, reduced income but increased costs	59	77%
B. Being based in higher tier local authority area means reduced income but higher costs	6	8%
C. Premises costs remain same as before	5	6%
D. Premises costs have increased	2	3%
E. Enhanced cleaning costs	14	18%
F. Additional staff costs due o extra cleaning	11	14%
G. Additional staffing costs to extra paperwork	8	10%
H. Additional costs due to extra preparation work	8	10%
I. I can't furlough staff as need all staff available to manage bubbles	17	22%
J. I can't furlough staff as need all staff available to cover staff absences	11	14%



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Is there anything else you would like to say or highlight about the current financial situation of your service(s), the reasons behind that and any measures that you are taking?

- Currently furlough is covering 50% of the wage bill / Income is at 1/3rd of pre-COVID level. / Ongoing costs e.g. premises, vehicles, finance etc remain the same / Increased cleaning costs. Adds up to an unsustainable shortfall each month.
- We were lucky that we had good reserves. We paid our staff 100% originally during furlough in the spring and summer but had to change this to 80% as our reserves reduced. Our main issue is parents working from home and having their places on hold. If they all wished their places back we wouldn't be able to fit them all in because of the grouping and the space requirements. Because of this we haven't asked for a retainer up until now but will have to consider this in the Spring.
- We are lucky to have substantial reserves, but these will only last until April, as demand is currently so low and fixed costs remain. It is also key workers, who cannot work from home, who are currently the main users of our services. We need funding if we are to still be there for when people start to return to work.
- We will continue to support the families in our care to the best of our ability. We have increased staffing to manage social distancing and increased cleaning.
- We have had to furlough all staff apart from 3 staff members who are working both shifts to cover the numbers that we have. We are working at a loss at the moment. Throughout the first lockdown we only had 1 member of staff working and the rest were furloughed, we paid the additional 20% for all staff on furlough, we had to spend a lot of money to be able to reopen, and cleaning materials costs increased, we had to work with more staff above our ratios due to the spacing out of children into their own bubbles. Extra training had to be covered before staff were able to return i.e. COVID19 training additional infection control training, and this will continue to be paid out with less income coming in.
- Totally deflated. Have tried everything to try and help country through this horrendous pandemic, constantly eroded from all sides. Desperately in need of help, running at consistent loss.
- We understand the families who have reduced incomes and have lost their employment and are proactively supporting these families to the extent of free sessions for things such as job interviews in the hope they regain employment. Our frustration is those choosing unregistered childminders or carers and those who still have an income working from home. Those working from home who have less outgoings such as no travel expenses are actually benefiting more money from this situation whilst their children are left unattended and without professional care and opportunity to play. Do employers realise the volume of staff who are now either neglecting their job to look after their child, or worse, neglecting their children's right to play by having them in the house unsupervised and alone in isolation?
- The service is being crushed financially. Increased costs with no rent relief, staff needed to manage bubbles but a reduction in usage leaves the service at a loss. If we could have a rent-free period to support the provision of the service that would be beneficial. Our service is the only one in the area, for us to close would impact the entire community and would have detrimental effects for the families who utilise the service or who may do so after returning to work. The OSC must remain a viable service to ensure a continuation of service for years to come.
- We are not for profit and are used by 11 catchment primary schools in the holidays and 1 term time. We have a great part in our community serving the elderly with books on legs and also helping with the fareshare scheme and we are taking in around £1000 and putting out over £2000 each month but the parents using us just now are doctors, nurses, childcare



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professionals, teachers and we need to continue to be a reliable constant resource so more people have the ability to return or seek work.

- OSC will be imperative to rebuilding the economy and needs supported and sustained now to enable that to happen.
- We have been successful with the Access to Childcare fund and so 2 services are being subsidised because of that and are deemed as 'safe' from closure at present However, one service not part of this project is at financial risk due to families being scared to use the service or working from home and not requiring the service. Numbers are very low and for now, the furlough scheme is keeping us a float but if this changes we will not survive the pandemic.
- There is also of extra paperwork that practitioners need to do from the impact of COVID.
- The guidance on mixing more than 1 school meant that we had to withdraw our service from 1 of the 2 schools we picked up from. This was down to lack of flexibility within the site we use, preventing us from being able to bubble effectively. Over and above the grant provided to cover additional costs incurred to cover COVID prevention measures, we feel there has been very little support regarding additional financial assistance to cover other fixed costs involved with running a service.
- We are pretty good financially, I do think if things don't improve by September we may have to look at cutting one of our staff.
- What we have to do changes depending on the statements issued by government. We are currently open for key workers children and vulnerable children but at a loss of £300. Hoping to access scot govt funding just announced as we are some days caring for 4 children !!
- Wasn't aware of some of the above funding/grant options. Perhaps due to not being eligible? We have been very fortunate to be in a healthy position with our finances to help take the impact this has had.
- The only reason we are still open is because of furlough payments. Our main cost is wages, we have cut bills as much as possible but due to contracts etc we still need to pay for the upkeep of the service - every month paying wages chips away at our meagre reserves, if not further help is given then we will be lucky to survive till Easter.
- Running of company but due to no profit will I am unable to pay myself to do so, I won't be able to continue for much longer so will need to sell or close the business.
- To ensure we can remain afloat parents who are not using the clubs due to working from home are contributing a monthly amount. Not sure how long we can expect this to continue.
- Just that we do indeed need continuing financial assistance or will have to close once this all ends. Furloughing staff is not the answer for our sector as staff are all needed despite the drop in numbers due to picking up from different schools and supervising all spaces which will still be the situation if and when the restrictions of bubbles are lifted. The precarious situation is very stressful especially worrying about having to cover redundancy payments if we have to close and concerns about having to make this decision as well as losing my own employment and letting down those families that do still need us.
- As staff are self-isolating constantly, we cannot furlough staff as we had planned. If the furlough scheme stopped, we would have to make 3 staff redundant immediately.
- I feel that we didn't get the grants as we had reserves. No-one said this, but they wouldn't tell me why, just a patronising e-mail. We have built the reserves over 20 years and I feel that we should not be prejudiced against due to us running sustainable services. The reserves allow for staff wage increases every year and keeping their hourly rate above the living wage. I have also taken a wage reduction of £5k. I know we are luckier than most but



Scottish Out of School Care Network
supporting children's rights to play, care and learning.

the reserves will only last until the summer. As I said to keep the services going we will have to make redundancies in May if the numbers of kids attending don't pick up. Hope this helps.

- Paying rent- we are in discussions with our community centre.
- We have always supported staff in training and paid for various courses. With reduced income this is a tough ask of the service. This will inevitably have an impact on the skills the staff will have to provide quality childcare.
- We are running at a loss most weeks due to the number of staff we need to cover the area, bubbles and cleaning. We have looked at reducing staff but it is not really viable for health and safety of children and staff. We have less families using the service due to furlough working from home or losing their jobs. some have commented that they would like to keep their children in OOSC but financially for them it is impossible.
- Lack of long-term support, the picture is still very unknown. Little support for managers in dealing with the unknown. Many clubs will close if the situation doesn't improve and quickly.
- We run 3 premises and with reduced numbers our rent is the same but our income has gone down by a third.
- Looking to close service which operates from the school.
- Nursery places get funded free hours this helps develop and engage children to further learning. Why can't afterschool cares not have funded places to support working families to ensure their children are off the street and are safe when they are at work?
- We are being charged our lets from the council for the building we have not used during the lockdown period which is over £10,000.
- I would also like to say that due to the increased administration and the increased number of staff we need on the floor, we have not had time to apply for all the funding we may have been able to. I would also like to say that applying for funding and all the monitoring and evaluations that go with this are often simply not attainable for an organisation surviving on part-time staffing and with all the other tasks that are now required in the current COVID climate.
- Although our service has been affected and we are struggling a bit we are actually coping ok with this situation and believe that we will come out of this due to the fact that our service is still very much in demand and we do still have a lengthy waiting list for the coming 2-3 years.
- Losing income means we are struggling financially. This affects resources we can offer the children, running at minimum staffing therefore more difficult for staff in the daily sessions.
- I am currently having to look at refinancing the business and my bank are viewing the situation as a business in distress.
- I would definitely have to close without the governments help, this is making me anxious for April 2021.
- Home working has negatively affected the out of school sector. There seems to be no end in sight to when people will return to office.
- We are operating financially with a bare minimum balance in bank. Wages are high and will make a negative impact on 1 April when minimum wage increases again.