

Summer of 2022 Funding– Quick Survey Results August 2022

1. Background

In 2021 the Scottish Government provided a 'Summer of Play' £20million fund enabling all children and families to access activity and food provision during the summer holidays. This funding was distributed to local authorities which were encouraged to engage with community-based services, as well as their own to deliver the activities. SOSCN undertook a survey of registered out of school care services (OSC) to see if, and how, they were able to access funding. 2021 survey results: <https://soscn.org/downloads/news/summer-of-play-quick-survey-results-june-2021.pdf>

In 2022 the Scottish Government announced a £10million holiday food, activities and childcare programme for “the targeted provision of a summer 2022 holiday programme offering coordinated access to activities, childcare and food for children age 5-14 from low income families.” Local authority guidance was produced to support the delivery of the programme outcomes. (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summer-holiday-food-activities-childcare-programme-guidance-local-authorities/>)

SOSCN has undertaken a survey to see if and how, registered OSC services have been able to access this year's summer funding, and if there are any differences between this year and last.

2. Methodology

The survey was open for 5 weeks from the start of June and could be completed online via [freeonlinesurveys.com](https://www.freeonlinesurveys.com), all membership services were additionally provided with hardcopies of the survey which could either be scanned and returned by email or returned via post. Any completed surveys, received by post or email were then inputted into the online system.

3. Overview

Due to the number of responses (68) from 22 local authority areas and the fact that 53% of these came from services based within 5 local authorities, the results are not a definitive representation of how registered OSC have been included in the summer programme across Scotland. However, they do provide an indication as to how the sector has been involved in the delivery programme.

A quarter of services said they had been directly contacted by the local authority to assist in the delivery of the holiday programme locally; and if they hadn't been contacted in the first instance, almost a third of services said that they instead contacted the local authority re the funding. Those services which contacted the council had varying levels of response: some heard nothing in return; some were told that funding was already allocated; some were told they were not eligible, and others were provided with application details.

Almost a quarter (24%) of services said that there was a grant application in place in their local authority, whilst the same amount (24%) said that there wasn't. Just under a half (49%)

did not know if there was a grant application process. There seemed to be some discrepancies in terms of levels of awareness within some local authorities- some services said there was a grant programme; others said there wasn't, and some didn't know.

In terms of eligibility, in at least one local authority, registered but private OSC services were not eligible, whereas voluntary sector services were. Other local authorities did not have an open application per se but did engage directly and have discussions with services about what could be put in place on a commissioned basis.

Of those services which applied for funding, 42% said they had been successful, 42% said they weren't successful, and 17% were still waiting to hear about their application (at the point of survey submission). Most services applied for grants between £846 and £10,000 although one service applied for £25,000.

Most of the grant applications were about making places available to children and families who would not normally be able to access the holiday services, and at the same time providing an enhanced experience for all children attending e.g. food provided, more trips etc.

We asked registered OSC services if unregistered activity services had an impact on their service during the summer: 18% said 'no', and 65% said 'yes and it happens every year'. 13% of services indicated that they now only operate for a limited period during the summer, and 3% said they have completely stopped delivering holiday services as a result of the competition from unregistered services. However, 67% of registered services said they would be willing to work in partnership with unregistered services in order to enhance children's experiences.

In comparison with last year, it seems as though more local authorities have directly contacted services this year- 25% (2022) compared with 13% (2021). Similar to last year, some private, but registered, services reported being excluded from the funding.

4. Results

4.1. Number and location of responses

Responses were received from 68 school age childcare services based in a total of 22 Scottish local authorities:

4.2. Has the council contacted you directly to support delivery of places and summer as part of their 'Summer Holiday' programme?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	17	25%
No	51	75%
No response	0	0

4.3. If you have not been contacted directly by the council have you contacted them?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	21	31%
No	38	56%
No response	9	13

4.4. If you contacted the council directly, what was the outcome?

- *An email sent to tell me how the funding would work.*
- *I haven't contacted them as past attempts amounted to nothing. The council are very slow (or not existent) when it comes to communications and especially when it comes to funding.*
- *I sent email to our local authority contact on behalf of some other groups in the area and a Zoom call was arranged for interested services who are operating during the summer holidays.*
- *I was informed that they (council) had already earmarked who they'd be working with during the summer and where they'd be operating from in our area.*
- *Last year I contacted our usual funding administrator within the council (Playscheme grant and Voluntary Sector Grant) for information on the grant as I could not find information anywhere from the local council. She had not heard about it and was not able to find information for me from colleagues. I later found a link to the Summer of Play application being advertised on the council's public information newsletter but the closing date had already passed. You have to know this newsletter exists and actively search for this it on the council's website. I did not apply this year as I was concerned that I would not be able to recruit enough staff. The fund is still not being directly advertised by the council to settings like ours. This summer, however, we are funding a free place ourselves to a family who have additional needs and no ability to pay.*
- *No funding as we do not meet the criteria for the holiday food programme. We have however received a small playscheme grant of £1845. We also received partial funding for our café holiday clubs.*
- *No reply or response.*
- *Told I wasn't eligible.*
- *Sadly, as I'm a sole trader/private business. I don't qualify for funding for this, which is a shame because although I am a sole trader, I am in an area where I chose to give back to the families by providing affordable childcare all year round- everything goes*

back into the business to ensure the children receive the very best care possible. I only chose to register as a sole trader because I wanted the business to be solely mine.

- *The council will be providing services themselves. no further support will be required from or provided for private or voluntary out of school care services.*
- *They felt that our service was not big enough to accommodate the number of childcare places they would be looking for. In the summer holidays we only offer 16 spaces in our holiday club working within the 1:8 ratio.*

4.5. Is there a grant application in your local authority to deliver places and services as part of the Summer 2022 Holiday programme?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	16	24%
No	16	24%
Don't know	33	49%
No response	3	4%

4.6. Is there an application process, are you eligible, and have you applied for funding? If yes, how much money have you applied for?

- *No direct funding to services has been offered. Our local authority is offering a 50% discount up to a max of £10 per child per session to eligible parents/carers to apply for a discount on the childcare places booked with individual service providers in the area. Eligibility is proof of benefits or low income.*
- *Have no knowledge of anything and don't know who to approach regarding this.*
- *I have been contacted directly to offer funded places to families from priority list.*
- *The council said in their e-mail "that this is a transition year from the historical programme to the new government programme. Third sector OOSC services are eligible to apply". I applied for approximately £25k as we were eligible.*
- *There is not a specific grant application to be completed, however the Local Authority had contacted me direct and asked how many spaces I could offer for eligible children. At the time I had already advertised my summer holiday weeks to families so had to offer minimal spaces. Instead of a funding application to offer the service, it was done through a contract based on a set number of spaces.*
- *Not eligible due to being private.*

Most services applied for grants between £846 and £10,000 although one service applied for £25,000.

4.7. What have you applied to do with the funding?

- *Café holiday club.*
- *Food and activities*
- *Health and wellbeing training, soft furnishings and playground equipment pack.*
- *Healthy packed lunches, snacks, trips, outings and resources.*
- *Hold free summer club for children of various ages.*
- *I applied for £25k to support 25 children to come to ASC 5 days per week and get fed breakfast, mid-morning snack, lunch and mid-afternoon snack for the 10 weeks of the holidays. Also to go on really good trips.*
- *Offer free spaces/activities to children with ASN/disabilities as not many activities over the summer time are suitable for these children and/or parents are required to stay with them.*
- *Offer full day and part day childcare provision for 2 weeks in the summer.*
- *Offer spaces with transport and food to 5 children a day, 3 days a week for the 4 weeks we are open.*
- *Provide funded places for identified children.*
- *Provide up to ten places on Monday and Friday offering play and food provision.*
- *Staff training, resources, outside places for some families.*
- *Summer holiday childcare/activities.*
- *Supported groups.*
- *To renovate the garden area.*

4.8. Has your application been successful? (Figure based upon 24 services which had applied for funding.)

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	10	42%
No	10	42%
Still waiting to hear	4	17%

4.9. Is there anything else you want to tell us about the funding?

- *All of the funding from the Scottish Government has gone to the council in our area. Our organisation shares office space with youth family and community learning services and the manager has even apologised that once again they will be running summer clubs. We have been informed by funders that as we are a service that charges we are not eligible for funding, in addition as we are registered we are not able to allow the children to come and go as they please.*
- *Complete lack of engagement with us as a regulated service. Have heard of unregulated services offering spaces to vulnerable children.*
- *I don't know yet why we didn't get the funding but I am very disappointed especially if unregulated childcare with untrained staff have been awarded funding. It would have been a good joined up piece of work with the 2 host schools if we had got the funding and we had already started preliminary discussions.*
- *In recent years we (a specialist service for children with disabilities and complex needs) have run a week at the end of the school holidays as it is the only time we could hire the necessary facility. This year the facility is not free as the holiday dates have changed. However, the council recently cut their summer holiday service at the specialist school, with 25 places provided instead of 125 places. For 20 years, the kids attended school for the first 2 weeks of the summer holiday as a summer camp which was fun; lets kids socialize; made the summer shorter, and helped the families. In previous years it has been 10 days and this year it is 6 days for 100 fewer children. This was sold as a budget cut but the council managed to find an underspend of £190k to fund a new running track at a high school. The council did not consult on the cuts and it is disability discrimination. We will run trips in the summer to take kids away for the day.*
- *Not advertised, no information received.*
- *Nothing else to say except it would have been nice to be included and not overlooked!*
- *Our holiday weeks are planned well in advance and by the time we were approached by the Local Authority and notified of the additional funding we already had filled most of our spaces to regular service users, of which only a few met the eligibility criteria. Our LA had decided on 3 specific weeks to run the provision 4th July, 18th July and 1st August. I notified them that our already established dates were 11th July and 1st August and they were happy and agreed to go ahead. Now (today) I have had an e-mail stating that because one of our weeks are outwith the specified dates by our LA that they will not fund 1 of the weeks but will fund the other, which is only going to confuse families as why they have to pay for 1 and not the other! Not only this but our most local provision that is being run is 15miles away and no bus is being provided so*

families will not travel, which is what happened last year, so children and families will yet again miss out on funded provision for their children.

- *Out of school care services have not been made aware of any funding from local authority. We tried to contact the council regarding supporting one family in extreme need and were told that the council would be contacting all eligible families with information on how to apply for places within their services.*
- *The council are delivering the same as they have delivered in years gone by and they are adamant that they are doing the right thing...I chair the "Our Childrens" focus group which is a group that collaborates with the 3rd sector, private sector and statutory bodies with the only focus on improving the lives of the children that are living locally; this group is set up and commissioned by the council's Children Services Department..., the allocation of the summer fund has gone to "Community learning and Development" which in its self doesn't make sense. The person I spoke to insisted they are following the guidance.*
- *The amount of funding could have been increased to offer more places over a longer period and with more activities but an agreement was made. The amount of funding available only really covers basic staffing costs, snacks and activities.*
- *The funding criteria was quite specific and some of it may have been hard to put in place in a short space of time.*
- *We have received a small playscheme grant (2 weeks spring; 6 weeks summer and October 1 week).*

4.10. Are unregistered activity services locally (provided by the council, leisure trust, private businesses etc) having an impact on your holiday services?

Response	Number	Percentage*
Yes, this happens every year	44	65%
Happening this year due to additional funding	12	18%
This is one of the main reasons we can only provide a limited service	9	13%
This is one of the main reasons we do not provide holiday care	2	3%
No	12	18%

*Totals add up to more than 100 as services were able to select more than one answer.

4.11. Do you think there could be potential for you to work in partnership with unregistered service to enhance your holiday offer to children, some of whom might not otherwise attend your service?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	32	67%
No	11	16%
Don't know	3	4%
No response	9	13

- *Absolutely! This could have benefits for everyone... the children, the parents and the services and has the potential to offer so many more experiences and opportunities for children.*
- *I would be happy to work with anyone (within the guidelines) to facilitate services within our area.*
- *No - because they are not accountable to anyone and therefore would need to comply with regulatory requirements which they won't do as it increases costs and is the reason they run as they do in an unregulated way - much cheaper for them and they don't have to answer to anyone. After this summer we are stopping a holiday programme as we have been seriously undercut by unregulated services.*
- *No, criteria with insurance and Care Inspectorate Registration would deem this impossible.*
- *Not without funding*
- *Only if they have suitable qualified staff to work alongside our staff.*
- *This would be a great and welcome idea, partnerships need to be made and maintained.*
- *We had offered to assist with one unregistered service but were told no; this service is now using the premises that we were registered to provide our service from and we are having to find new premises.*