

Committee(s) Education Board – For information Policy and Resources Committee – For decision	Dated: 5 March 2020 19 March 2020
Subject: Summer Enrichment Pilot 2019 Evaluation	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For information
Report Author: Jessica Walsh – Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer	

Summary

In January 2019, the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) approved £100,000 for a summer enrichment pilot to tackle summer learning loss and summer hunger and offer meaningful and enjoyable activities for pupils and young people in the London Borough of Islington during July and August 2019. The pilot was part of a wider programme of work relating to the City Corporation’s Social Mobility Strategy for 2018-28 – in particular the strategic outcome that ‘*Opportunity is accessed more evenly and equally across society*’, by removing barriers, overcoming gaps and improving access and participation, in order to improve attainment for our pupils experiencing disadvantage or poverty¹. This paper presents the evaluation of the pilot and recommends the City Corporation does not continue to fund summer enrichment activity of this sort in 2020 but continues to be an advocate for enrichment activities aimed at boosting social mobility. The City of London Family of Schools will continue to be invited to apply for funding to support relevant enrichment opportunities through the City Premium Grants fund. This evaluation will inform the work of other organisations, such as the Mayor’s Fund for London who provide vital advocacy and leadership support in London on summer hunger, and those who are considering offering activities aimed at children and young people.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- i. Note the report and its findings, namely that the City Corporation is best placed to advocate and fund enrichment activities aimed at boosting social mobility for young Londoners, but that schools and local organisations are best placed to design and deliver programmes related to the needs of young people.

¹ <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/responsible-city/Documents/social-mobility-strategy-2018-28.pdf>

Main Report

Background and Acknowledgements

1. The idea for the City Corporation to deliver a summer enrichment pilot aimed at tackling summer hunger and summer learning loss, whilst also supporting summer enrichment activities, was led on by Sir Mark Boleat, a former elected Member and Chairman of Policy and Resources for the City Corporation². The pilot was delivered in addition to a variety of enrichment activities including summer schools already offered by a number of the schools within the City Family of Schools, which are funded through the City Premium Grants the school receives.
2. During the school summer holidays, children from low-income families are thought to be at risk from hunger, boredom and social isolation and evidence suggests a gap in educational attainment between children from different socio-economic backgrounds during the holiday³. Therefore, the City Corporation chose to run the pilot in Islington, which is ranked in the most deprived 30 per cent of English local authorities in the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Index, with it also scoring 27.5 per cent in the IMD Index 2019 for the proportion of children living in income deprived households, ranking tenth in the country, and first across the London Boroughs⁴. The pilot intended to assess if the intervention trialled had any cumulative effect on summer hunger and educational attainment and was run in both a school-based (City of London Academy Highbury Grove (CoLAHG)) and non-school-based environment with a target to engage around 400 young people.
3. The design and delivery of the pilot was project managed and delivered by the City Corporation's Corporate Strategy Manager and Corporate Strategy Officer based in the Town Clerk's department, with expert input from the Strategic Education and Skills Director based in the Community and Children's Services department. The City Corporation extends gratitude to the following partners that were instrumental in designing the pilot:
 - a) **The Mayor's Fund for London Kitchen Social Programme Team** for providing advice and insights into the criteria that the projects, including their learning and evaluation, should meet.
 - b) **The Cripplegate Foundation** – for commissioning the two community-based project partners to deliver the pilot.
 - c) **The City of London Academy Highbury Grove** – for hosting the school-based pilot and commissioned the project partner to deliver the pilot based within the school, as well as providing their own staffing and resources to support the project's delivery.

²<http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s108130/Summer%20Enrichment%20Pilot%20PR%20and%20PRED%20Paper%20-%20Jan%2019%20FINAL.pdf>

³ https://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Mayors-Fund-for-London_Kitchen-Social_Evaluation-Report-1_Nov18.pdf

⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IOD2_019_Statistical_Release.pdf

- d) **Northumbria University** – the delivery partner for the learning and evaluation report.
- e) **All Change** (registered Charity No. 293972) – for delivering a community-based pilot in Islington.
- f) **Global Generation** (registered Charity No. 1106420) – delivered a community-based pilot in Islington.
- g) **Future Foundations** – led the delivery of the school-based pilot at CoLAHG.

Learning and Evaluation

4. Due to the number of partners involved, five separate pieces of evaluation and learnings were organised to analyse the effectiveness of the pilot. Three of the projects were delivered through Northumbria University and Mayor's Fund for London (available on request). A further two studies were organised internally by City Corporation staff, and the findings of these are covered in the full evaluation report attached as **Appendix One**.
5. The practical findings of the reports are presented as the following:
 - The three pilots broadly met their stated aims:
 - To provide experiential learning, physical activity, workshops and team building exercises that promoted critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.
 - To bridge the summer learning gap by developing new skills and confidence in participants, introducing participants to new experiences and opportunities, giving participants a chance to meet new people as well as helping to shape ideas about their own futures.
 - To bring young people, children and families together in the centre of the ward through the creation of a vibrant, shared, pop-up cooking, eating and making space - 'The Cally Table'.
 - To take young people out of their local area to experience something new.
 - To give a core group of young people the opportunity to develop a range of leadership skills, leading to the delivery through August of activities for the community.
 - Whilst a school-based environment was less appealing to participants, interestingly, mean attendance rates were higher at the school-based holiday than the community-based holiday club. However, it is not clear why this was the case. It is likely due to the fact that the school-based provision was only a weeklong and the community-based provision was often competing with other provision/activity being offered in the area. This highlights the issue of the crowded marketplace and many families had already arranged provision for their children affecting take up.
 - 122 young people engaged with the pilot - broken down as 56 participants at CoLAHG and 26 at B Creative and 40 at Global Generation Summer. The average age of participants at B Creative and Global Generation Summer was 17 years old.
 - More boys than girls registered to attend the school-based provision, with the reverse pattern observed in relation to community-based clubs.
 - Take up of the pilot was largely from children from better off families.

- The trips included in the projects were what engaged and interested children the most.
 - Hunger did not seem to be an issue for the children, and they did not particularly enjoy the healthy food provided.
 - The short lead in times from funding to delivery proved an issue to participation. For example, Global Generation recruited 35 people to the project, but only 17 participants who attended regularly. The providers felt had they had more time to promote the provision take up would have been better.
 - Offering provision at different times of the day, such as in the evenings, may benefit some children and young people more.
 - The involvement of teachers and sixth form mentors at the CoLAHG Summer School was helpful in supporting participants to build relationships and rapport with them.
 - Combining the learning and evaluation into one unified process, rather than having a programme of work that split into five areas would be more effective.
6. Evaluation of summer learning loss showed that fusion skills were retained and enhanced through the pilots, but there was no statistically significant evidence that the Year 6 participants who attended the pilot did better in terms of either academic attainment or behaviour and attendance during their first term of Year 7 than those that had not attended the programme.
7. Overall the delivery partners of the projects spoke positively about their experiences, as did the participants, but noted the potential reach and attendance of 122 was disappointing, effectively working out at £76 - £261 per child per day, though the cost per child per day would have been lower if attendance rates had been higher. The delivery partners also felt that the pilot would have been more impactful if it had focussed on either summer learning loss or summer hunger.

Proposals

8. Whilst the findings demonstrated some positive outcomes for participants in terms of their fusion skills, there is no compelling evidence that the pilots addressed summer learning loss or summer hunger. Furthermore, supporting 122 participants at a cost of circa £96,683.20 does not represent the best value for money. The City Corporation does have a City Premium Grants programme which is available to all of the City of London 'family of schools', including CoLAHG, and funding for summer activities aimed at pupils should be granted through this.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. This pilot supported the Social Mobility Strategy for 2018-28, which was adopted by the City Corporation in September 2019, and includes an outcome that states that 'Opportunity is accessed more evenly and equally across society', by removing barriers, overcoming gaps and improving access and participation in order to improve attainment for our pupils experiencing disadvantage or poverty⁵. It also links to outcome 3 in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan for 2018-23,

⁵ <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/responsible-city/Documents/social-mobility-strategy-2018-28.pdf>

which states that ‘People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential’⁶.

Conclusion

10. Members are invited to share the findings outlined in this pilot to inform summer enrichment work aimed at young people to address issues of summer hunger and summer learning loss. The evaluation of the pilot proposes the City Corporation is best placed to advocate for summer enrichment activity aimed at boosting social mobility for young Londoners, where are schools and local organisations are best placed to lead the design and delivery of programmes. It is hoped that this evaluation will inform the work of other organisations, such as the Mayor’s Fund for London who provide vital advocacy and leadership support in London on summer hunger, and those who are considering offering activities aimed at children and young people over the summer. The findings of Northumbria University commend the ‘positive support and strong strategic direction given to the proposal from the City Corporation’. The City Corporation continues to be supportive of innovative programmes to boost social mobility.

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Background paper

Summer Enrichment Pilot – Proposal – January 2019

<http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s108130/Summer%20Enrichment%20Pilot%20PR%20and%20PRED%20Paper%20-%20Jan%2019%20FINAL.pdf>

Appendices

1. Summer Enrichment Pilot September 2019 – Learning Report

⁶ <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/responsible-city/Documents/social-mobility-strategy-2018-28.pdf>