

Out of School Childcare INFORMATION for SCHOOLS

This information has been produced to provide interested parties within the Barnsley region some further information about setting up Out of School Clubs.

What will the Club be like?

For schools who are just setting up an out of school club, there needs to be consideration given to how the club will run...for example, in primary schools the children's needs will very much be centred around a caring environment with play and stimulating activities. In secondary schools, the emphasis may well be on learning opportunities and supervised leisure/recreation activities. It is important that the needs of the children are met; if the activities are not of interest to the children they will not choose to join the club. Clubs usually offer a wide range of activities that the children can choose to take part in, such as art and crafts, games, sports, role play and creative opportunities, and also provide quiet areas so that children can choose to do their homework or other quiet activities.



Why should schools bother....?

Out of school childcare clubs that are linked to schools are seen as bringing of benefit to: -

Schools

- Pupil numbers are currently decreasing both nationally and also within the Barnsley region. This trend is forecast to continue, leaving many schools facing the problem of empty classrooms. Having an Out of School Club within a school will help utilise this excess space in a manner that will further support the personal development of children.
- The provision of out of school care is regarded as an asset by many schools, and is often seen as an attraction to prospective parents and children.
- Clubs can help foster more positive relationships between the parents and the school.
- Having a club using the school helps reduce the length of time that a school stands empty, therefore reducing the possibility of vandalism.
- Breakfast is of particular importance and children who do not eat breakfast (1 in 3 in recent surveys) are often tired, drowsy, easily distracted and are unable to concentrate during lessons. Research shows that skipping breakfast can also affect memory. Studies in Breakfast clubs have shown that schools have benefited from this higher level of concentration etc.

Pupils

- There is a lower likelihood that children will go home to an empty house, or be at risk on the streets until working parents' return home.
- There is also less temptation to use 'unregistered' childcare or ad-hoc, inconsistent arrangements.
- There is often a greater access to resources that would not be accessible in a non-school environment, such as the library, ICT resources, playing fields, the gym etc, which can help support the individual needs of the children attending the club.
- Breakfast clubs in particular offer children and young people a valuable opportunity to have a good start to the day. Many working parents manage to organise their time to ensure their children have a good start to the day with a nutritional breakfast. However, there are also a good many working parents who find it very difficult to match the demands of their working environment with the needs of their children, and breakfast clubs provide such children with a very valuable healthy start to their day.

Parents

- There will be less stress on parents who are trying to balance work and family responsibilities, knowing that their children are taking part in safe activities in a safe environment.

The wider community

- Children who are cared for within a registered out of school provision are involved in many meaningful activities, often giving children valuable opportunities. This can have a beneficial effect on the local community, as setting up an out of school club often leads to a reduction in young people looking for things to do in their spare time and some areas have even noted a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Some comments from schools currently involved in an Out of School Club.

- "We acknowledge the problems of adult working difficulties, and 'latch key kids', and we have a very interesting dilemma about whether it is a school responsibility to support families and young people. Some of the issues and conflicts involve personal views about the level of school involvement in such matters. As a school involved with such a club, we do nothing other than provide the room. If the club does attract families to our school, I would say these are usually the parents who are trying to get back on track, and so I would say this is a positive aspect for parents, children and indeed the school."
- "Supporting this club in our school is a way of reducing the number of children that are at risk. The time spent within the safe confines of our club is time that some children would be in the local community, unsupervised and at risk."
- "One advantage that we feel we have as a school is that parents and children get to see more of what actually happens in school after the school day... they see the hard work of teachers, see them working late and doing preparation. The result of this seems to be that parents get more involved with school activities."
- "The social benefits to the children who attend the out of school club have become apparent during school time, children with a lower level of social skills have become far more confident within the school environment. Also, the holiday scheme gives children the opportunity to go on trips and visits, which is good for those children who may not usually have the opportunity to do so."
- "The children who attend the club within our school are cared for by qualified workers, whilst if they were at home they may not be involved in the same quality activities."

- “Although this was a secondary benefit to us, the school benefits financially from the club being based here... any extra children we attract because of the club actually enhance our budget. In addition to this, the club pay a rental amount for the room and facilities. Although this rent is a relatively low amount, it is money we didn't have before that we can put to good use to improve our school facilities.”

How are Out of Schools Clubs within Schools organised?

Clubs may be based:-

- ❖ In the school and run by a voluntary management committee, with a school representative on this committee
- ❖ In the school, managed by a voluntary/charitable organisation
- ❖ In the school, with the rent for the building being paid for, and run by a private provider
- ❖ In a community building, such as a community hall, where children are collected from one or more schools (with the same management options as above)
- ❖ Run and managed by the school itself with a Playwork Co-ordinator to organise it

Who will run the club?

The children can be cared for by completely different staff to those connected to the educational provision within the school. However if the school owns and runs the club, there could be input from various places within the school. The care and stimulation of the children within the club can be planned and provided by:-

- ▶ Playworkers (could also be school employees, i.e. CSA's, support staff, Lunch Time Supervisors etc)
- ▶ Childcare workers (both qualified and non qualified)
- ▶ Volunteers and helpers (from within the school or not)

Consideration needs to be given to the legal aspect of staffing out of school provision. Settings, which provide care for children, aged 8 and under need to be registered with the Early Years Directorate (which is the early years and childcare arm of Ofsted).

- ▶ Further details about the regulation of clubs can be found in the accompanying information.

How will the cost of setting up a club be met?

Many schools have real concerns that setting up a club will involve start up and running costs that they have no way of meeting. Schools can apply for funding from a variety of sources including local regeneration grants, local Partnership, and European funding. Barnsley Choices are currently able to provide support and guidance to schools in applying for Sure Start Out of School Funding and an Expression of Interest Form is available on the general choices number.

Start up grants can be used for:

- Equipment and resources
- Rent
- Small capital projects
- Staff costs
- Insurance

More information.....

- ✓ Details of further contacts can be found in '*Setting Up Out of School Childcare in Barnsley*'. This information includes details of the next steps for schools that are interested in being pro-active in Out of School childcare.
- ✓ In addition, 4Children (the national support organisation for out of school clubs) have produced a series of guides. The following maybe of particular interest to schools wishing to set up an out of school club:

School Notes:

- No 1 First Steps – an overview of childcare in schools
- No 2 Consultation and Feasibility
- No 3 Premises
- No 4 General Legal Issues
- No 5 Being Sustainable
- No 6 Governance
- No 7 Staffing
- No 8 Quality Play and Leisure Activities
- No 9 Inclusive Play and Childcare
- School Notes Additions

All of the above are available from:

<http://www.4children.org.uk/whatwedo/view/node/115>

4Children, City Reach, 5 Greenwich View Place, London, E14 9NN

Tel: 020 7512 2112 Fax: 020 75376012 Email: Info@4Children.org.uk