



**Co-operative Councils**  
Innovation Network

## EDUCATION

City of Edinburgh Council

# Closing the Attainment Gap through Out of School Care

Funding provided by the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network supported the City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Team to work co-operatively with Third Sector Organisation - Lothian Association of Youth Clubs and eight 'not for profit' out of school care providers across Edinburgh. We aim to contribute to closing the attainment gap associated with poverty in Scotland, by developing staff training, which will contribute to raising attainment levels in our most vulnerable children attending out of school care settings. Staff training needs were initially identified through an audit of out of school care providers and through discussion with managers of 'not for profit' out of school care provision. Practitioners attended training sessions which reinforced Curriculum for Excellence, Health and Wellbeing - Experiences and Outcomes

### **Training sessions aimed to:**

- Promote children's confidence, independent thinking and positive attitudes and dispositions
- Help develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which children need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.
- Engage children in extra-curricular physical activity
- Empower children to make healthy food choices and understand the benefits of physical exercise
- Upskill staff to deliver creative play experiences within their settings
- Link with the home by encouraging parents and carers to become Energy Club leaders
- Build co-operative partnerships between out of school clubs and primary schools
- Support staff to confidently deliver 'play in the dark' outdoor activities
- Build staff and children's confidence in assessing risk benefit in play activities

## **Impact – what difference has it made?**

- Training sessions have been delivered in November and December 2016.
- A total of 22 out of school care staff participated in Play in the Dark and Energy Club training sessions.
- Eight 'not for profit' clubs will continue to benefit from the new skills acquired by staff who attended training.
- Around 400 – 450 children will benefit from the new skills acquired by staff who attended training.
- Five clubs who took part in the training have higher levels of economically disadvantaged families attending their provision. This is reflected through percentages of children in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) categories 1-4 attending the participating organisations' provision.
- Clubs have been supplied with resources to scaffold the children's learning and support the sustainability of Energy Club activities within each setting.
- Twenty two staff have new skills and ideas for creative play, which can be shared with colleagues and children in their settings.
- Funding has facilitated to opportunity for ten organisations from the statutory and voluntary sectors and social enterprises to work together in a more co-operative manner.

## **Next steps**

- Ensure staff have the relevant Energy Club resources to embed new skills into their clubs.
- Monitor the impact of the interventions with children.
- Continue to upskill local, parent led groups and raise awareness of play activities that give children skills to lead their own play.

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### **For further information contact:**

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