



THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

REDUCING THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY: CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES

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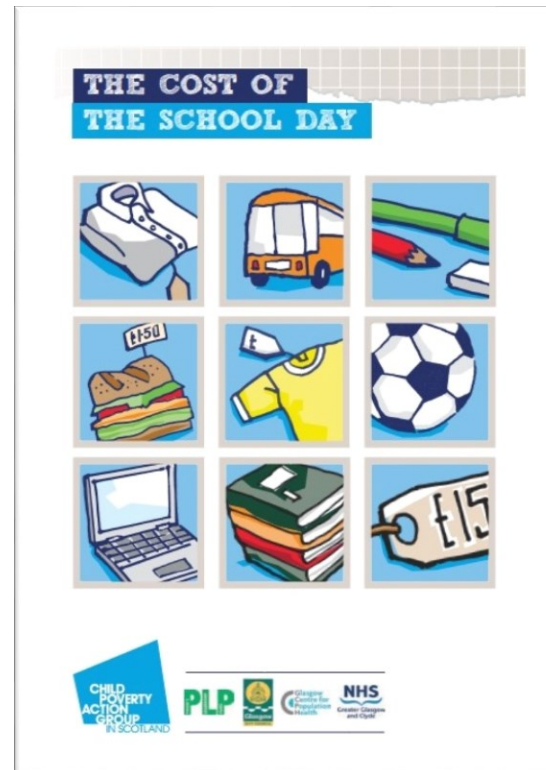
COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

BACKGROUND

2014 Glasgow Poverty Leadership Panel commissions action research into financial barriers to participation at school

2015 Report launched – over 300 children's views on cost barriers and solutions

2016-17 Action phase in Glasgow. Teacher training, resource development, education services guidance for schools – how do we embed these approaches?



2015 onwards Projects springing up across Scotland – Edinburgh, D&G, Midlothian, Stirling, Fife...

2016-17 Cost of the School Day recommended in Scottish Government Fairer Scotland Action Plan and as PEF Intervention for Equity

2017 Current project in Dundee and providing support to a range of local authorities and schools across Scotland.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR APPROACH

- Not targeted only towards children from low income households
- Why should these issues matter to everyone? Focus on fairness, equal access and taking action



- *'There isn't a lot of money at home and sometimes Ross' mum seems a bit stressed about paying bills and things like that...'*
 - ✓ Where might problems lie for him across the school day?
 - ✓ What would your school do to help now? Does it work?
 - ✓ What do you think should happen?
- **Has it happened?** Revisiting schools part of the model - accountability



REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS?

- Get to school without any difficulties
- Wear clothes that don't get them slagged off or into trouble from teachers
- Take part in school clubs and go on school trips
- Take part in special days, wear non-uniform and go to a disco
- Have the equipment they need to learn in the classroom
- Eat lunch without any difficulties
- Have what they need to do homework as well as they can
- Take the subjects they want at certificate level
- Feel safe and included
- Make friends and do the same things as them



Eating at school

"Some of the kids are coming in hungry, they've not had breakfast, or they'll tell you that they've not had dinner. You know then that there's not much money at home and parents can't afford food for them." (Staff)



Trips

"Even the wee trips they're maybe not getting to go on. Getting a 10 or 15 pounds out of them cannot be done." (Staff)



Homework

"Last year we got 3 [home craft] tasks in a row and my mum says we should get them at different points in the school because we need to buy lots of things and it cost a lot of money." (P6)



Learning at school

"I want to support my kids to give them a good education but I can't afford the money." (Parent)



Uniform

"We've had a lot of calls at the office saying he's not coming in because he's burst a pair of trousers and they don't have a spare." (Staff)



Travelling to school

"We have to pay for two people to get the bus, that's £10 a week each to get the school bus without a pass." (S4)

COST BARRIERS TO LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

Travel

"Sometimes we get phone calls - not every single week, but occasionally - to say that they've not been at school because they've no money for bus fare." (Staff)

"See, it's the bus. It stays for five minutes, and if you've missed it, you're screwed... [to stay for supported study] you either need to walk it home, or you need to pay extra for the bus." (S6)

Homework

"I don't have the Office stuff that you need to use, like spreadsheets and that, because I've no paid for it and you need to pay for it, it's extra, and I was like I don't have it, say if I don't finish this how will I do it and she [teacher] was like, 'I don't know, you'll find a way somehow.'" (S4)

"I've got to do that [go to the library] because we don't have a computer at home and I've had to hand in homework late or rush it and it hasn't been the best because I've only been able to get there at lunch or break and sometimes I've got to skip lunch to make sure I get the work done." (S5)

Learning

"Aye. I didnae want to pay 50 pence on Home Eccies. I didn't want to pay that because I couldn't be bothered because then that takes money off my lunch money, and I was like, nah." (S4)



COST BARRIERS TO LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

School trips

“My mum felt guilty that I couldn't go... Why do we have costly trips then? It puts people under pressure and it makes people embarrassed and disappointed if they can't go.” (P7)

“We have to pay for theatre tickets - seeing live performance is part of SQA courses.” (S5)

School clubs

“We used to get told we had to bring... old trainers to wear on the pitch. But everyone didn't have trainers.” (P7)

Fun events

“You see one or two [at charity coffee mornings], you know, if they don't have it... ‘Got fifty pence?’ ‘No, no, it's okay. I don't want cakes.’ And that breaks my heart. Because that's maybe their defence.” (Staff)

“We get kids that don't come in on the non-dress code days. Why? Because they don't have anything new... The kids would never admit that. They don't say, ‘It's because I've nothing new.’ It's just, ‘Oh, I wasn't well that day, Miss.’” (Staff)



POVERTY SHAME AND STIGMA

Friendships

“A lot of people, I think, that have maybe got a lower income, round about the school, seem to be isolated and they've no got a lot of friends.” (S4)

School trips

“I think my grandad put some in, and my mum put some in, and the school put the rest in. And they were alright about that but then I still felt like some of my teachers were looking down on me for that.” (S5)

Eating at school

“If your pals are going out at lunch you'll be a loner. It puts you out the group because they're going out and then you're sitting there on your own with a free meal.” (S3)

Uniform

“Shoes and bags, that's one of the biggest things. There's some people you get that are nasty and pure heavy cheeky.” (S4)

“Some people get paid monthly and cannae even get new shoes until next month, but they expect it the next day.” (S4)

Learning

“Children have the embarrassment of us saying 'do you have your money? You can't cook today'” (HE teacher)



TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT SCHOOL COSTS

- Real risk of resignation to unequal access to opportunities - I can't pay so I can't do it and that's how it is
- They don't always know what you're doing to help
 - "There's plenty of kids in the school in that situation and as far as I'm aware the school doesn't do anything." (S5)*
- What you're doing might not be working
- Often first time thinking and talking about poverty – huge potential for more exploration.

“Banning logos and branded clothes would just put kids into worse positions. **It’s better to educate kids on poverty.** I think if they were just to do more, like, financial awareness of the areas we’re in because [these are] some of the poorest areas in Dundee. And if you were to take that and teach kids more about that then **I think they’d take people having less money less as a joke and take it more seriously.** I think in the younger years they think ‘oh you don’t have that, you’re not good enough’ but that’s because of a **lack of knowledge.**”

S5 pupil, Dundee

“**Pupils need to be more open minded.** Maybe if we were taught lessons about people who have less money. Like, we're being taught about this right now so we're being taught to be more open minded. You need to be brought up in an environment where you're open to people who are different. **If you're brought up to be open to talking about these things then you'll be a better adult** and then our generation will be better.”

“Teachers and PSAs could teach the children more about it like what you're doing right now in other schools too. **I think we should be talking about things like this** in assemblies.”

P7 pupils, Glasgow

SOLUTIONS FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Giving benefit of the doubt – no assumptions about financial situations
- An affordable school year- spacing events
- Fundraising which doesn't ask families to contribute (e.g. bag-packing) and not asking children for money
- Lending resources without trouble
- Modifying expectations and tasks; support to access ICT
- Consistent expectations and practice between staff members on uniform, resources etc.
- Rewards and merits unaffected by issues related to finances at home
- Anti bullying alert to income based bullying or stigma
- Greater poverty awareness amongst children
- Making sure families get financial entitlements, e.g. clothing grants, free meals
- Understanding, listening and sensitive staff – discretion and empathy
- Ensuring costs as affordable as possible and supporting parents to afford it (e.g. flexible instalments for trips)
- Covering costs, subsidising and providing sibling discounts where possible
- Systems in place where children and young people don't feel embarrassed asking for help or subsidies.



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Parents as part of Cost of the School Day, ask your PC for financial plan of term when trips or money may be required to allow you to plan.

4:00 am - 12 Aug 2017

1 Retweet 6 Likes



1



6



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Congratulations to P7s @AvenueEndPS who raised an amazing £1,000 for their school trip packing bags #costoftheschoolday

LIKES
3



4:13 am - 30 Jan 2017



Joe-eastrenNPFS
@JoeEastRenNPFS

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Cost of the School Day / Poverty / Attainment / Wellbeing - they are all related. Cost of the School Day and the training is so important.



ParentForum Scotland @parentforumscot

1 in 4 children in Scotland are now living in poverty. We are pleased to promote this Cost of the School Day training by @CPAGScotland #pef

12:26 pm - 11 Apr 2017

1 Retweet



1

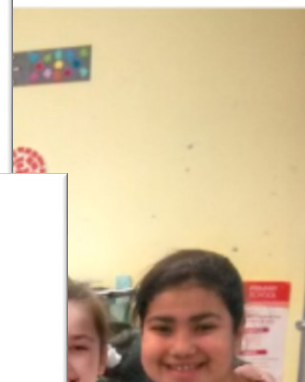


Head Teacher Mrs Stanfield's

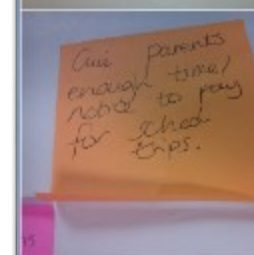
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g tools for learning is important- here's
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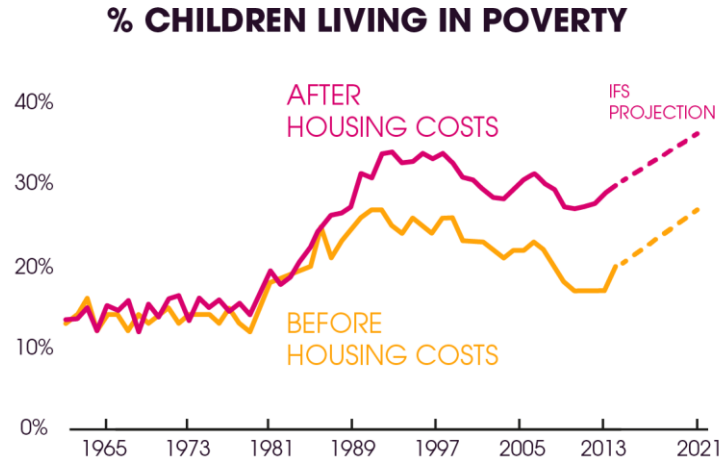
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KEY MESSAGES



- Child poverty, with all of its damaging consequences, is forecast to rise even further in the coming years
- Addressing the costs which limit children's opportunities at school is a fundamental part of tackling the poverty attainment gap. Children can't learn and achieve if they aren't there, aren't happy or can't participate
- Cost of the School Day solutions exist at all levels – school, local and national
- Key ingredients = listening to children and having the enthusiasm and commitment to invest and take action where needed.

SUPPORT, ADVICE, TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Get in touch with us at
costoftheschoolday@cpagscotland.org.uk

- Working with whole school communities to identify and tackle financial barriers to participation
- Training for teachers on child poverty, addressing school costs and promoting financial entitlements
- Workshops for Parent Councils
- Range of poverty proofing resources for schools

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