

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM: 22 November 2022

REPORT: MANAGING DIRECTOR, ESENTIAL COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Edsential has fulfilled its mission as a Community Interest Company during this difficult year. We have constantly adapted to schools' needs and safety requirements to be the sustainable, high quality partner that schools could rely on during these challenging times.

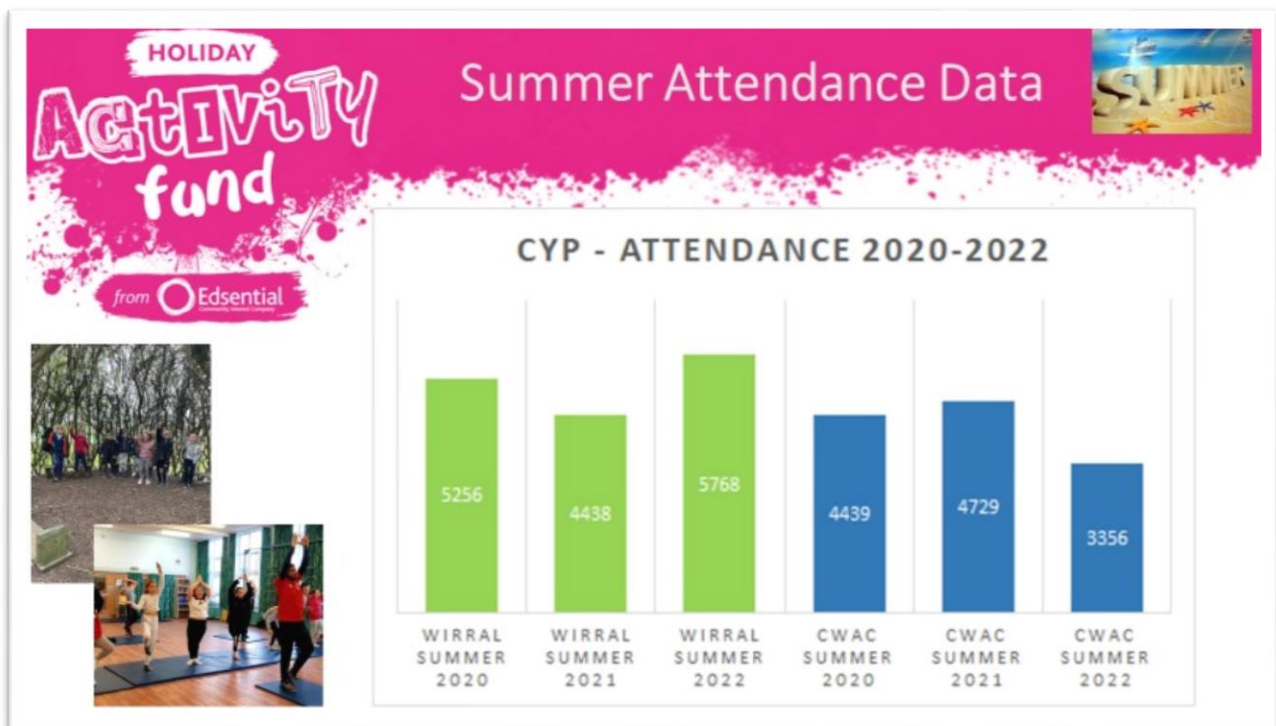
Please see our latest impact report: : (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrUh1-QceKM>)

2. BACKGROUND

Holiday Activity and Food programme coordination 2022

Edsential continued to coordinate the HAF programme for Wirral and CWAC.

Summer 2022:



The Winter HAF provision is currently recruiting settings for the Christmas period.

Service delivery

All services have continued to return to normal provision, post-covid, and highlights include:

Edsential Musical Routes worked with 243 schools to support or deliver music education programmes and activities across Wirral and Cheshire West & Chester. Our new

partnership with Futureyard in Birkenhead has provided opportunities for students to understand the career pathway into the music industry, whilst gaining relevant experience.



Our Culture team contributed to 3 [All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry Sessions](#) for Northern Culture. The aim of these sessions was to produce a bespoke 'State of the North' report on Northern Culture, providing a united voice on pan-Northern cultural asks and priorities in order to shape and influence future Government decision making and policy

Our catering service was invited to join the Foodservice working group of DEFRA's UK Sustainable Commodity Initiative. This recognizes our expertise in building a sustainable food supply chain with the aim of sharing this knowledge with the UK government for policy development.

Edsential Play Maker Award Programme. Over the last 12 months, we have helped to train over 140 young leaders within Primary schools from across the Wirral. 100% of PE subject Leaders said that activity levels of all children at break times had increased following the Play Maker training.

As with schools, safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility for our teams and this year:

- 639 Edsential staff have completed online safeguarding training
- 14 managers completed Safer Recruitment training through the NSPCC
- 20 managers completed Designated Safeguarding Lead Training

Inflation

We are experiencing significant pressure due to inflation in food, staff, energy and transport costs; pressures we appreciate our school customers are also experiencing. We have taken difficult decisions to keep our cost increases significantly below inflation (between 3-5%), but the opportunity to continue to do so will be reduced next year as most cost saving opportunities will have been exhausted. However, given we are a social enterprise that reinvests all income to improve our services, we will continue to keep any price increases as low as possible.

On behalf of our near 1000 staff I would like to thank everyone who supported us during this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is recommended to note the report.

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