



Name of Budget Saving	Review let charges for after school clubs
Department and service area	Education
Completion Date	01.02,2018.
Lead officer	Grace Vickers

**Aims and Objectives**

Generate income by re-introducing affordable Wrap Around Care and/or summer clubs provided by the Council and/or increasing charges levied for room lets to wrap around care providers.

This EqIA considers the impact of increasing charges. The expansion/introduction of Council-run wrap around care would be an additional service.

1. Does the proposed budget saving affect people?      Yes       No

2. What is/are the reason(s) for your proposed budget saving?

Wrap around care (WAC) comprises breakfast clubs and after school clubs. In most cases, where a breakfast club operates in a school where there is also an after school club, both clubs are operated by

one provider. In a small number of schools a breakfast club is provided by the Council/school.

Providing affordable breakfast clubs, especially where concessions are available to vulnerable children and those from more deprived backgrounds, provides a good breakfast for children, with proven benefits for their education. It also provides support to parents/carers pursuing training, studying or getting back into employment/in low-paid employment.

Wrap around care providers are currently receive a 95% discount from the fees and charges levied for the let of rooms. To qualify for this discount the provider must also be a charity, voluntary or not for profit organisation.

Organisations with the same charitable etc. status not providing wrap around care receive a 50% discount on the fees and charges.

It is proposed to reduce the level of discount to 50% to match similar organisations that do not provide non-wrap around care .

**3. Impact**

Which of the protected characteristics\* will the proposed budget saving have an impact upon?

Equality Target Group*	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Relevant evidence/ information
Age		<p>Some parents/carers may not be able to afford the increased fees if the discount is reduced and therefore their children will not be able to attend WAC.</p> <p>Providers may look to reduce costs in order to offset the increase in let fees and this could have an impact upon quality, however WAC services are registered with and inspected by the Care Inspectorate to ensure quality.</p> <p>A fall in the number of children taking up places would increase the proportion of the increase in rent levied on those remaining, although in many cases the provider could reduce the number of rooms used as a result.</p>	<p>Wrap around care is provided for primary age children.</p>
Disability			<p>No data is available on takeup rate of WAC by</p>

			children with additional support needs. It is not, however, anticipated that the proposal would disproportionately affect children or staff with a disability.
Gender Reassignment			N/a
Marriage & Civil Partnership			WAC may be used more by single parent/carer families. Discussed further below.
Pregnancy and maternity			No disproportionate impact identified.
Race			The changes will not disproportionately affect children or staff on the basis of race.
Religion or Belief			The changes will not disproportionately affect children or staff on the grounds of religion or belief, or none.
Sex		<p>An increase in cost may reduce the opportunities for single mothers to work, study and train therefore having an impact on the short, medium and long term financial circumstances of these families.</p> <p>For some children, an increase in fees will be partially offset by an increase in tax credits, Council Tax Reduction or</p>	WAC may be use more by single parent/carer families and as such may have a greater uptake by single mothers. The 2011 census found that 7.37% of all households with dependent children in Midlothian were lone parents, and 92% of these lone parents are female.

		Universal Credit.	
Sexual Orientation			N/a

4. How will the implementation of the proposed budget saving be communicated to those affected by any changes?

If implemented, the proposal will need to be discussed with WAC providers and parents.

Information published by Midlothian Council can be provided on request in many of the community languages and also in large print, Braille, audio tape or BSL. For more information, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Officer on 0131 271 3658 or [equalities@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@midlothian.gov.uk)

5. How will you monitor the impact of the changes proposed? When is the budget due to be reviewed?

The Childcare and Workforce Development Officer currently supports WAC providers, and has supported them through the ongoing phased introduction of the equalisation of fees and charges that commenced in 2014/15. If the proposal is taken forward, it is recommended that this support be continued.

Using income and expenditure figures from 2014/15 and fees from 2017/18, the let fees (including breakfast, after school and holiday clubs) account for typically 2.2 to 4.2% of providers' expenditure, with one provider significantly lower and one higher at 5.7%. It is likely that a comparison with income and expenditure for a later year would reduce the % but 14/15 was the most recent published figure. A reduction to a 50% discount would push the proportion up substantially to typically between 22 and 42% of expenditure, 57% in the highest case.

6. Please use the space below to detail any other matters arising from the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process.

All the WAC run in Midlothian schools (not including breakfast clubs run by Midlothian Council) are registered charities with, in general, low turnover and little operating margin therefore any increase in cost would be passed on to parents.

Each additional 5% charged would add approximately £35 per child per year for after school club fees. Almost all of the WAC providers run term-time breakfast clubs and holiday clubs and any increases would also apply to them, but the hours/days provided are more variable so fee increases more difficult to project, particularly for holiday clubs, but could be in the region of £4-14 per year for a breakfast club.

The change to a 50% discount rate would add between £200 to £300 per child per year for majority of after school club fees, averaging around £8 more per week.

While an increase in fees will be offset to an extent, for some parents/carers, by an increase in tax credits etc, the reduction in discount has a potentially greater impact on children from lone parent families, most often female, where the parent/carer is training, studying or in low-paid employment.