



## Information to Support Recommendation Form

**Discover!** A new programme delivered by Lifelong Learning and partners, aiming to help reduce food stress during school holidays and contribute to reducing the poverty related achievement and attainment gap

Low income means many families struggle to afford additional costs during school holidays, often resulting in food stress and increased debt pressure. The same families are also unlikely to be able to meet the cost of holiday activities for their children or themselves as a family. Ultimately this can contribute to the poverty-related attainment and achievement gap and can reduce the impact of interventions during term time.

**Discover!** is a new project, piloting a partnership approach to delivering holiday programmes with meals, for the increasing numbers of families affected by poverty. **Discover!** Hubs are being set up in localities across the city for 20 days during the summer holiday period. These Hubs are for primary school aged children. Parents/carers and siblings are also encouraged to attend family events, activities and trips wherever they can. The hubs will include fun and educational workshops from, and visits to, some of the city's cultural centres. These will include the National Museum, Modern Art Gallery and Historic Scotland, as well as science based workshops from Edinburgh University, music and film making programmes and involvement of library services. A breakfast and lunch will be provided daily.

Parents can also benefit from cookery skills courses, support and welfare advice and will be given opportunities to volunteer, ensuring they too can **Discover!** social experiences, new skills and be supported at what can be a financially and emotionally stressful time.

The hub for your school/locality is:

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| - Craigentiny Community Centre ( <b>North East</b> )        | Mon-Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> July to 27 <sup>th</sup> July |
| - Goodtrees Community Centre ( <b>South East</b> )          | Mon-Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug   |
| - Braidwood Community Centre ( <b>South East</b> )          | Mon-Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug   |
| - Royston Wardieburn Community Centre ( <b>North West</b> ) | Mon-Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug   |
| - West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre ( <b>North West</b> )    | Mon-Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug   |
| - Oxgangs Primary School ( <b>South West</b> )              | Mon-Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> July to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug   |

Please recommend families based on the following criteria (must fit at least 2):

- In receipt of FSM
- In receipt of benefits
- Receiving support from a family support organisation/social work
- Lone parent household
- A member of the family is disabled
- Refugees/asylum seeking families who have no recourse to funds
- A discretionary recommendation may be made based on other known factors enabling the family to benefit from attendance at a **Discover!** Hub. This could include:
  - a family experiencing in-work poverty and/or high debt
  - recent divorce/separation
  - family illness or bereavement
  - larger families
  - children of teen parent/s



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Recommendations can also be made for a child who is a member of a friendship group where not all members meet the **Discover!** criteria but the children who do would greatly benefit from attending with that group. Please state this on the form.

Due to expected high demand, places will be prioritised based on need. The Recommendation Form should be completed in liaison with the family. This will help us to assess whether additional support to attend (such as transport costs) will be required for the child(ren).

**Discover!** is not intended to displace or diminish any existing holiday provision already offered in the area, particularly by third sector partners. There is a section on the Recommendation Form asking whether the child currently attends, or has previously attended, holiday provision. There may be reasons why they would wish to change and the form allows for that information to be shared confidentially. **Discover!** is a targeted programme aiming to reach the children and families least likely to be able to afford, seek out and sign up for other activities. The partnership approach to **Discover!** should help ensure that the right families are able to access these opportunities.

We need to maximise participation in **Discover!** across the city. All the help you can give by recommending families will, therefore, be hugely appreciated.

As **Discover!** aims to help reduce the poverty-related attainment and achievement gap, evaluation and using data responsibly to inform planning and service improvement is essential. For this reason, we request the Pupil Candidate Number and will be asking for feedback from schools and other professionals as part of our evaluation. All data will be shared and retained in line with GDPR and there is a box on the Referral Form for you to tick saying parents/carers are aware.

**Discover!** is an exciting new commitment to helping support the city's most vulnerable children and families academically, physically and emotionally.

If you have any further questions related to **Discover!** please email:  
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