

REPORT FOR EDLC BOARD	
Report Title:	Services / Facilities Update
Contact officer:	Mark Grant
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the current position regarding facilities and services provision for EDLC Leisure and Culture.
- 1.2 In line with Scottish Government guidance EDLC closed its facilities on Friday the 20th of November 2020 when East Dunbartonshire was moved into level 4 restrictions. This position was reviewed by the Scottish Government and we were allowed to reopen some services on a limited basis from the 11th of December 2020. We took the decision not to reopen on the 11th of December 2-20 and this was informed by a number of factors. These included the demand for usage, the limited activities that we were able to accommodate due to restrictions and the financial implications of operating the centres during which are traditionally quieter times in the run up to the festive period.
- 1.3 The decision not to reopen until early January 2021 was again impacted when lockdown restrictions came into effect from Boxing Day and these are currently still in place. The scheduled review by the Scottish Government of the current Lockdown – Stay at Home restrictions took place on Tuesday 16 February 2021 and we were advised that the current lockdown rules would still apply until the 2nd of March 2021. The First Minister also advised that a new strategic framework detailing the route out of lockdown is being drafted and that this should be available next week.
- 1.4 It is worth noting that since the original lockdown in March 2020 EDLC facilities have only operated for ten weeks much of which was under Level 3 restrictions meaning severely limited access to facilities. Despite significant efforts by staff to make facilities safe for use upon reopening the ongoing restrictions have severely impacted on our operation to date and will continue to do so going forward.

2. SERVICE UPDATES

2.1 Leisure Centres and Pavilions

- All three Leisure Centres closed on the 20th of November 2020 but continue to deliver an on line offer of Instructor led online fitness classes including Yoga, Body Balance and Body weight Bootcamp.
- Kirkintilloch and Allander Leisure Centres have been operating as Mass Vaccination Centres since February 1st 2021 and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This has meant a number of staff being brought off furlough to operate the centres. Each facility can accommodate up to 1000 vaccinations per day and have played a major part in the vaccination programme.
- Nursery provision may be reintroduced in late February at the Leisuredrome for the private nurse who lease part of the facility for their operation.
- All pitches and Pavilions remain closed and will reopen subject to guidance.
- Planning is underway for the May Election Count which will be held at the Leisuredrome.

2.2 Libraries and Heritage

- Library Services continue to offer a range of online resources including eBook loans and audio loans.
- Quarter 3 of 2020 saw an increase of 101% in digital visits when compared with the same period the previous year. PressReader loans grew by 13,405 in Q3, with 80,816 issues being accessed during the quarter.
- A Heritage and Arts Instagram account was launched on the 20th of December 2020, since then the staff on flexi-furlough have been sharing objects and photographs from our collections. The account generated 178 followers in the first month and will play a role in contributing to our virtual museums/heritage performance indicators.
- Archive & Local Studies Officers responded to 298 enquiries during Q3, through the provision of a free 30 minute enquiry research service.
- Since January, Kirkintilloch Town Hall has been utilised for the COVID 19 vaccination programme operated by East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership.
- While COVID-19 continued to prevent library browsing during Quarter 3, there were **12,238** physical book and audiobook issues/renewals during Quarter 3 as part of our Connect and Collect service, with approximately one third of orders being made by telephone as opposed to the online forms. A total of 1,552 collection slots were available during Quarter 3 with 1,449 being taken.

2.3 Active Schools

The AS team have had restricted access to all schools within East Dunbartonshire since the end of March 2020. This has dramatically altered the work of the team, and the ability to provide activity. Despite the challenging times the team have continued to work throughout the pandemic, and currently providing the following key support for ED schools and local community.

Young Leader Training-this academic year all training has been provided online. The courses have been aimed at existing Young Leaders or targeted identified pupils. The courses have been chosen to help develop their skills further and prepare them for delivering sessions when lockdown is eased. The following courses have been run or are due to take place within the next month:

- 1 x Y-Dance Refresher Course- aimed at existing Dance Leaders, and delivered by YDance
- 2 x Autism Awareness course- delivered in partnership with EDC Social Work Department.
- 1 x Introduction to Coaching- delivered by Sports Scotland and aimed at S4 pupils.
- 1 x Badminton ASN Course- delivered by Scottish Disability Sport and Badminton Scotland
- AS Social Media Channels- On the 1st February 2021 the AS teams new Facebook and Twitter accounts were launched. The accounts aim to develop the teams' online content, and reach a wider audience within the schools and local community. The accounts are:
<https://twitter.com/EDActiveSchools>
<https://www.facebook.com/EDActiveSchools>
- **Online activity sessions-** The AS team have been working with EDLC Community Fitness to provide Active Schools funded online fitness sessions for a range of children and young people. The sessions mirror the successful FaceBook live sessions currently run by Community Fitness, with the following additional sessions added to the programme:
 Teen Fit- fitness sessions aimed at 14+.
 Family Fit- fitness sessions aimed at the whole family.
 Cosmic Kids- Yoga aimed at pre-school children.

2.4 Sports Development

- EDLC employees have supported the local school key worker hubs in delivering the snack and learn scheme from the start of lockdown with the support extended to cover the summer holiday and October holiday periods. Discussions are underway to continue this provision over Easter and Summer 2021 and will involve a number of Sports Development staff and coaches.
- Whilst all of our facilities remain closed our Sports Development activities continue to be on hold and will recommence when Scottish Government guidance allows.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Board:-

- a) Notes the details provided on the service updates
- b) The General Manager provides an update on the status of our reopening programme at the March 2021 Board Meeting.