



Integrating Childcare and Breakfast Provision

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Briefing One



Integrating Childcare and Breakfast Provision

Magic Breakfast Scotland Spring Policy
Briefing 2022

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Executive Summary

This policy briefing recommends an approach to integrating childcare and breakfast provision in a way which focuses on delivering for children and young people. This includes **providing breakfast provision in every school**. Where childcare and breakfast are both delivered at school, Magic Breakfast recommends **an approach which ensures both are delivered in a barrier and stigma free way**. Magic Breakfast **believes the two track model delivers for children and young people**.

Around **a quarter of Scottish children live in poverty** and Magic Breakfast research shows that **79% of schools that Magic Breakfast works with have seen a rise in hunger in the last year**. 94% of the schools Magic Breakfast works with believe that breakfast increases pupils' energy levels and 81% believe it improves their mental and emotional wellbeing.

With an understanding of the Scottish Government's commitment to wraparound childcare, this briefing lays out four options for managing childcare and breakfast provision simultaneously.

The first option looks at **adapting existing school-managed** childcare provision. This would make current paid-for childcare provision free and introduce universal breakfast as part of the before school offering. This option is not recommended, as eliminating the paid-for places will have negative financial consequences which put a hunger focused and stigma free breakfast provision at risk.

The second and third policy options examine **the provision of childcare through private providers in the school and in the community** respectively. Both options face similar issues surrounding intense communications burdens placed upon schools through linking private childcare with local authority managed breakfast provision to ensure vulnerable children and young people are supported. These issues, which are slightly different in the second and third policy options, create a situation whereby both would not be recommended.

It is Magic Breakfast's experience with the deficiencies of these policy options that led to the development of the two track model. **The model is flexible, is partly self-financing, and ensures all children and young people are provided with a healthy breakfast without stigma or barrier**.

Having examined options for managing breakfast and childcare alongside each other in an educational setting, it is clear to Magic Breakfast that **the two track model is the model which embeds best in the school day, meets the needs of the school and families** and is the model which the Scottish Government should adopt as its primary model of integrating childcare and breakfast provision.

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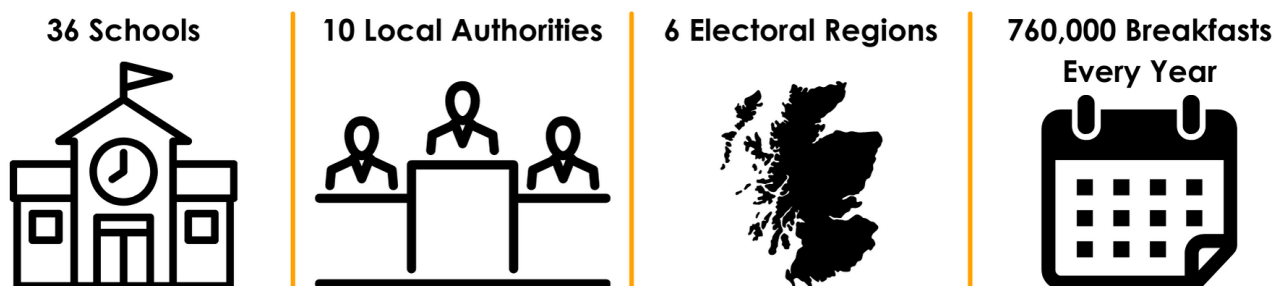
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Introduction

Since 2001, Magic Breakfast has been supporting children and young people at risk of hunger. Magic Breakfast is now established as a leader in our field, providing healthy breakfasts with the aim of ensuring that no child is too hungry to learn. We **directly support 1,066 schools** in areas of high disadvantage. On an average school day, Magic Breakfast **provides over 200,000 breakfasts to children and young people**.

In Scotland we have been operating since 2018. We currently support 36 schools across primary, secondary, and special educational needs settings. We operate across 10 of Scotland's 32 local authorities, 6 out of 8 electoral regions, and 23 out of 73 Holyrood constituencies.

Magic Breakfast in Scotland



Primary schools we support in Scotland have school rolls where either a minimum of 55% of pupils are in SIMD Deciles 1 to 4 or a minimum of 35% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. Secondary schools we support have school rolls where a minimum of 40% of pupils are in SIMD Deciles 1 to 4.

In England, Magic Breakfast operates nationwide, directly supporting over 1,000 schools. In 2018, Magic Breakfast partnered with Family Action to deliver the UK Department for Education's National School Breakfast Programme, using the Magic Breakfast school support approach and models. Between 2018-21 Magic Breakfast and Family Action supported up to 2,400 schools in areas of high disadvantage across England, **taking schools from a starting average of 7% of the school roll having breakfast to an average of 39%.**ⁱ

The Magic Breakfast model is more than just food. Our expert school partners support every one of our partner schools to ensure that those children and young people who are most at risk of hunger are identified, targeted, and supported.

We work to ensure that the provision our partner schools offer is always **hunger focused, stigma and barrier free, accessible, inviting and used by the children and young people who might otherwise miss out on essential morning learning.**

The Magic Breakfast model has been evidenced and evaluated by several of the UK's top research and education policy institutions. The Education Endowment Foundation and the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that **the Magic Breakfast model can increase student attainment in the English Year 2 (Primary 3 equivalent) by two months.**ⁱⁱ Pro Bono Economics, in partnership with Magic Breakfast and Kraft Heinz, found that providing Magic Breakfast provision for one year at Primary 3 can result in **long term economic benefits of around £9,200 per child.**ⁱⁱⁱ This could provide Scotland with **long-term economic benefits of around £200 million.**

Magic Breakfast is proud to partner with major multinational companies to deliver on our mission. We are also proud to be members of several well-respected third-sector groups such as Children in Scotland, the Scottish Food Coalition, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), the Poverty Alliance, and the End Child Poverty Coalition.

This policy briefing draws on Magic Breakfast's decades of experience. This is the first of two substantive briefings on how the work of Magic Breakfast can support the Scottish Government in delivery of the commitment in the Programme for Government to 'develop plans to deliver free breakfasts to all primary and special school children'.^{iv}

The rest of this briefing covers:

- The need for breakfast and the Magic Breakfast approach.
- Options for integrated childcare and breakfast provision that are not recommended.
- Magic Breakfast's recommended option for integrated childcare and breakfast provision.

The Need for Breakfast and the Magic Breakfast Approach

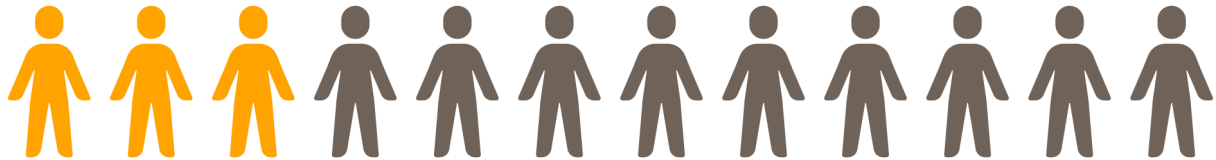
The Need for Breakfast

In Scotland today, **26% of children live in relative poverty**; in the best case future scenario, if the Scottish Government reaches their 2031 target, **one in 10 children will still be at risk of hunger.**^v

Magic Breakfast research shows that across schools we work with in Scotland, **88% believe hunger increased in their communities during the pandemic.** These schools

represent a cross section of disadvantaged communities. The same research found that schools see active benefits in delivering breakfast provision, including:

- 96% of schools believe breakfast provision supports readiness to learn.
- 81% of schools believe breakfast provision increases pupil's mental and emotional wellbeing.
- 94% of school believe breakfast provision increase pupil's energy levels.



1 in 4 Scottish children live in poverty

Our schools tell us every day about how existential the threat of hunger is to a child's education. As was shown in the introduction to this briefing, this belief is backed up by external research. On top of the EEF findings, research from the University of Leeds has drawn **links between lower breakfast consumption levels amongst low/middle socio-economic status pupils and lower grades in key subjects.**^{vi}

The number of children being provided with foodbank food parcels in Scotland in 2021 was 117% higher than in 2014.^{vii} 60% of families that rely on social security report that they are struggling to pay for food.^{viii} Food insecurity currently forces too many children and young people to go to school hungry. This in turn forces too many children and young people to fail to meet their own social and academic potential. Wherever possible, Magic Breakfast works to break the circle of poverty for these children and young people. It is clear that breakfast is one intervention that can make a massive difference.

The Magic Breakfast Approach

Magic Breakfast operates a **diverse but consistent approach** across our partner schools, recognising that every school is a unique learning environment. Our innovative approach **ensures that all children and young people at risk of hunger can access breakfast at, or before, the start of the school day**, without barrier or stigma.

We understand the unique circumstances that each school faces and believe that any national system to deliver free school breakfasts must take account of this, in line with the Scottish Government's policy of Getting It Right for Every Child. **It is not possible to create a 'one size fits all' model** that delivers on our key mission of breakfast provision being hunger focused and barrier free.

Hunger focused provision ensures that children and young people who are most at risk are able to access food. This means **diversifying provisions beyond just breakfast clubs** to ensure children and young people who may not traditionally engage don't go hungry. Barrier free means that all children and young people at our partner schools are able to access breakfast regardless of their circumstances. Barrier free provision ensures that children and young people can access breakfast **without fear of stigmatizing themselves** and parents can utilise breakfast provision without the fear of stigmatizing their family.

Having worked directly with primary, secondary, and special schools across a diverse range of communities, we understand that there are several key steps to take to **ensure breakfast provision is sustainable**. Our schools describe the fulfilment of these steps as being part of what makes a hunger focused and barrier free provision 'part of who we are' as a school.

Schools – and children and young people – need to be empowered to fully 'own' the provision they deliver. It may take time and effort for schools to be persuaded to address hunger in their community, and part of Magic Breakfast's work involves educating school staff and the public on the effects of morning childhood hunger and the benefits of breakfast. Once schools are willing to deliver hunger focused and barrier free breakfast provision, we ensure that **provision is codesigned with them and then led internally**. Effective breakfast provision does not work if the model is imposed on schools from a central authority.

To have maximum impact on the school and families, **breakfast provision should offer as many additional benefits as possible** – social, emotional, nurture, physical and educational benefits are all possible.

Simultaneously providing breakfast and childcare is one additional benefit. Many of the schools we work with describe how their breakfast provision affords them an opportunity to engage with their wider school community.

Schools need to be supported to measure and understand the impact and benefits of breakfast – for children and young people and staff. At Magic Breakfast our experienced team of **school partners support schools to consider, investigate, and understand the impact** and outcomes that their provision is achieving. The Education Endowment Foundation described **school partners as the 'lynchpin' to the school support system**.^{ix} Schools are both supported and held accountable – challenge is as important as support to ensure all children and young people can and do access breakfast.

Every school in Scotland is unique and it is imperative that there is an understanding of the school staff, facilities, stage, region, challenge, funding, and parental barriers in any provision. Understanding these factors allows any provision to meet the needs

of the school and deliver additional benefits. The policy that this briefing will propose is **flexible enough to be able to be a tailored tool and deliver for a multitude of school contexts.**¹

Whilst every school is unique, all have requirements surrounding childcare and breakfast. Many parents and guardians need **a low-cost before-school childcare facility**, either in school or through a nearby community-based provider. Provision and promotion of low-cost or free childcare acts as a social enabler for parents. This is true even where unemployment is high and childcare demand may be low. Parents and carers are able to consider further education or training to increase their employability.

We know the parents in our partner schools welcome our interventions and our peers in the third sector agree with this.

'At the moment, too many children find it hard to learn because they're going to school hungry. Providing breakfast along with childcare before school starts can mean a better start to the day for many of Scotland's children.'

Parenting Across Scotland

The provision itself can also create volunteering opportunities for parents in the school community. Our experience shows that volunteering at a breakfast club in their child's school can build the confidence and self-esteem of parents who may be long-term out of work, through unemployment or raising children, helping them to find their feet before going on to access training or paid work.

We hear regularly from school leaders on their lived experience of our provision and the importance they place on providing breakfast alongside childcare.

'We value having breakfast and childcare as a part of the school morning as it makes sure children are in early and fed in order to start school ready to learn.'

Headteacher, a long term Magic Breakfast partner school

Magic Breakfast is clear that it supports the Scottish Government in integrating breakfast provision and childcare where appropriate. With our decades of experience, we are clear that **breakfast and childcare cannot be integrated in every situation**. To ensure all children and young people at risk of hunger are reached by a hunger focused and barrier free breakfast provision, every school

¹ The second briefing in this series, *Delivering Breakfast*, explores the common barriers schools face to establishing a hunger focused and barrier free breakfast provision.

should deliver some form of provision. **It may not be appropriate for every school to deliver in school childcare provision** and this briefing focuses on how to deliver both in situations where it is appropriate.

Childcare and Breakfast Options: Not Recommended

		
Adapted Local Authority Provision	School Based Private Provision	Community Based Private Provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many schools offer a pre-existing paid for provision.• Removing this fee and adding breakfast would be an obvious way of creating free provision.• Creates substantial funding issues and can result in a less diverse offer reaching less children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Profit focus of most private providers leads to less ideal outcomes.• Ensuring free places create undue administrative burden on local authority• The school will need to compete for space with a private provider to ensure they still offer a hunger focused breakfast provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Profit focus of most private providers leads to less ideal outcomes.• If children fed in the community they risk double feeding through necessary school provision.• Liaising with community provider of facilities creates undue administrative burden on school

Adapting Existing Local Authority Managed Childcare Provision

Many primary schools have a pre-existing paid-for childcare provision, which includes breakfast, when they first engage with Magic Breakfast. The clubs are usually managed and staffed by the local authority and typically provide a paid-for childcare service for working parents. Some of these school may offer a small number of free places in their provision for the most vulnerable children and young people. Different local authorities have different criteria for selecting children and young people to receive free places. The risk of these provisions is that they may give an appearance of need being met, when it is only usually addressing a fraction of the need in a school, with children and young people often facing barriers and/or stigma.

To adapt paid-for local authority managed provision into a barrier free and hunger focused provision it may seem obvious to insist that children and young people can attend breakfast for free at the same time. However, this approach isn't always necessary, and in the experience of Magic Breakfast it can be counterproductive.

By eliminating the paid-for provision, schools often struggle to fund the staffing costs needed to run any provision. The staff funded by a paid-for childcare provision can be used to provide extra hours of childcare and also enable an expanded hunger focused provision.

Insisting on a 'free for all' before school offer can result in schools reducing the time childcare is available. For example, a school may decide to move to a grab and go breakfast from 0830-0845 to counteract their loss of income from the childcare provision. This can cause parents and guardians on low incomes needing low-cost childcare earlier in the morning to lose out.

Overall, Magic Breakfast's experience points to agreement with the aims of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government.

'We will also build a system of wraparound childcare... Those on the lowest incomes will pay nothing, and others will make fair and affordable contributions.'

A Fairer, Green Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22

Magic Breakfast's Recommendation

Adapting existing 'before school' childcare clubs to a free for all model fails to support those who need early start childcare. It is also unlikely to result in a hunger focused provision which identifies, targets, and supports children and young people most at risk of hunger. Therefore, **this is not a model that Magic Breakfast would recommend.**

Privately Managed Childcare Within School Facilities

Some schools will have a contractual agreement with a private childcare provider. This provider will have professionally managed paid-for childcare provision on school grounds.

One of the main issues with private provision is the lack of built in support for vulnerable children and young people. Some schools may want to introduce private childcare alongside a separate, local authority managed free breakfast provision. In these situations, it is paramount that schools seek guarantees from private providers to provide the necessary number of free childcare places. If the

private provider agrees to offering free places, schools need to consider how such places are offered without stigma.

There are three main issues with this model of provision. Firstly, private providers have a focus on profit, and this often does not lead to the best outcomes for children and young people. Secondly, ensuring enough free places are available places a significant burden on the relevant public authority – to identify and target those most in need of a free place. This burden wouldn't exist, to the same extent, if provision was delivered in the public sector, or through a public sector contract with a private organisation. Finally, once the childcare issue is solved, the school will still need to consider how to offer and run a hunger focused free breakfast provision.

Magic Breakfast's Recommendation

Magic Breakfast believe that the Scottish Government's aim of providing wraparound childcare and free breakfast provision is more likely to succeed if both elements are owned and led by the school as the main institution. Therefore, **Magic Breakfast would not recommend this model.**

Privately Managed Childcare Within the Community

In many communities privately managed 'before school' childcare provisions will be available privately in community settings. Such provision is usually for profit and will provide essential childcare for families.

For private community based childcare settings and hunger focused school breakfast to co-exist successfully schools would need to invest significantly in relationships with what could be a multitude of private community-based providers.

A childcare provider may decide in conjunction with their local school that they will not include breakfast in their provision. Instead, they will take children and young people to the school at an agreed time in order for the school to provide breakfast alongside pupils arriving directly at school.

Alternatively, the community childcare provider may offer breakfast to children and young people at their venue before they attend school. If community providers offer this option, it would still be important for schools to offer breakfast to those pupils arriving directly at school. Schools cannot divest themselves of the responsibility to provide breakfast just because some pupils are provided for in the community. This makes it imperative that community providers and schools maintain open communications to avoid 'double feeding' leading to a heightened obesity risk.

The risks associated with off-site childcare include children and young people not getting to school on time. One incentive for schools to offer breakfasts is to boost

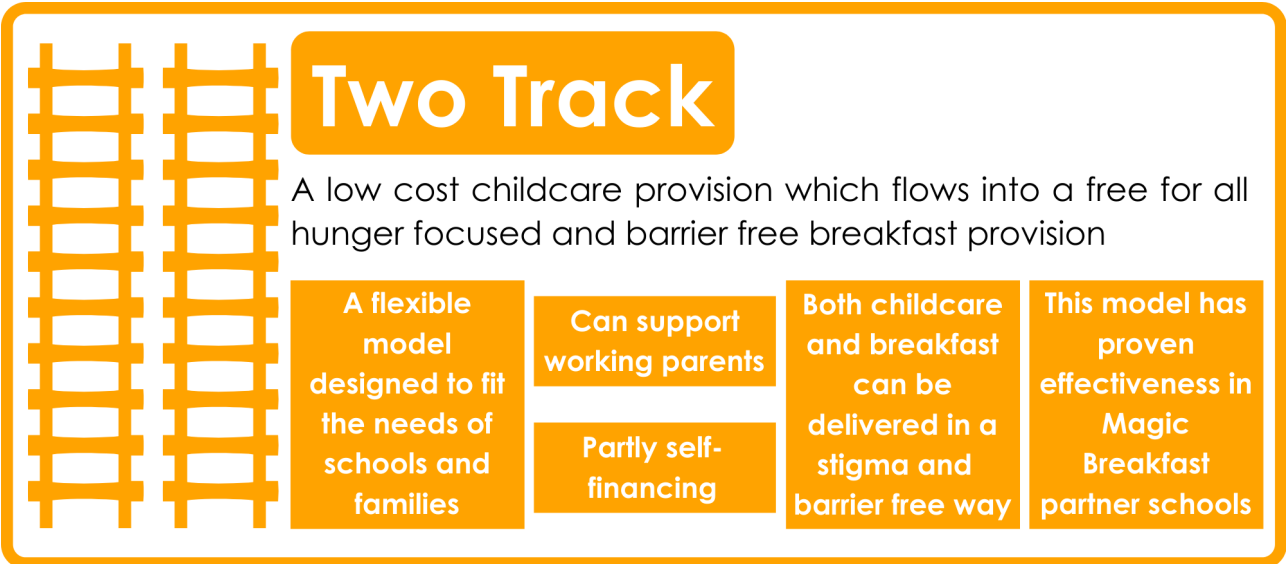
attendance and punctuality. To ensure this boost it is in everyone's interest to ensure children and young people arrive at school on time, even if they have taken up childcare options in the community.

In Magic Breakfast's experience, **achieving 'no child too hungry to learn' is almost impossible without breakfast being available in a school setting.** The most disadvantaged, difficult to reach children and young people often arrive at school just before the bell, and schools are in the best position to ensure children and young people at risk of hunger are identified, targeted, and reached with breakfast. Magic Breakfast would, as mentioned above and in the strongest terms, advise against considering non-school-based morning childcare and breakfast as a solution to ensuring all children and young people at risk of hunger can access breakfast before the start of the school day. There should always be a school based option for breakfast provision.

Magic Breakfast's Recommendation

Overall, it's clear that providing breakfast in tandem with private community providers requires a significant burden of communication. This is a burden that already stretched schools cannot be expected to take on. Therefore, **this is not a model that Magic Breakfast** would recommend in situations where schools are asked to manage both provisions.

Childcare and Breakfast Policy Options: Recommended



The Two Track Model

Through Magic Breakfast's two decades of experience, it has become clear that the three main childcare-breakfast integration options outlined earlier are not good enough to actively meet the needs of children and young people. In order to provide a seamless hunger focused and barrier free breakfast provision linked to a

before school childcare provision, Magic Breakfast devised the 'two track' model. This model is currently recommended to our partner schools looking to establish or reformat a childcare provision at their school.

The Model

Using the two track model, schools would open early for a childcare provision. This club has an appropriate charge for usage; such a charge would depend on the local situation and would not be appropriate to dictate from a regional or national level. At a certain time in the morning, the childcare provision becomes an open door, free for all, breakfast provision.

The **key elements in the model are that the switch between the two provisions is seamless** and the charge is exclusively for the early morning childcare, not for food. The breakfast itself and the supervision of the children and young people at breakfast time is free to parents for all pupils. Ideally the childcare and breakfast venues are the same and the same staff are used for efficiency and to create a seamless flow from one provision to the other. Clear communication in the publicization of the provisions would avoid stigma. The language used below is an example of how the two complementary provisions can be explained.

'Children can arrive from 0730 for childcare. The charge for childcare for children arriving before 0815 is £1 per day to cover the costs of staff. From 0815 a free breakfast is available for all children. All children are welcome to arrive after 0815 and enjoy a healthy breakfast, free of charge.'

Benefits of the Two Track Model

The two track model provides a convenient and low-cost option to working parents and guardians. Just because parents and guardians are working doesn't mean they don't have financial difficulties. Across the UK around 40% of claimants of Universal Credit are in work.^x In Scotland, **68% of children living in poverty are in working households.**^{xi}

On top of the childcare provision offered, the model allows all children and young people access to a healthy breakfast. This briefing already lays out the impact such a breakfast can have on children and young people.

The model is flexible. Children and young people attending childcare may be fed during the childcare portion of the provision as long as the offering is the same. This allows staff to stagger food preparation. Timing of the provision as well as the cost of the childcare portion are easily adaptable to suit the needs of a community. If this method of provision was being mandated nationally it would be advisable that a price cap was placed on the cost of the childcare provision.

The two track model benefits from being **partly self-financing**. The income from the childcare provision can provide toward the cost of staffing for both provisions. Managing staff pay in this way allows for the most vulnerable children and young people to be supported without having to charge everyone.

Avoiding Stigma with the Two Track Model

This section provides three key ways in which stigma can be avoided whilst implementing the two track model.

The main method of avoiding stigma is ensuring that the **breakfast provision is entirely free**. Parents and guardians should be informed regularly with clear and precise communication that it is only the childcare provision that is paid-for.

Naming and promotion of the two provisions should be separated. Whilst the transition in practice from one provision to the other should be seamless, detaching one from the other promotionally can help avoid stigma. This makes sure parents and guardians using the free breakfast provision do not feel like they're using a free section of the childcare provision. For example, there may be an Early Bird Childcare followed by a Magic Breakfast Club.

Barring dietary requirements there should be no difference in what breakfast is offered to children and young people at the breakfast provision. The children and young people who attend the paid-for provision should never be provided with a superior breakfast offer. If necessary, parents and carers can be reminded that the childcare fee is paying for the staff time, not the food.

The key way that two track, and all breakfast models can avoid stigma is to ensure provision is properly universal within the school. This would mean ensuring all children and young people, from all backgrounds are advertised to.

Supporting Parents and Carers Needing Free Childcare with the Two Track Model

The two track model makes it clear that some form of paid-for childcare is required to support schools in providing both childcare and breakfast. It will be necessary though for schools in all communities to consider offering a number of free childcare places.

To continue avoiding stigma throughout the two track model it is important that free places are handled with the utmost discretion. Schools should ensure that wherever possible childcare is not paid-for at drop-off on the day. This means that it isn't clear whose place is paid-for by their parent or guardian and who is on a funded place. Payment could be taken away from the provision and handled by the school office or done online through a cashless system.

If payment is to be taken on arrival at the childcare provision, then procedures can be put in place to avoid stigma. Payment options should be made available for different time periods so a child or young person being dropped off may have had their childcare paid in advance for a pre agreed block of time. Another method that can be implemented is that children and young people receiving free places are still entered into a payment register with a certain code.

A further option is to operate the childcare provision on a donation basis. This option means the childcare is effectively free and available to all. Parents or guardians are invited to donate toward the cost of staffing – schools may wish to designate a 'suggested donation.' This can work well, as parents paying at different intervals means nobody knows who has donated and who hasn't. This system can work well in communities with a culture of pride.

Two Track in Action

The number of Magic Breakfast partner schools that operate on the two track model fluctuates. It has also been heavily affected by the pandemic as schools have moved to methods of provision better suited to avoiding close-contact environments. This section gives two examples of schools who operate a form of the two track model. These schools are both primary schools and we have chosen to not identify them.

School Story

One school we work with opens their childcare provision at 0745. This then becomes a free breakfast provision at 0815. The school uses two adjoining rooms for the provision, with one room serving breakfast and another being used for dance and music. This creates space for both those who want to have gentle sit-down breakfast and also those needing activity after they eat. The school also operates a morning football session at the same time to attract more children. By offering sport alongside arts, crafts, and tabletop games the school offers a dynamic provision to children which ensures a high level of attendance at breakfast. Breakfast provision at this school supports around 170 pupils and requires one staff member for sign in, one to serve a canteen-style breakfast and then a small number of staff (within staff to pupil ratios) to support eating and activities.

School Story

One school we work with has a before school childcare facility managed by the local authority. Parents and carers are charged around £2 per session for the first child with a reduction in cost for each subsequent child. At 0845 (school day starts at 0900) the school offers a free for all breakfast provision which is supported by Magic Breakfast and our expert Scottish School Partner. The breakfast provision based in this school supports another school on the same campus and across the two schools supports an average of 100 pupils per day, an average of 44% of the roll across the two schools. This school is a prime example of the difference Magic Breakfast can make through delivery of breakfast provision in schools.

Things to consider

Whilst the two track model is the recommended policy position of Magic Breakfast there are a number of considerations that need to be made before the policy could be considered for national use. Magic Breakfast would not support a system where all schools were forced to adopt the two track model and instead believe strongly that schools should be provided with a limited number of options which take into account the diversity of Scottish schooling situations. ²

Whilst the two track model of provision means schools can offset part of the cost of breakfast provision through charging for childcare provision, this cannot be relied upon to entirely fund staffing for breakfast provision. Nor should schools be forced to reduce staffing levels elsewhere to compensate for staff needed to support a hunger focused and barrier free breakfast provision. **Local authorities will need funding to deliver breakfast provision.** ³

School facilities also need to be prepared to cope with a large influx of pupils at the transition from childcare provision to breakfast. Many schools already offer lunches in two sittings due to space so would need to ensure they can deliver widespread breakfast provision in a short period before school. For some schools in this position other models of breakfast provision (rather than linked childcare and breakfast provision) may be preferable. These options will be explored in detail in the second policy briefing. A large part of school facilities needs will depend on the political choice of whether Scotland offers breakfast to all pupils and targets solely those most at risk of hunger or whether a push is made for all children and young people to have breakfast at school as standard.

These considerations are not to take away from the two track model. Magic Breakfast believes strongly it should be the Scottish Government's preferred option for schools to enact. As a charity committed to a flexible approach to solving child morning hunger, we believe that there isn't a one size fits all solution.

Conclusion

Magic Breakfast approaches this policy briefing with over two decades of experience in the charity sector and as the leading not-for-profit provider of school breakfasts in the UK. Operating in over 1,000 schools across England and Scotland our evidence and experience is unparalleled. Academic reports both on educational attainment and economic outcomes have demonstrated the

² The second briefing in this series, *Delivering Breakfast*, explores the full suite of provision models delivered by Magic Breakfast.

³ The second briefing in this series, *Delivering Breakfast*, identifies methods of funding nationwide breakfast provision.

effectiveness of the Magic Breakfast model. It is with this expertise that this policy briefing examined four policy options for enacting simultaneous childcare and breakfast provisions.

The first policy option looked at **adapting existing school-managed childcare provision**. This policy would turn existing paid-for, before school childcare into a free for all breakfast and childcare service. The main issues with this policy are that it would remove paid-for childcare altogether from schools. This would force schools to shorten their overall offering due to staffing costs and goes against Scottish Government proposals to offer free wraparound childcare only to 'those on the lowest incomes.'^{xii}

The second and third policy options looked at the use of private care provision. Firstly, **private childcare within school facilities** can work but is difficult to manage alongside a hunger focused and stigma free breakfast provision. To make sure vulnerable children and young people are supported for childcare and all children and young people are provided breakfast, schools would have to take on an intense communication burden. This comes from the effort that would be needed to ensure profit driven private providers support enough free places for all vulnerable children and young people.

Secondly, **private, community-based**, providers are even harder for schools to work alongside as they need to make sure that children and young people aren't double fed by both the community provider – if they supply breakfast – and the school. Schools also need to make sure that they offer breakfast to children and young people who aren't provided for by the community provider. There is also the same communication issue surrounding vulnerable children and young people as was found in the private, in-school, provision option.

Finally, the **two track model** offers Magic Breakfast's preferred option. This would allow for a paid-for provision – with sufficient places for low-income and vulnerable children and young people – which then flows seamlessly into a free for all breakfast provision. As laid out, this is a flexible, partly self-financing model which ensures all children and young people are provided with a healthy breakfast.

Overall, Magic Breakfast believes that these are the four main realistic options for managing breakfast and childcare side by side. Through Magic Breakfast's organisational experience, it is clear that **the two track model is the best option**. This is despite the caveats we have clearly laid above. It is also important to reiterate the need for schools to be given options according to their circumstances.

Magic Breakfast therefore **recommends to the Scottish Government that the two track model should be the lead model proposed to schools in situations where it is appropriate to integrate childcare and breakfast provision.**

Notes

- ⁱ Bogiatzis-Gibbons, Daniel et al. "The National School Breakfast Programme, Scale-up Evaluation Report." *Education Endowment Foundation*. Sept. 2021, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-1
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- ⁱⁱⁱ "ROI Report 2021." *Magic Breakfast*. Feb. 2021, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-3
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- ^v "Child poverty summary." *Scottish Government*. 25 Mar. 2021, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-5
- ^{vi} Adolphus, Katie et al. "Associations Between Habitual School-Day Breakfast Consumption Frequency and Academic Performance in British Adolescents." *Frontiers in Public Health*. 20 Nov. 2019, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-6
- ^{vii} "End of Year Stats." *The Trussell Trust*. 11 Nov. 2021, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-7
- ^{viii} "Poverty and the Impact of Coronavirus on Young People and Families in Scotland." *Includem*. Oct. 2020, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-8
- ^{ix} Bogiatzis-Gibbons, Daniel et al. "The National School Breakfast Programme, Scale-up Evaluation Report." *Education Endowment Foundation*. Sept. 2021, tinyurl.com/mb-springseries-1-1
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