

To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 1 November 2018

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Early Learning and Childcare Consultation - 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how the mandatory early learning and child care, day care and out of school care and discretionary services should be made available. There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
 - 1.2 This report advises of the findings of the early learning and childcare consultation carried out by Renfrewshire Council during June 2018. The consultation report is attached as appendix one to this report.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Service Policy Board is asked to note the findings of the early years and childcare consultation.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how the mandatory early learning and child care should be made available and to publish plans for future delivery in response to the consultations. Parts 7 and 8 of the Act also requires an authority to consult representative populations of parents on how discretionary early learning and childcare (under the 1980 Act) and discretionary day care and out of school care for children not in need (under the 1995 Act) should be provided and supported. There is also a requirement to consult representative populations of parents on how mandatory day care and out of school for children in need (under the 1995 Act) should be made available.

- 3.2 There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
 - 3.3 Since the introduction of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Renfrewshire Council has carried out 2 consultations (winter 2013 and October 2015) through surveys to establish the needs of parents. The findings from both surveys were reported to the policy board on the 16 January 2014 and 18 of August 2016. The outcome of the consultation was used to progress plans to develop early learning and childcare.
 - 3.4 Both surveys were planned to provide information on the demand, barriers, perceptions and future use of early learning and childcare services for parents of children aged 0-14 years to assist in future planning and delivery of services.
 - 3.5 A further survey relating to early learning and childcare, with a particular focus on early years, was undertaken in 2017. The purpose of this survey was to understand parental preferences in relation to the expansion of early learning and childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours. The findings from this survey supported the development of the 1140 expansion proposals in determining future models of provision. An initial 1140 expansion plan was submitted to the Scottish Government in September 2017 and reported to the children's service policy board in November 2017.
 - 3.6 A third full consultation, in line with the requirements of the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014 was undertaken during June 2018, via an online survey to achieve maximum engagement from parents across Renfrewshire.
 - 3.7 Questions were set within two categories: needs and services for parents of children aged birth to five years and 5 -14 years. The survey included a number of closed and opened questions, therefore enabling parents the opportunity to make comments on the issues relating to childcare provision.
 - 3.8 Appendix one provides the overall findings from the June 2018 survey, including information on headline results and responses to all the questions asked.
 - 3.9 The findings in relation to the increase in the entitled hours of early learning and childcare will continue to assist the council in their plans for expansion for 2020. The findings in relation to other aspects of childcare will be considered when undertaking any future planning of childcare services for Renfrewshire.
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4. Key Findings – Early Learning and Childcare Survey – June 2018

- 4.1 A total of 884 parents took part in the survey. An analysis of the data revealed that 41% of the respondents live in the Paisley area, 38% had children aged under 5 years and 72% had children aged between 5 and 11 years of age.
- 4.2 The key findings of the survey are as follows:
 - 43% of parents had children who currently attend local authority or partner early learning and childcare services.
 - 22% had children attending before school care and 27% after school care provision.
 - Only 17% of respondents indicated that they use a registered childminder, with 10% using this type of service for children aged under 5 years and 7% for school aged children.
 - Parents of school aged children use family and friends as the most common form of childcare, with 41% of parents selecting this option.

- The key reasons for using childcare services:
 - early learning and childcare (0 to 5 years) –75% to enable parents to work or study, 69% to support child development, and 50% because their child was entitled to a place;
 - after school care (school age) - 59% to enable parents to work or study; and
 - before school care (school age) - 54% to enable parents to work or study.
- The key factors influencing parents in their choice of an early learning and childcare provider (0 to 5 years provision) are affordability (85%), positive inspection grades (79%), highly qualified staff (76%), opportunity for children to socialise (68%).
- The preferred patterns for delivering 1140 hours of early learning and childcare are for an extended year model (61%) and full day option (70%).
- The key reasons for not using formal childcare provision:
 - service not required - 44% for children under 5 years of age and 50% for before and after school; and
 - cost – 32% for early learning and childcare and 37% before or after school.

4.3 Due to the small sample size across the Renfrewshire Council areas, the responses provided can only be seen as an indicator of the desires, demand and perceptions and may not fully represent the views of the wider community.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

None

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People	Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	Earlier intervention will lead to healthier outcomes for young children.
Empowering our Communities	Children, young people and families will benefit from local services in the community.
Jobs and Economy	Flexible childcare placements will support parents back into and sustain employment, training or education.
Safer and Stronger	The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents, children and young people.

4. **Legal Implications**
None
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None
6. **Information Technology**
None
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because there is no decrease to the level of funding being proposed therefore no diminution of service. Services comply with the Equality Act 2010.
8. **Health and Safety**
None
9. **Procurement Implications**
None
10. **Risk Implications**
None
11. **Privacy Impact**
Personal information will only be held as required in order to deliver the service. This will be done in accordance with all data protection legislation.

List of Background Papers

None.

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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE
CONSULTATION

2018

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult with parents every two years on how early learning and childcare should be made available and publish a plan for how it intends to make early learning and childcare available. This report provides the findings of the most recent survey carried out by Renfrewshire Council during June 2018.

The consultation was conducted using an online survey which was promoted on the council website and social media. 884 parents responded to the online survey.

1.2 Key Findings

A total of 884 parents took part in the survey. An analysis of the data revealed that 41% of the respondents live in the Paisley area, 38% had children aged under 5 years and 72% had children aged between 5 and 11 years of age.

The key findings of the survey are as follows:

- 43% of parents had children who currently attend local authority or partner early learning and childcare services.
- 22% had children attending before school care and 27% after school care provision.
- Only 17% of respondents indicated that they use a registered childminder, with 10% using this type of service for children aged under 5 years and 7% for school aged children.
- Parents of school aged children use family and friends as the most commonly form of childcare, with 41% of parents selecting this option.
- The key reasons for using childcare services:
 - early learning and childcare (0 to 5 years) –75% to enable parents to work or study, 69% to support child development, and 50% because their child was entitled to a place;
 - after school care (school age) - 59% to enable parents to work or study
 - before school care (school age) - 54% to enable parents to work or study.
- The key factors influencing parents in their choice of an early learning and childcare provider (0 to 5 years provision) are affordability (85%), positive inspection grades (79%), highly qualified staff (76%), opportunity for children to socialise (68%).
- The preferred patterns for delivering 1140 hours of early learning and childcare are for an extended year model (61%) and full day option (70%).
- The key reasons for not using formal childcare provision:
 - service not required - 44% for children under 5 years of age and 50% for before and after school.
 - Cost – 32% for early learning and childcare and 37% before or after school.

2. Overall Survey Results

This section of the report details the responses to each of the questions of the consultation survey. Due to the small sample size across the Renfrewshire Council areas the responses provided can only be seen as an indicator of the desires, demand and perceptions and may not fully represent the views of the wider community.

2.1 Respondent Profile

2.1.1 Age of children

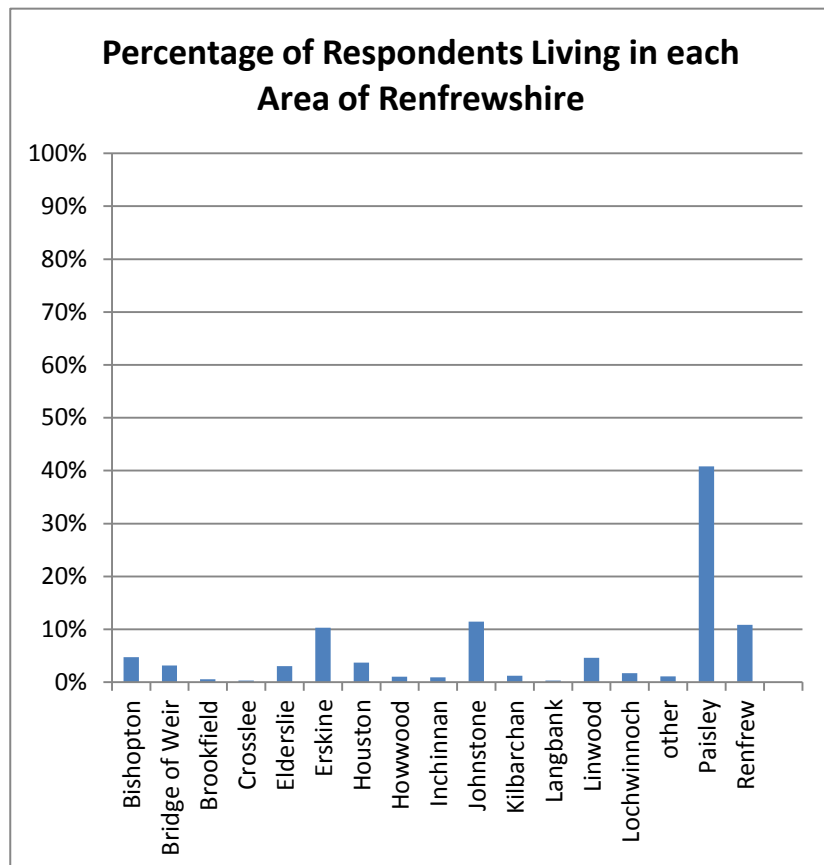
Respondents were asked how many children they had in each age group. The highest populated age group was the 5 to 11 years with over 900 children falling within this category followed by around 700 in the under 5 years age group. The number of secondary school aged children was significantly lower than the other groups. Table 1 below provides the responses to this question:

Table 1: Number of children in each age group			
Area	Under 5 years	5 – 11 years	12 - 14 years
Bishopton	41	40	6
Bridge of Weir	25	28	7
Brookfield	1	6	2
Crosslee	1	7	1
Elderslie	20	25	7
Erskine	82	82	33
Houston	33	33	15
Howwood	9	7	3
Inchinnan	8	11	3
Johnstone	63	118	22
Kilbarchan	5	15	5
Langbank	2	4	1
Linwood	35	40	14
Lochwinnoch	2	18	8
other	8	7	2
Paisley	275	361	92
Renfrew	101	108	30
Grand Total	711	910	251

2.1.2 Home Location

Respondents were asked to identify which area of Renfrewshire they lived in. The findings in table 2 and the chart below show that although someone from every area of Renfrewshire took part in this survey, the distribution of respondents is not evenly spread, with around 41% living in the Paisley area and fewer than 10 living in areas such as Brookfield, Langbank, Crosslee, Howwood and Inchinnan.

Table 2: Respondent location		
Town	Number	Percentage
Bishopton	42	4.8%
Bridge of Weir	28	3.2%
Brookfield	5	0.6%
Crosslee	3	0.3%
Elderslie	27	3.1%
Erskine	91	10.3%
Houston	33	3.7%
Howwood	9	1.0%
Inchinnan	8	0.9%
Johnstone	101	11.4%
Kilbarchan	11	1.2%
Langbank	3	0.3%
Linwood	41	4.6%
Lochwinnoch	15	1.7%
Paisley	361	40.8%
Renfrew	96	10.9%



2.1.3 Types of services currently used

Parents were asked to identify the types of service their child/children currently used. The type of establishment that the majority of respondents identified was a primary school (70%) followed by Early Learning and Childcare Centre or Class (43%). The number of responses to this question indicates that parents are using more than one service. The table below details the response:

Table 3: Type of service currently used	Number	%
Early Learning and Childcare Centre/or Class – Local Authority or Partner	364	40%
Primary School	617	70%
Secondary School	165	19%
ASN Early Learning and Childcare Centre/or Class	14	2%
ASN School	31	4%
None of the above	21	2%

2.2 Survey Questions Relating to Early Learning and Childcare for Children Aged 0-5 years.

This section of the survey asked parents to share their experience of early learning and childcare provision for children under 5 years of age.

2.2.1 Respondents were asked to indicate the number of children in their family within the following age categories.

Table 4: Age Category	Number
0 – Under 2 years	279
2 – under 3 years	144
3 - 5 years	405

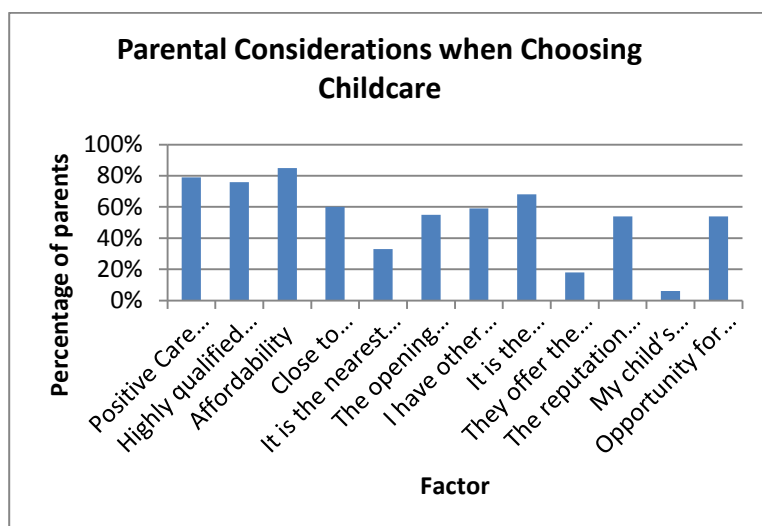
N.B – The above figures are not consistent with the response to the figures represented in table 1 which is due to children age five years of age attending an early years setting.

2.2.2 Parents were asked to indicate which types of childcare they used for their child. Council Early Learning and Childcare Centres and Classes were the most popular (65%) form of childcare used by parents. This was followed by voluntary or independent nurseries (40%). The least utilised service identified was a registered childminder with only 10% using this service. Table 5 below details the response to this question.

Table 5: Type of Service	Number	%
Council Early Learning and Childcare Centre or Class	243	65%
Voluntary or Independent Nursery	152	40%
Registered Childminder	35	10%
Non-partnership	49	14%
Family Member/Friend	98	29%

2.2.3 Respondents were asked to indicate the factors they considered important when choosing a childcare provider. They were able to choose from a number of statements to select the factors that they considered important. Affordability of a provider was chosen by the largest number of respondents with 85% choosing this factor. Positive inspection grades and a provider having highly qualified staff were the next most selected factors with 79% and 76% considering this respectively. The table and chart below indicates the responses.

Table 6: Factors influencing choice of provider	Number	%
Positive Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland Inspection grades	373	79%
Highly qualified staff	360	76%
Affordability	401	85%
Close to workplace/home	285	60%
It is the nearest to the school I want my child to attend	157	33%
The opening hours suit my needs	269	57%
I have other children who go there	282	59%
It is the opportunity for my child to socialise with other children	321	68%
They offer the right kind of specialist support my child's needs	84	18%
The reputation of the provider	257	54%
My child's friends attend this provider	28	6%
Opportunity for outdoor experience/learning	257	54%



Respondents also added comments in their response to this question relating to other factors that they thought were important: such as the high level of parental involvement; the service was used previously by the parent; the commitment to GIRFEC and curriculum for excellence and links between the school and nursery.

2.2.4 Respondents were also asked why they used early learning and childcare for their child. 69% of parents used childcare as they believe it is good for their child's social and educational development. The second most selected reason was that it allowed the parents to work. The table below provides the responses from parents.

Table 7: Reasons for use of ELCC	%
My child is entitled to early learning and childcare	50%
To allow me to work	68%
To allow me to look for work	3%
To allow me to study/train	7%
To give me time for other things (e.g. appointments, housework, socialising etc)	0%
It is good for my child's development (e.g. social interaction)	69%
My child likes spending time with/at the provider	33%

Through individual comments respondents advised of other reasons for using an early learning and childcare service including support for parents with health issues, to support looked after children and allow child to play outdoors in a safe environment.

2.3 Survey Questions Relating to the Expansion to 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare

This section of the consultation survey focused on parents' views, preferences and needs relating to the expansion of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare by 2020. Currently eligible 2 year olds and 3 to 5 year olds are entitled to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare.

2.3.1 Respondents were asked if the expansion of early learning and childcare to 1140 hours would allow them to work, increase their work or studying hours or improve their family

life. The majority of respondents said that more hours of childcare would allow them to work or study (76%) and 41% said that it would have a positive impact on their family life. Table 8 details the responses.

Table 8: benefits of 1140	Number	%
Work	412	62%
Study	90	14%
Improve family life	275	41%
None of the above	92	14%
All of the above	110	17%
Other (please specify)	27	4%

Several respondents provided additional comments to this question, such as it would enable them to work more hours, therefore have more money for a better family life; ability to save money, working will be worth-while as they will be paying less on childcare; and children will develop social skills. Comments were made about specific hours of early learning and childcare that would be used, including comments about scope for flexibility to increase time on occasions when grandparents are on holiday, scope to choose their own pattern of placement and a statement about not using all of the 1140 hours.

- 2.3.2 Respondents were asked which type of early learning and childcare model would best suit their needs. The majority of respondents (61%) indicated an extended year provision over the school year (39%) option. The table below details the response from respondents.

Table 9: Preferred model of ELCC	Number	%
School year (38 weeks)	258	39%
46 weeks a year	95	15%
50 weeks a year	302	46%

Respondent comments in relation to this question include for after school care, summer holiday provision, and to be able to select a nursery of choice.

- 2.3.3 A further analysis of this data was undertaken to understand the preference of model on an area basis. The only area in which a school year option was more popular was Bridge of Weir. Crosslee and Kilbarchan have an equal split in support between 50 week and school year provision. Table 10 provides the breakdown of responses.

Table 10: Preferred ELCC model by area			
Areas	46 Weeks	50 weeks	School year (38 weeks)
Bishopton	6%	53%	41%
Bridge of Weir	5%	35%	60%
Brookfield	25%	50%	25%
Crosslee	0%	50%	50%
Elderslie	21%	47%	32%
Erskine	9%	47%	44%
Houston	23%	55%	23%
Howwood	29%	29%	43%
Inchinnan	0%	67%	33%
Johnstone	13%	42%	46%
Kilbarchan	0%	50%	50%
Langbank	50%	50%	0%
Linwood	27%	42%	30%
Lochwinnoch	0%	60%	40%
Other	20%	60%	20%
Paisley	14%	47%	39%
Renfrew	20%	42%	38%
Average	15%	46%	39%

2.3.4 Respondents were asked to indicate the pattern of attendance that would best suit their needs. The favoured model of early learning and childcare provision is full day (8am to 6pm) with 40% selecting this option, compared to 30% of respondents wanting their childcare over a school day (9am to 3pm). Less than 7% identified half day sessions as a preferred option. The data concerning preferred pattern of attendance was further examined on an area basis. Tables 11 and 12 provide the breakdown of responses.

Table 11: ELCC pattern of attendance	Number	%
Full days – 8:00 – 18:00	262	40%
Half days – afternoon 13:00 – 18:00	20	3%
Half days – afternoon 8:00 – 15:00	47	7%
School days – 9:00 – 15:00	197	30%
Two full days and one half day	93	14%
Other	30	5%

Table 12: ELCC pattern of attendance by area						
Area	Full days - 8:00 - 18:00	Half days - afternoons 13:00 - 18:00	Half days - mornings 8:00 - 13:00	other	School days - 9:00 - 15:00	Two full days and one half day (am or pm)
Bishopton	42%	0%	10%	3%	6%	39%
Bridge of Weir	40%	10%	0%	5%	40%	5%
Brookfield	33%	0%	33%	0%	0%	33%
Crosslee	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Elderslie	42%	0%	11%	16%	32%	0%
Erskine	39%	3%	10%	4%	27%	16%
Houston	36%	0%	5%	5%	23%	32%
Howwood	14%	14%	43%	0%	0%	29%
Inchinnan	50%	0%	0%	0%	17%	33%
Johnstone	38%	8%	3%	8%	36%	7%
Kilbarchan	33%	0%	0%	0%	67%	0%
Langbank	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Linwood	48%	6%	3%	0%	24%	15%
Lochwinnoch	25%	0%	25%	25%	25%	0%
Other	0%	25%	0%	25%	0%	50%
Paisley	43%	1%	6%	4%	34%	11%
Renfrew	37%	3%	9%	3%	31%	18%
Average	40%	3%	7%	5%	30%	14%

2.3.5 Parents were asked if they would have to purchase additional hours on top of their 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare to meet their needs. 68% of respondents said that they would not need to purchase any additional hours, in comparison 32% requiring to purchase additional time. Respondents from Crosslea, Inchinnan, Kilbarchan and Langbank had a response from 50% or more who indicated that they would need to pay for more hours. Tables 13 and 14 below details the response:

Table 12: Additional hours required on top of 1140	Number	%
Yes	210	32%
No	438	68%

Table 13: Additional hours required on top of 1140 by area		
Area	No	Yes
Bishopton	66%	34%
Bridge of Weir	68%	32%
Brookfield	100%	0%
Crosslee	100%	0%
Elderslie	70%	30%
Erskine	75%	25%
Houston	77%	23%
Howwood	86%	14%
Inchinnan	33%	67%

Johnstone	74%	26%
Kilbarchan	67%	33%
Langbank	0%	100%
Linwood	67%	33%
Lochwinnoch	86%	14%
Other	50%	50%
Paisley	65%	35%
Renfrew	61%	39%
Average	68%	32%

2.3.6 Parents were asked if their childcare needs changed each week to accommodate work shift pattern. A quarter of parents who responded to this question said that this described their needs. Table 14 below illustrates the results:

Table 14: Changing childcare needs due to work shift patterns	Number	%
Yes	167	25%
No	503	25%

2.3.7 Respondents were asked how they would like their 1140 hours of early learning and childcare to be provided. The consultation found that the majority (73%) of parents preferred to have all of their early learning and childcare provided in the one nursery. The data was analysed to understand parents' views within each area across Renfrewshire. Tables 15 and 16 detail the results.

Table 15: Preferred ELCC delivery option	Number	%
All in one nursery	465	73%
Shared with more than one nursery	45	7%
Shared between a nursery and a registered childminder	35	6%
All with a registered childminder	23	4%
All in an outdoor nursery	7	1%
Shared between an outdoor and indoor nursery	34	5%
Other	23	4%

Table 16: Preferred ELCC delivery option by area							
Area	All in an outdoor nursery	All in one nursery	All with a registered childminder	other	Shared across more than one nursery	Shared between a nursery and a registered childminder	Shared between an outdoor and an indoor nursery
Bishopton	0%	79%	3%	0%	3%	14%	0%
Bridge of Weir	0%	58%	0%	0%	11%	11%	21%
Brookfield	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%
Crosslee	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Elderslie	0%	65%	0%	5%	25%	5%	0%
Erskine	2%	79%	2%	3%	6%	6%	3%
Houston	5%	68%	9%	0%	5%	5%	9%
Howwood	0%	75%	13%	0%	0%	13%	0%
Inchinnan	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Johnstone	0%	75%	3%	9%	4%	1%	7%
Kilbarchan	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Langbank	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%

Linwood	0%	69%	3%	0%	6%	9%	13%
Lochwinnoch	0%	40%	40%	0%	0%	20%	0%
Other	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Paisley	2%	72%	4%	6%	6%	4%	7%
Renfrew	1%	78%	4%	0%	9%	8%	0%
Average	1%	73%	4%	4%	7%	6%	5%

2.3.8 Parents were asked about Gaelic as part of their early learning and childcare provision. 267 parents indicated an interest in this.

2.3.9 The survey included a question on reason for using an early learning and childcare provision that is more than 2 miles away from their home. Parents were able to select up to 3 of the options. The most popular reason given was to access high quality childcare and education (36%), with 22% choosing a service to be near their workplace.

Table 17: Reasons for choosing a service more than 2 miles from home	Number	%
To be near my workplace	43	22%
Because the setting has a good Care Inspectorate inspection report	37	19%
Because of the high quality childcare and education provided	71	36%
Because the setting was recommended to me	25	13%
This is the nearest provider to my home	35	18%
There aren't any vacancies at the setting nearest to me	34	17%
Other	44	22%

2.4 Survey Questions Relating to Before and After School Care – Age 5 to 14 Years

This section of the consultation survey focused on parents' views and needs regarding before and after school care provision.

2.4.1 Respondents were asked which form of childcare they used for their children. The most popular response to this question was the use of family or friends, with 41% of respondents using this form of childcare. A third of respondents said that they did not use any childcare for their child. The least utilised type of childcare was a registered childminder (7%). The responses are detailed in the table below:

Table 18: Types of Childcare Used	Number	%
Before School Care (during school term time)	178	22%
After School Care (during school term time)	218	27%
Out of School Care (during school holidays)	134	16%
Registered Childminder	58	7%
Family Member/Friend	339	41%
None	267	33%
Other	12	1%

- 2.4.2 The response to the question on why parents used after school care services indicated that the vast majority (59%) use after school care to allow them to work or study. Almost half of respondents said that this was not applicable and they do not use these services. The response to this question is below:

Table 19: Reasons for using after school care	Number	%
To allow me to work	326	54%
To allow me to look for work	8	1%
To allow me to study/train	29	5%
To give me time for other things (e.g. appointments, housework, socialising etc.)	36	1%
It is good for my child's development (e.g. social interaction)	20	6%
My child likes spending time with/at the provider	7	3%
Not applicable, I do not currently use After School Care Services	261	44%

- 2.4.3 Parents were then asked for their reasons for using before school care. The most popular response was that it allowed them to work or study, with 54% choosing these options. Table 20 details the responses to this question.

Table 20 - Reasons for using before school care	Number	%
To allow me to work	262	49%
To allow me to look for work	7	1%
To allow me to study/train	24	5%
To give me time for other things (e.g. appointments, housework, socialising etc.)	0	0%
It is good for my child's development (e.g. social interaction)	41	8%
My child likes spending time with/at the provider	24	5%
Not applicable, I do not currently use Out of School Care Services	244	46%

Respondent comments to this question include the service being attached to or near to the school, suits working hours and is flexible to shift patterns.

2.5 Survey Questions Relating to Reasons for Not Using Childcare Services and Information on Possible Future Use

This section of the survey focused on understanding the reasons why parents did not use or require childcare services and to establish an understanding of the possible future usage of childcare.

- 2.5.1 Parents were asked to indicate the reasons why they did not use early learning and childcare. They were given four options and were able to select multiple reasons. 44% of respondents said that they did not require the service. The cost for early learning and childcare was given as the second highest reason, with 32% of respondents choosing this option.

Table 21: Reason for non-use of ELCC	Number	%
Too expensive	120	32%
My child is not yet entitled to early learning and childcare	71	19%
Arrangements are not suitable for my family (e.g. times, location)	47	14%

Not required	164	44%
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2.5.2 Respondents were asked if they would use early learning and childcare services in the future. 55% of respondents said they would use these services in future, with 30% saying that it would not be applicable for them. The response to this question is below.

Table 22: Use of ELCC services in future	Number	%
Yes	426	55%
No	112	15%
Not applicable	232	30%

2.5.3 Parents were also asked to indicate the reasons why they did not use before or after school care and were given three options to choose from, multiple reasons could be given. Half of the respondents said they did not require the service and 37% of respondents stated the service was too expensive.

Table 23: Reason for non-use of Before and After School Care	Number	%
Too expensive	177	37%
Arrangements are not suitable for my family (e.g. times, location)	61	13%
Not required	238	50%

Some parents provided comments on their reasons for not using childcare services. The reasons given include there being no before or after school care in the school or village; out of school care does not provide appropriate provision for children with additional needs, there is no playscheme provision for children attending Mary Russell and childcare is too expensive; the provision is not suitable for young teenagers/13 year olds; and there was no place available

2.5.4 A question on the future use of before (BSC) and after school care (ASC) was asked. With both of these questions over 60% of respondents said they believe they would use the services again in future. 12% of respondents said that after school services would not be applicable to them and 13% said before school care would not be applicable for future use. The responses are detailed in the tables below.

Table 24: Use of ASC services in future	Number	%
Yes	541	67%
No	173	21%
Not applicable	93	12%

Table 25: Use of BSC services in future	Number	%
Yes	493	61%
No	208	26%
Not applicable	105	13%

2.6 Survey Questions on Parental Views and Perceptions of Early Learning and Childcare provision for children aged 0 to 14

In this section of the survey parents were asked to give their

2.6.1 Respondents were asked parents to what extent they agreed or disagreed with a range of statements relating to childcare provision. 69% of respondents indicated that they strongly agree and agree that they would like more choice in the childcare available to them. More than 50% of respondent said the strongly agree / agree that they would like more access to childcare to work, study or train (66%) and 69% would like more choice in the childcare available to them. 59% strongly agreed / agreed that they find it difficult to afford the childcare they need. Table 26 provides the detail of the response to this question.

Table 26	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I find it difficult to afford the childcare I need	29%	30%	24%	9%	7%
Providers are not flexible enough about hours of use	21%	24%	31%	15%	9%
I feel that I rely too much on family and friends for childcare	27%	24%	20%	14%	15%
If I could access more childcare I would have more opportunity to work, study or train	39%	27%	22%	8%	5%
I would like more choice in the childcare available to me	34%	35%	22%	5%	5%