



To: Education Policy Board

On: 15 January 2015

Report by: Director of Education and Leisure Services

Heading: Early Learning and Childcare for Two Year Old Children

1. Summary

- 1.1 The education policy board at its meeting on 8 May 2014 delegated authority to the director of education and leisure services in consultation with the convener of the education policy board, to progress with plans for adapting and / or extending existing premises to provide places for additional 2 year old children from workless families from August 2014. A further paper was presented to the education policy board on 21 August 2014 which advised of the adaptations to premises to expand the service for 2 year olds and sought approval to increase the number of commissioned places from the private and voluntary sector early learning and childcare providers.
 - 1.2 The Scottish Government revenue funding allocated to Renfrewshire for implementing the additional provision of early learning and childcare for two year old children for 2015 /16 is £1,537,011 (based on 27% of two year olds). The allocation for capital funding for 2015/16 is £1,162,669.
 - 1.3 This report advises of the proposed expansion plans for delivering early learning and childcare places to all two year old children from families eligible for free school meals from August 2015 and requests approval to increase the number of commissioned places from private and voluntary providers contracted to deliver early learning and childcare.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The education policy board is asked to:
 - i) note the proposed draft plan detailed in paragraph 4.2 of this report for expanding the service to deliver early learning and childcare places for these additional 2 year old children from August 2015. This plan is subject to confirmation of proposed adaptations.

- ii) Delegate the authority to the director of education and leisure services in consultation with the convenor of the education policy board, to progress the draft plan for expanding the service to deliver early learning and childcare places for their additional two year olds as required from August 2015.
 - iii) agree an increase to the number of commissioned early learning and childcare places as detailed in paragraph 4(iii) of this report; and
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) which received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014, comprises various commitments, including a mandatory number of hours for early learning and childcare. From August 2014 600 hours of early learning and childcare per year was introduced for eligible children, an increase from the previous 475 hours of pre-school education.
- 3.2 The act also places a duty on local authority to consult with parents of children under school age on how early learning and childcare should be made available and specifies that the method of delivery of early learning and childcare is flexible enough to allow parents an appropriate degree of choice when deciding how to access services.
- 3.3 The extension of provision of childcare places for 2 year old children from workless households was passed through secondary legislation on 19 May 2014.
- 3.4 Eligible two year olds from workless homes and from families eligible for free school meals will become eligible for an early learning and childcare place over 3 terms, through setting a start date for 2 year olds as the first term after their second birthday, as follows:
 - Term 1 – children born March to August will be eligible from August;
 - Term 2 – children born September to December will be eligible from January;
 - Term 3 – children born January and February will be eligible from April (after the school Spring break).
- 3.5 The Scottish Government provided information on the estimated number of 2 year old children from workless households in geographical areas which helped with the planning of the expansion of provision. It was estimated that there was an additional 226 children from workless households who would be eligible for an early learning and childcare place during school session 2014/15.

- 3.6 The plans for expanding the service for session 2014/15 to deliver early learning and childcare to 2 year olds from workless homes was reported to the Education Policy Board on 21 August 2014. The expansion plan included the creation of 80 FTE two year old places in Auchenlodment Nursery Class in Johnstone, St Catherine's Nursery Class in Paisley and St John Bosco Nursery Class in Erskine; 102 children being allocated a nursery place in one of the 10 extended year centres either through existing staffing levels or by increasing the staffing levels to increase the overall number of places and by commissioning an additional 44 places from approved partner providers.
- 3.7 The uptake and demand for two year old provision has continued to be monitored. The uptake of places in October indicated that there is currently 175 children from workless homes accessing early learning and childcare. The low uptake of places is also being experienced in other areas across Scotland and as a result the Scottish Government undertook a further publicity campaign in November and December 2014. The Council also undertook a further local campaign in a bid to raise awareness of the additional provision. The uptake and demand for places will continue to be monitored though out the remainder of this academic session and during 2015/16.
- 3.8 The Scottish Government allocated an additional £122,262 to contribute to training and development opportunities for staff during 2014/15. A training programme was organised and made available to new and existing staff and to date 36 training courses have been delivered with a further 21 planned between January and April 2015.
- 3.9 The Scottish Government recently provided data which was based on a percentage uplift (by 12%) from year one eligibility, which indicates that the projected additional places for two year olds in Renfrewshire from August 2015 is around 160 places.
- 3.10 The eligibility criteria for an early learning and childcare for 2 year old children from August 2015 is still to be provided by the Scottish Government.
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4. Plans for expanding the service to deliver early learning and childcare to all two year old children from families eligible for free school meals from August 2015

- 4.1 In order to plan for the expansion of provision for two year old children from families eligible for free school meals a percentage uplift was calculated for each of the geographical areas (admission panel areas) to determine the number of projected places required in each admissions panel area.
- 4.2 The following draft plan has been developed to provide places for additional two year olds as required from August 2015. The number of places being created, which is slightly higher than projected will allow some flexibility in the uptake of places and therefore meet the requirements of the Act to provide flexible provision.
- (i) Consideration is being given to adaptations / new build extensions in the following primary schools and pre-five centres to extend the nursery provision to create 165 new places for children aged 2 to 3 years:

Name of School	Location	No. of places	Adaptation
St Margaret's NC	Johnstone	30 places	Extension to existing building
St John Bosco NC	Erskine	10 places	Building adapted 2014 / increase capacity
Glendee Pre-five	Renfrew	30 places	Extension to existing building
Bridge of Weir PS	Bridge of Weir	15 places	Adaptations to existing premises
East Fulton PS	Linwood	20 places	Adaptations to existing premises
St Peter's PS	Glenburn	15 places	<i>Adaptations to existing premises</i>
St Mary's PS	Paisley West	15 places	Adaptations to existing premises
St Charles's PS	Paisley Central 1	15 places	Adaptations to existing premises
Gallowhill PS	Paisley Central 1	15 places	Adaptations to existing premises

Work is continuing to be carried out to establish the cost and if the proposed adaptations can be undertaken to expand provision in the establishments identified.

- (ii) If required additional places will be created in the local authority extended year centres by increasing the staffing levels to increase the overall number of places. The number of places will only be increased if there is a demand and if there is available floor space to meet legislative requirements.
 - (iii) It is proposed that this number of places commissioned from approved providers who are contracted to deliver Early Learning and Childcare is increased from 1205 to 1230.
- 4.3 A recruitment process will require to be undertaken to appoint additional nursery officers to the establishments identified in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above and to provide additional staff to allow for curriculum planning and lunch time provision in order to maintain an existing level of quality services.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The financial implications as specified within this paper will be met from the 2015/16 revenue allocation of £1,537,011 and capital allocation of £162,669.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

Additional nursery officers will be appointed to support with the expansion of provision for 2 year olds. Additional staffing will be recruited in line with council policy.

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 children.
Empowering our Communities	- Local services will benefit children, young people and members of the community.
Jobs and the Economy	- Flexible early learning and childcare places will support parents back into and to sustain employment, training or education.
Safer and Stronger	- Services are provided by a highly skilled workforce. People benefit from services that continually improve.
Children and Young People	- Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people.

4. Legal Implications

The council requires to comply with any legislative changes arising from this Secondary legislation.

5. Property/Assets Implications

Adaptations will be made to the establishments identified in paragraph 4.2 of this report.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The recommendations contained within this report had been previously assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. An equality impact assessment is available on request.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

The council obtains services from private and third party service providers within the council area. It is proposed that places for two year olds would be commissioned from providers as required.

10. Risk Implications

Any delays in the construction works to adaptations could impact on the proposals for expansion.

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

- (a) Early learning and childcare for 2 year old children, education policy board, 8 May 2014.
- (b) Purchase of early learning and childcare places in private and voluntary nurseries, education policy board, 8 May 2014.
- (c) Implementation of 600 hours of early learning and childcare, education policy board, 16 January 2014.
- (d) Children and young people (Scotland) Act (2014).
- (e) Early years admissions to pre-five establishment: revised standard circular 3A, education policy board, 6 November 2014.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within ELS for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Kathleen McDonagh, Education Officer, 0141 618 7196, kathleen.mcdonagh@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Education and Leisure Services

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