
Report to Education, Sport and Leisure Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, 19 June 2014

**Subject: Expansion of Entitlement to 600 Hours Early Learning
And Childcare to Two Year Old Children**

Report by: Head of Education

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee with details of proposed delivery plan within Clackmannanshire of 600 hours of early learning and childcare to entitled two year old children from August 2014.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee:

- Agrees to note the steps taken by the Education Service as the lead agency in preparing for the delivery of the entitlement to identified two year olds from August 2014.
- Approves the Education Service's interim proposals in principal for the delivery as outlined within this paper, subject to further detailed information in subsequent reports.
- Notes that a paper being brought to a future Education, Sport and Leisure Committee outlining the full implementation costs associated with the expanded provision for two year olds.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 In January 2014, Scottish Government announced that the entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and childcare would be expanded to include from August 2014 all two year olds from workless households; and, from August 2015, to two year olds from low-income households.

3.2 The Education Service has been proactive in its response to this announcement and since January, has worked closely with colleagues of the Council's Governance and Resources and Assets and Support to prepare for the first phase of implementation of the expanded provision for two year olds in Clackmannanshire.

- 3.3 Significant preparatory work has been centred on scoping the anticipated levels of demand for 2014/2015, in order to establish any shortfall in provision, and to plan accordingly for such. This work has proved pivotal in being able to identify the areas within Clackmannanshire that will require provision for two year olds now and in the future.

Eligibility

- 3.4 Scottish Government has confirmed that the entitlement to two year olds is to be phased over 3 terms, through setting a starting date for them as the first term after their second birthday; or, the term after the household becomes workless or job-seeking. Therefore, numbers of children and families becoming eligible is likely to fluctuate across a year. This phasing approach is consistent with the means through which three and four year old children become entitled to early learning and childcare; therefore, the Education Service has experience of managing such arrangements.
- 3.5 The entitlement from August 2014 is to non-working families only, extending to low-income families from August 2015. To ensure that there is sufficient provision from August 2014, the Education Service has based plans on the higher number, that is, low-income families.
- 3.6 Low-income families are to be determined by their receipt of the following benefits:
- Income Support
 - Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Employment and Support Allowance
 - Disability Living Allowance (being replaced by Personal Independence Payments)
 - Pension Credit
- 3.7 Scottish Government has outlined the need to ensure that those workless households who would ordinarily be entitled to the free early learning and childcare benefit are engaged in work related activity or family support, where there are no reasons of incapacity or disability for not working.
- 3.8 It is anticipated that the statutory guidance may exemplify such work related activity. It is anticipated that examples of activity could include:
- job seeking
 - employability pipeline programmes
 - training and studying
 - family support such as participation in parenting programmes

- family centred based early learning and childcare
 - community childminding
- 3.9 To support the process locally, the Education Service is working closely with colleagues in Governance and Resources of both Clackmannanshire and Stirling and with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to devise a protocol for accessing entitlement to 600 hours. The protocol will define the process through which families are made aware of their entitlement and become known to the Education Service. The protocol will also define for local families the range of work-related activity that would be required to be evidenced by them in order to claim their entitlement to the 600 hours. However, it is likely that during the first year of implementation that families will be required to self-refer for the entitlement.

Capacity and Demand

- 3.10 Data provided by the Council's Revenues and Benefits Service shows that there will be around 299 two year olds eligible for 600 hours of early learning and childcare during the course of academic session 2014/2015.
- 3.11 Scottish Government has advised that local authorities plan for an uptake of 70%. Using this uptake rate, around 210 children would be eligible and would be placed at a nursery for receipt of their 600 hours entitlement.
- 3.12 Data provided to the Education Service for the purposes of scoping need comprised a list of postcodes of those claimant households in receipt of relevant benefits and in which two-year-old children are resident; these postcodes were matched to primary school catchments; and, further into associated learning communities.
- 3.13 Appendix 1 shows for each of the three learning communities in Clackmannanshire, anticipated levels of demand during the course of 2014/2015. These anticipated intake numbers are broken-down further into the three intake periods: August 2014; January 2015; April 2015. Data shows that 61 children will be eligible from August 2014; a further 43 will become eligible from January 2015; the final intake figure in April 2015 is 17.
- 3.14 Scottish Government has advised local authorities to assume an uptake rate of 70%, particularly in the first year, 2014-2015. However, the Education Service has assumed uptake of 100% so that full demand is able to be met.

Shortfall and Solutions

- 3.15 Currently, ABC Nursery is the only Council-run nursery that makes provision for children under three years old within the Education Service. Therefore, further nursery places for two year olds are required across Clackmannanshire.

- 3.16 The Education Service proposes to relocate Kidzone Out-of-School Care service, which is sited currently at ABC Nursery, to the new Redwell Primary facility, making out-of-school care available at Redwell Primary School from August 2014. This relocation provides scope for there to be increased capacity at ABC Nursery to accommodate initially the full demand that will arise from the Alloa parents and from Sauchie parents initially.
- 3.17 It is anticipated that ABC Nursery will provide only a short-term solution for both Alloa and Sauchie; therefore, an alternative solution is being considered for Sauchie. The Education Service proposes to site a mobile classroom on the grounds of Sauchie Nursery School in which provision will be made for two year olds. The Education Service is working closely with Facilities Management to scope this option more fully. It is anticipated that the new provision will be operational by January 2015, by which time ABC Nursery will have capacity solely for Alloa residents.
- 3.18 It is proposed that new provisions are installed within Banchory and Clackmannan Primary Schools to accommodate the demand arising from those resident in the communities of Tullibody and Clackmannan village respectively.
- 3.19 There are a number of options being considered for residents of the Hillfoots communities. These include: installing a provision two year olds in Tillicoultry Primary School; installing a provision for two year olds in Alva Primary School; using the Ben Cleuch Centre for all or part of the week; childminders. There is also some potential to utilise the initial additional capacity in Alva Primary School – Nursery Class at the beginning of the school session; however, this is not a long-term solution.
- 3.20 In considering these options, the Education Service has looked initially to where there is existing nursery provision. In those schools where nursery provision is already made, the addition of two year old provision could help to strengthen further work related to early intervention and prevention; as well as provide further opportunities to work with parents and families.
- 3.21 The Education Service is consulting with Head Teachers as to the most appropriate management arrangements for the new provisions; however, it is likely that the new provisions will be registered in the same way as the current nursery provision, that is, that Head Teachers will have overall strategic management responsibility for the nursery inclusive of two year olds. The Education Service recognises that such a move amounts to a significant change for Head Teachers and therefore, will provide additional management support to those establishments.
- 3.22 Whilst confident of being able to meet fully the demand from local residents from August, The Education Service is continuing to work closely with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) so that a contingency plan is in place should demand exceed availability of places.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 The expanded capacity at ABC Nursery will not be sufficient to meet demand in the long-term from Sauchie residents; therefore, the Education Service will be considering a more sustainable option for Sauchie from August 2015 as detailed in 3.17 above.
- 4.2 The Education Service is working with Facilities Management to identify a more sustainable option for the provision of early learning and childcare for the Hillfoots Community, which extends current nursery provision to include two year olds as detailed in 3.19 above.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are capital and revenue costs associated with this expansion and discussions with Scottish Government are continuing.
- 5.2 It is proposed that a paper be brought to a future meeting outlining the exact extent of Scottish Government funding; and, local spending plans.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Not applicable

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Entitled Two Year Olds 2014/2015

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

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Anticipated Demand for Nursery Places for Two Year Olds – Learning Community

Learning Community (Associated Primary School Catchments)		Aug-14	Jan-15	Apr-15	Total
ALLOA	Park Primary School	14	8	5	27
	Redwell Primary School (formerly St John's and Claremont primaries)	6	6	1	13
	Sunnyside Primary School	6	5	4	15
Total		26	19	10	55
ALVA (Hillfoots)	Alva Primary School	8	5	4	17
	Coalsnaughton Primary School	0	0	0	0
	Menstrie Primary School	0	0	0	0
	Muckhart Primary School	0	0	0	0
	Strathdevon Primary School	0	0	0	0
	Tillicoultry Primary School	9	6	4	19
Total		17	9	8	36
LORNSHILL (incorp. Tullibody and Sauchie)	Abercromby Primary School	9	4	2	15
	Banchory Primary School	7	3	4	14
	Clackmannan Primary School	7	5	2	14
	Craigbank Primary School	6	7	0	13
	Deerpark Primary School	13	2	3	18
	Fishcross Primary School	0	0	0	0
	St Serf's Primary School	2	4	2	8
Total		44	25	13	82

Notes:

1. Postcodes have been aligned to non-denominational primary schools catchments.
2. Revenue and Benefits data listed a further 18 eligible date of birth but with no postcodes aligned; therefore, these have not been included in the figures above.
3. There are a further 18 children who will be eligible but for which Revenue and Benefits have no postcode information.

