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**Report to Education, Sport and Leisure Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 19 September 2013**

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**Subject: Increase in Entitlement to Early Learning and Childcare**

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**Report by: Assistant Head of Education**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Scottish Government's proposal to increase the entitlement to nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours.
- 1.2 The paper highlights the requirement to consult on the demand for childcare places and the needs of parents.
- 1.3 The paper provides details on the proposed approach to the development of a delivery model for increased hours by August 2014.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note and comment on the proposed increase to the entitlement to nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours as detailed in this report.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee note that a further report will be presented to the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee in January 2014, once there is further information on the progress of the Children and Young People's Bill and the Financial Memorandum. The report will include an analysis of Clackmannanshire Council's consultation results on the proposed delivery models.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1 The current consultation on the Children and Young People's Bill states the Scottish Government's intention to:
- Increase the funded annual provision from 475 hours of pre-school education for 3 and 4 year olds to 600 hours.
  - Guarantee a minimum annual provision of 600 hours for looked-after 2-year olds and 2-year olds subject to Kinship Care Orders, including joint work with parents and carers within settings appropriate to the age and needs of the child.

- Place a duty on education authorities to consult locally on the needs of parents and demand for childcare places at least every two years.

- 3.2 Preliminary work on costing possible delivery models for the increase in hours is now under way. In Clackmannanshire, a consultation group will be formed to help shape the redesign of early years services to meet the requirements of the Children and Young People's Bill.
- 3.3 A survey will be developed and will be available for all parents and carers of children under 5 within Clackmannanshire Council to complete between October and November 2013.
- 3.4 As part of the implementation of the Children and Young People's Bill by August 2014, local authorities are required to survey patterns of early learning and childcare. Parents will be consulted about this every two years. Officers intend to find out the views of parents and carers in Clackmannanshire Council by generating both qualitative and quantitative data.
- 3.5 Families will be asked to indicate their preferred options for accessing 600 hours of early learning and childcare which can be reasonably delivered by August 2014. The options provided will cover nursery class provision and partner service provision. Additional information from families on factors which are important when choosing early learning and childcare and information about parents' work and study will be sought as part of the survey.
- 3.6 The results will be analysed and will provide the Education Service with information to support the development of flexible early learning and childcare services for children under school age.
- 3.7 A delivery model for 2014/15 will be developed by a multi- agency group for approval by the Committee in January 2014.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. N/a

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

##### *5.1. Financial Details*

- 5.2. The resource implications are contained in the paper. Yes x
- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes **X**

##### *5.4. Staffing*

- 5.5. Increase in staffing, however this will be fully funded. Yes **X**

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1. Is this report exempt?

Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No **X**

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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)

N/a

## 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 None


## 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

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Kevin Kelman	Assistant Head of Education	
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