
Report to: People Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2018

Subject: Update on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) expansion to 1140 hours

Report by: Chief Education Officer

1.0 Purpose

This paper provides an update on the work that has taken place to revise and re-profile Clackmannanshire's ELC Expansion Plans.

The ELC Expansion Plans have been updated to take account of a number of factors:-

- feedback from meetings held with Scottish Government's Early Years Team (SGEYT);
- Scottish Government's letter of 30 November 2017, which provided further clarity and guidance on areas within the initial plan that needed further information, review, development and re-assessment;
- the Scottish Government's most recent confirmation of the available financial resources
- information derived from a national seminar held on 26 January 2018, with all local authorities with SGEYT;
- a further Guidance Note issued by Scottish Government on 22 February 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the People Committee considers the update on the ELC Expansion Plans and:

- notes the progress that has been made relating to the expansion of the ELC provision to 1140 hours for all 3-4 year olds;
- notes that the option appraisal for Menstrie nursery expansion finds that the Dumyat Centre is not suitable for conversion to a Nursery. The educational benefits of a purpose built nursery based alongside the primary school will deliver the highest quality learning experience and will enhance the whole school environment.
- notes that some changes may require to be made to the ELC Expansion Plans as the project progresses resulting from financial, planning or infrastructure matters or as demand for extended year places becomes more certain.

- authorises the Chief Education Officer, in consultation with the Convenor of the People Committee to make necessary changes to the ELC Plans.
- agrees that regular updates be provided to the People Committee on plans and progress with the ELC expansion project as they develop;

3.0 Progress of ELC Expansion Plan

3.1 Provision

As previously agreed by Council, the strategic expansion plan aims to provide an equitable distribution of delivery stream models across the council area. This includes four all year round nurseries; open from 8am to 6pm. The nurseries, where this can be established within the additional budget and timescales of 2020, are Sauchie, Menstrie, Tullibody South and ABC.

Following on from the decision taken at Council on 8th March 2018 that 'the Dumyat Centre be considered for Community Asset Transfer and/or education use' (saving ref. SCSR03), options for the provision of 1140 hours in Menstrie have been fully explored. The outcome of this work is that the Dumyat Centre is not suitable for conversion to a Nursery and would require significant structural adaptations. In addition, the educational benefits of a purpose built nursery based alongside the primary school will deliver the highest quality learning experience and will enhance the whole school environment.

Some other nurseries may also offer extended hours within term time if required.

The current approved plans show 7 individual infrastructure projects.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Sauchie Nursery | Refurbishment |
| Alva Nursery Class | Refurbishment |
| Deerpark Nursery Class | Refurbishment |
| Craigbank Nursery Class | Refurbishment |
| Clackmannan Nursery Class | Refurbishment |
| Park Nursery Class | Refurbishment |
| Menstrie Nursery Class | New build |

ELC expansion funding has been allocated to the new school campus at Tullibody South to increase the nursery size to meet the 1140 hour expansion requirements as when the campus was planned the size was based on the earlier 600 hours ELC. Outdoor space projects are also being considered for inclusion.

3.2 Phased Implementation Plan

The phasing of the delivery is as follows:

- (i) 2017/18
 - increase the space and facilities at Sauchie Nursery to open all year and deliver lunch
 - Reconfigure Alva NC.
 - Design work for Menstrie NC
- (ii) 2018/19
 - Completion of reconfiguration at Alva and Clackmannan nursery classes

- Start new build at Menstrie PS
- Design work for Craigbank PS
- Increase the planned nursery space at Tullibody South.
- Kitchen reconfiguration at Coalsnaughton NC

(iii) 2019/20 and 2020/21

- Reconfiguration at Park Nursery, Craigbank PS and Deerpark PS
- Completion of Menstrie NC
- Completion of remaining kitchen reconfigurations

3.3 Workforce Expansion

3.3.1 Estimates suggest that the current ELC workforce of 173.5 fte (2017/18) will grow to 224.5 by 2021 (29% growth). There will be corresponding growth within Catering and Cleaning Services of 11fte.

3.3.2 Clackmannanshire's ELC team were asked to present at the last National Learning Event in Glasgow as the trainee programme we have developed is regarded as best practice. Seven trainees are now in their second year of study and ten new trainees have been recruited to start in August 2018. The age profile of the trainees is as follows: 16years to 19 year - 3 recruits; 20 years to 24 years - 3 recruits and 25 years + 4 recruits.

3.3.3 Seven graduates, funded by the Scottish Government's Additional Graduate Commitment, have been recruited to work in nurseries to ensure that children have access to highly qualified staff with expertise in early childhood learning and development to support our ambition to close the attainment gap.

3.3.4 As part of the implementation of the 18-19 Budget, the role and deployment of nursery teachers has been revised. We have appointed a new Principal Teacher Early Years who will lead the six peripatetic teachers to further support early childhood learning and development in all settings.

3.4 Expansion of School Meal Provision

3.4.1 Children aged 2 – 5 years will be entitled to receive a meal over the lunchtime period by 2020. There will be additional capital costs to expand and convert kitchens and to purchase additional equipment. This work is in the process of being costed.

3.4.2 Catering and Education services have been meeting with the NHS Dietician to ensure that the nutritional value of the food being offered meets the required nutritional value and appeals to younger children.

3.5 Partner Nursery and Childminder Provision of Children

3.5.1 The current expansion plans indicate that by 2020, 12% of children will receive their entitlement within partner nurseries. This is an increase from the current 7%. Meetings with partners continue to take place. Two partner nurseries have extended their provision and two others are considering their plans. Fourteen childminders are now working in partnership with the council.

3.6 Consultation

- 3.6.1 Meetings have taken place with the Scottish Government’s Early Years Team, Regional Improvement Collaborative Councils and the Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES) groups.
- 3.6.2 Additionally, the current plans have been discussed with Head Teachers and Early Years staff. “Sharing the Agenda” is the annual meeting held with all local authority ELC staff; Trade Union representatives also attend these events. Trade unions are consulted and updated within bipartite meetings.
- 3.6.3 A full parent consultation took place last year and further parental consultation is planned for the beginning of the school year 2018-19. Specific consultation has taken place in Coalsnaughton PS and Sauchie Nursery where the service has already started to change.

4.0 Implications

- 4.1 Current plans continue to be developed and reviewed in recognition of the relevant statutory guidance that has been issued in relation to the early years learning and childcare duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

5.0 Risk

- 5.1 The key risks associated with this project are:
- Delivery of infrastructure expansion projects on time.
 - Ensuring there is sufficient financial resources available; revenue funding only confirmed for 18-19.
 - Ensuring that staff are recruited on time.

6.0 Equalities

- 6.1 Where it is possible to do so, the deprivation rankings will be used as a basis to prioritise ELC expansion plans. This demonstrates a clear commitment to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes in a targeted manner.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Development and Finance Services been involved in the compilation and preparation of the technical and financial information required to deliver this project.

8.0 Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 There are no impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change or sustainable development arising directly from this report. These matters are considered as part of the planning, design development and implementation of each individual project involved in the development of the ELC estate.

9.0 Resource Implications

- 9.1 Scottish Government has provided additional revenue and capital funding to respond to the necessity to deliver additional capacity across the estate as a result of requirements related to the children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

10.0 Exempt Reports

10.1 Is the report exempt? NO

11.0 Declarations

11.1 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)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

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

Not applicable.

12.0 Equalities Impact

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

N/A

13.0 Legality

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

Yes.

14.0 Appendices

None

15.0 Background Papers

Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Clackmannanshire Council Delivery Plan2017

<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/802/5758.pdf>

[A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland - 2017–18 Action Plan](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Planning Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland – Next Steps - Analysis Report](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Consultation](#)

[The Skills Investment Plan Prospectus](#)

[Additional Graduate Commitment](#)

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