

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to: People Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2020

**Subject: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Clackmannanshire Council
Delivery Plan 2017**

Report by: Chief Education Officer / Senior Manager (People)

1.0 Purpose

This paper provides an update on the progress of work that has taken place to deliver Clackmannanshire's ELC Expansion Plan 2017.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the People Committee

- notes the progress that has been made relating to the expansion of the ELC provision to 1140 hours for all 3-5 year olds, eligible 2 year olds, and comment on current status
- agrees that a consultation with staff and families from ABC Nursery be undertaken to ascertain future provision given a recent condition survey which demonstrated the considerable investment that would be required to maintain the building. A report on the outcome of the consultation will be brought back to People Committee on 28/5/20.

3.0 Background

The Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion plans for Clackmannanshire were originally submitted to Council on 9/11/17. Since then updates have been provided at People Committee meetings on 30/8/18 and 14/3/19.

3.1 Progress of ELC Expansion Plan

There are no catchment areas for nurseries which gives families the flexibility to take up the provision of 1140 hours at a nursery of their choice.

3.1.1. Phase 1

Coalsnaughton NC continues to offer 1140 hours term time to children aged 2-5 with capacity for 30 children.

3.1.2 Phase 2

In August 2019, implementation of 1140 hours began in the following establishments:

Sauchie Nursery with capacity for 103 children aged 2-5 with provision either term time or full year. Children aged 2 will receive 1140 hours from January 2020 as part of a phased approach.

The new build Tulach nursery with capacity for 140 children aged 2-5 with provision either term time or full year.

Banchory Nursery Class with capacity for 50 children aged 2-5.

St. Serf's Nursery Class with a capacity for 74 children aged 2-5.

Five Partner Provider Nurseries (*Glenview, Little Stars, Kidzworld, Flying Start and Dollar*) offered 800 hours from August 2019 with a potential capacity for 133 children.

The Childminding partners offer a potential capacity for 39 children.

3.1.3 Phase 3

October 2019 - Clackmannan Nursery Class - refurbished and extended, offering 1140 hours to 2-5 year olds term time with capacity for 94 children.

3.1.4 Phase 4

January 2020

Craigbank Nursery Class, a refurbishment to the school building, where there is no existing nursery class, will open in January 2020 offering 1140 hours term time to 48 children aged 2-5 years old. Recruitment has taken place and an additional ELC Educator post will be advertised as numbers increase.

Menstrie Nursery, a new build will offer full year and term time provision between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. for 107 children aged 2-5. Following a Care Inspectorate visit on 7th January 2020, we expect registration to be in place for opening on 13th January 2020. Children who currently attend Menstrie Nursery Class will transition to the new facilities. An interim Head has been appointed as well as a permanent Depute Head, and in December 2019, 3 ELC Educators were appointed. The vacancy for Senior ELC Educator is being advertised week beginning 6th January 2020 and a 2 further ELC Educator posts will be advertised in the coming weeks.

3.1.5 Phase 5 - The remaining 6 nursery classes will offer 1140 hours during term time from August 2020

Alva Nursery Class will have capacity for 74 children aged 2-5, this is subject to Care Inspection variation and will require 3 additional ELC Educators in August 2020

Tillicoultry Nursery Class will have capacity for 80 children aged 2-5, this will require 4 additional ELC Educators in August 2020

Strathdevon Nursery Class will have capacity for 48 children aged 2-5 subject to Care Inspection variation, this will require 2 additional ELC Educators in August 2020

Redwell Nursery Class will have capacity for 80 children aged 3-5 subject to Care Inspection variation, this will require 5 additional ELC Educators in August 2020

Sunnyside Nursery Class will have capacity for 80 children aged 2-5 subject to Care Inspection variation, this will require 5 additional ELC Educators in August 2020

Park Nursery Class, an extension to the current building, will have capacity for 114 children aged 2-5, subject to Care Inspection variation, this will require 7 additional ELC Educators in August 2020. The plans for Park include using part of the new building to accommodate up to 50 Primary One children; this offers the opportunity to deliver progressive learning experiences for children from age 2 or 3 years through to the end of Primary One, a model which enables the facilitation of the whole of the Early Level of Curriculum for Excellence.

ABC Nursery will offer full year and term time during hours of 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. from August 2020. The capacity at ABC is for 67 children aged 2-5. Consultation with staff and families will begin in January 2020 to ascertain future provision given a recent condition survey which demonstrated the considerable investment that would be required to maintain the building.

3.1.6 Phase 6 Muckhart PS

Consideration is being given to developing an outdoor nursery at Muckhart Primary School. Early Years staff and the Headteacher are researching the different models and considering how this might be applied. Initial scope has been carried out for Muckhart looking at an outdoor heated shelter. The aim of this looking outward exercise is to extend choice for the parents and children of Clackmannanshire.

Expansion of School Meal Provision

Work is being undertaken across the estate to ensure that there are facilities to offer all children a hot lunch by August 2020. Lunches are being phased in with some establishments having started with a sandwich lunch. Catering and Education services will be meeting with a NHS Dietician to ensure that the nutritional value of the food being offered meets the required nutritional value and appeals to younger children.

3.2 Next Phase

In 2020 when all the building works are complete, all remaining nursery classes will deliver 1140 hours.

In November 2017, the projected demand for eligible 2s and 3-5 year olds in August 2020 was identified as 1216 spaces.

As well as refurbishments and new builds, capacity in each nursery class and stand alone nursery has been maximised. This will give capacity for 1189 children in local authority provision by August 2020.

There is further scope to register outdoor space at Menstrie, Sauchie and Tulach nurseries which would give an additional 60 spaces.

In addition the 5 private partnership nurseries offer a combined capacity of 133 spaces and 13 childminders can provide up to 39 spaces.

This gives a total capacity of 1421 spaces across all providers in Clackmannanshire.

As 'Funding Follows the Child' is introduced, families will be able to choose the provision they want with the option of a blended model of childcare where the child attends a childminder and a nursery in the same day. Once the enrolment process begins in January 2020, we will have more accurate numbers around the service demand.

3.3 Workforce Expansion

Additional staff are being recruited for the ELC expansion. There was an intake of 10 Trainees/Modern Apprentices, for the third consecutive year in August 2019, with a recruitment focus on those over the age of 25 years. A number of Early Years staff are training as assessors and delivering the underpinning knowledge to students. There are some outstanding vacancies across the establishments for lunchtime assistants and ELC educators.

3.4 Partner Nursery and Childminder Provision of Children

- 3.4.1 The contract for partner nurseries was renewed 1st August 2019. The ELC team worked with Scotland Excel and the Council's procurement team to ensure the new ELC standards and Funding Follows the Child requirements were being met along with procurement standards. There are now 5 private nurseries in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council.
- 3.4.2 The new contract also includes childminders who have not been in contract before. 13 childminders applied for partnership and are now able to offer Early Learning and Childcare.
- 3.4.3 Clackmannanshire's website informs parents and carers that children can use entitled hours where there is availability, with a local childminder who is in partnership and states the childminding provider's details.

- 3.4.4 The 'provider neutral' Funding Follows the Child approach is being introduced alongside the national roll-out of the expanded entitlement in 2020. The approach will be underpinned by a National Standard that all providers delivering the funded hours regardless of whether they are in the public, private or third sector, or childminders will have to meet.
- 3.4.5 It gives choice to parents' and carers', enabling them to access their child's funded entitlement from any provider that meets the new National Standard, has a place available and is willing to enter into a contract with their local authority. This approach increases the number of partners the authority will require to work with and therefore more central staff are required to support partners and ensure the quality of providers is high. Revenue budget is available through the Expansion plan funding.
- 3.4.6 Under a 'provider neutral' approach, it is essential that provision is financially sustainable in order to ensure that providers across all sectors are willing and able to deliver the funded hours. In 2018, the rate paid to partners increased to £5.00 per hour for children aged 3 to 5 years old. The rate will continue to be monitored and increased to ensure sustainability. From August 2020 all children in a partner nursery or with a childminder, who receive a funded Early Learning and Childcare place over lunchtime, will receive a free lunch. These lunches will be prepared by the provider and a payment of £3.00 a day will be made to cover the cost. Where children are in blended care and split their time during a day with a childminder and nursery a decision will be made as to who provides lunch.

4.0 Implications

The approved Expansion Plan continues 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

The key risks associated with this project are:

- Delivery of infrastructure expansion projects on time. All of the building projects have been programmed and budgeted for
- Recruitment of staff. All additional graduates have been recruited within the time frame and the trainee programme ensures that new Educators are trained locally.

6.0 Equalities

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

Total funding of £2.73 million was provided to in 2019/20 to pay for the roll out of the 1140 hours including the additional costs of providing free lunches. Due to staff turnover and building issues, the opening of Menstrie and Craighbank nurseries was delayed from October 2019 to January 2020 and the provision of meals has not been fully implemented. As a result there is currently a projected underspend of £300,000 in this years programme. Discussions with officers of Scottish Government have indicated that they are content to allow the Council to keep this money to assist with the full rollout of our expansion.

In 2020/21 and 2021/22 £4.5 million has been provided to ensure that the Council can complete its expansion. 2021/22 will be the first financial year when the expansion has been fully implemented and the full costs incurred

8.0 Sustainability Implications

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

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

Is the report exempt? NO

11.0 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)

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

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

N/A

13.0 Legality

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 Plan 2017

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

[Update to Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Clackmannanshire
Council Delivery Plan 2017 - March 2019](#)

[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](#)

[Rapid evidence review: Childcare quality & children's outcomes - Publications - NHS Health Scotland](#)

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lynda McDonald	Improving Outcomes Manager	2423

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Chief Education Officer/Senior Manager (People)	