
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	13 June 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/36/17/LW
Contact Officer:	Linda Wilkie (QIO)	Contact No:	01475 712812
Subject:	Update on the Implementation of 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The entitlement to 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare was implemented in 2014 for all 3 and 4 year olds. Provision for children aged 2 years was phased in over 2014/15.
- 2.2 A range of successful developments have been introduced to deliver the increased entitlement.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Council has successfully met the increased legislative requirements whilst maintaining quality.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress made in delivering this increase in Early Learning and Childcare.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The entitlement to 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare was implemented in 2014. This entitlement was for all 3 and 4 year olds and for children aged 2 years from workless households. In 2015 the provision for 2 year olds was extended to include children from families on a wider range of benefits.
- 4.2 This increase required both an increase in provision and a change in how the service is delivered.
- 4.3 Another increase in entitlement of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours will be implemented by 2020.

5.0 DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 All eligible children aged 3 and 4, who applied for a place, received 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare within Local Authority or Partner establishments.
- 5.2 All 'looked after' children, who were referred, were offered a package of care personal to their needs.
- 5.3 Additional capacity for 2 year olds was developed in existing provision in Children / Family Centres. New provisions were created within Binnie St. Children's Centre and Gibshill Children's Centre. These services have proven very popular in local communities.
- 5.4 The uptake of 2 year old places in Inverclyde is one of the highest in the country. An excellent partnership with DWP has removed many barriers from the admission process enabling parents / carers to access places timeously.
- 5.5 Additional provision, sourced with childminders in Kilmacolm, East Greenock, Gourock and Wemyss Bay has not been required. This has had limited success as parents/carers have not identified it as a preferred option.
- 5.6 Two additional teachers were recruited to enhance the 'Access to a Teacher' peripatetic service. This has positively impacted on the maintaining of quality within the service.
- 5.7 A range of staff development opportunities have been provided. This has included qualifications required by Scottish Social Services Council resulting in 86% of Senior Managers now having a specific Early Years degree.
- 5.8 Flexible provision within nursery classes has been successful and has supported parents / carers in employment, education and training. The roll-out of this development is continuing.
- 5.9 The appointment of Early Years Support Workers has been critical in ensuring that Early Years Education and Childcare Officers remain focused on the delivery of a quality curriculum.

6.0 CHALLENGES

- 6.1 As anticipated, the recruitment of new staff negatively impacted on the availability of quality supply. Recruitment drives have had limited success. The service will continue to monitor the availability of supply staff and the impact of this on the service.
- 6.2 The tight turnaround of 35 minutes between the AM session and the PM session has been challenging, however the ever increasing number of children accessing full days is beginning to address this issue.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications:

This development was fully funded by Scottish Government.

Legal

7.2 There are no legal implications.

Human Resources

7.3 There are no human resources implications.

Equalities

7.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No

This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

7.5 There are no repopulation implications.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The developments outlined in this report ensure that children and families in Inverclyde continue to access their entitlement to early learning and childcare within a quality setting.