

Report To:	Education and Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	25 January 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Contact No:	EDUC/03/11/LW
Contact Officer:	Linda Wilkie	Contact No:	01475 712812
Subject:	Nursery Provision in the Larkfield area of Greenock		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of the re-establishment of an Early Years establishment in the Larkfield area of Greenock.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Ladybird Pre 5 Centre closed suddenly on 07.10.10. It was originally an urban aid funded project, which opened in 1994 to serve the community of Larkfield. It was a voluntary organisation managed by a Board of Trustees.
- 2.2 There is now limited Early Years Provision in the Larkfield area. Both Elizabeth Martin Nursery and Quarrier's Larkfield have closed in previous years. Aileymill Nursery School is the only remaining service which provides places for 3 – 5 year olds on a term-time basis.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Council would establish a new 52 week establishment in the Larkfield area based in the accommodation in Sacred Heart Primary School providing family support services and nursery placements for children aged 0 -5 years on an extended day / year basis.
- 2.4 The service would be established initially on a fixed term basis from January / February 2011 until June 2013. During this period Officers would consult with the community, undertake an appraisal of a permanent location for the service and have further engagement with potential voluntary/private providers. Findings would be reported to committee early 2012.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee members agree to re-establishing nursery provision in the Larkfield area on a fixed term basis from Jan/Feb 2011 to June 2013.
- 3.2 It is recommended that a further report is submitted to Committee early in 2012 with a permanent proposal for provision in the Larkfield area of Greenock.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education & Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Ladybird Pre 5 Centre closed suddenly on 07.10.10. It was originally an urban aid funded project, which opened in 1994 to serve the community of Larkfield. It was a voluntary organisation managed by a Board of Trustees.
- 4.2 It was funded by private income, Fairer Scotland Funding and Education Services funding for commissioned places and for vulnerable children. The service also receives a variety of grants from organisations such as Children in Need and Lottery.
- 4.3 Ladybird Pre 5 Centre was temporarily located within a wing of Sacred Heart Primary School. It was relocated from Earnhill Primary School in February 2010. Discussions had taken place with the organisation in relation to a final move to the accommodation which currently houses Garvel Deaf Centre.

5.0 PROVISION

- 5.1 Ladybird Pre-5 Centre offered a range of services for children and families. Over 90 children attended the Centre.

5.2 Family Support Work

A Family Support Worker, employed by Inverclyde Council, provided a range of support services. This member of staff has currently been relocated to Bluebird Family Centre; however she will return to the Larkfield area as soon as suitable accommodation is identified. The Family Support Worker is continuing to support families in the Larkfield area by establishing a Carer and Toddler group in the Tenants Hall; providing weekly 'Bookbug' sessions in Youth Connections; supporting parents in the transition to new provision and providing 1:1 support to a number of vulnerable families.

5.3 After-School Clubs

Regular after-school, evening and occasional weekend sessions were offered to Primary School aged children. These sessions offered children experiences related to the outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence. Approximately 30 children benefited from this service which was funded by Children in Need for 3 years.

6.0 EARLY YEARS PROVISION IN THE LARKFIELD AREA

- 6.1 There is limited Early Years Provision in the Larkfield area. Both Elizabeth Martin Nursery and Quarrier's Larkfield have closed in previous years. Aileymill Nursery School is the only remaining service which provides places for 3 – 5 year olds on a term-time basis.
- 6.2 The community of Larkfield require a service in the area which offers extended year provision for children aged 0 – 5 years; however this is not required on the scale of the Ladybird organisation given that 66% of the children who attended Ladybird did not come from the Larkfield area.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 Inverclyde Council establishes a new 52 week establishment in the Larkfield area based in the accommodation in Sacred Heart Primary School.

- 7.2 The service would be established initially on a fixed term basis from January / February 2010 until June 2013. During this period Officers would consult with the community, undertake an appraisal of a permanent location for the service and have further engagement with potential voluntary/private providers. Findings would be reported to Committee early in 2012.
- 7.3 The establishment would provide a range of services with the provision of nursery placements based on the number of children residing in the Larkfield community. It would provide 6 full-time equivalent places for children aged 0 – 2 years, 10 full-time equivalent places for children aged 2 – 3 years. 16 full-time equivalent places for children aged 3 – 5 would transfer from Aileymill Nursery School to the new establishment to meet the demand for 52 week extended day / year provision.
- 7.3 The staffing structure of this provision would be 1 x Head of Centre, 1 x Depute Head, 5.0 EYECOs and a 0.4 Clerical Assistant.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance

Revenue

EXPENDITURE	Part Year 2010/11	Full Year 2011/12	Other comments
Staffing Costs	£35,176	£140,702	7.4 staff required, 3 EYECO's transferred from other services.
Property	N/A	£26,000	As of June 2011
Education Supplies	£1,200	£7,200	
Resources / equipment	N/A	£25,000	One off cost
Total	£36,376	£198,902	

INCOME	Part Year 2010/11	Full Year 2011/12	Other comments
Grants previously paid to Ladybird CC	(£20,350)	(£81,400)	
Wrapround Income	(£21,250)	(£85,000)*	
Surestart / Childcare Strategy	(£1,875)	(£7,502)	
Fairer Scotland Funding	N/A	(£25,000)**	One-off payment
Total	(£43,475)	(£198,902)	

*£85,000 is 75% of potential 'Wraparound' income which reflect the potential non-payment of fees and that the service may not run at full capacity all day /year.

**Discussion has taken place with Economic Development about redirecting the element of Fairer Scotland Funding which was due to Ladybird Pre 5 Centre.

8.2 Personnel

TUPE legislation does not apply to the staff who were employed by Ladybird Pre 5 Centre.

8.3 Equalities

There are no equality issues arising from this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None