

Report To:	Education and Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	15 March 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No:	EDUC/21/11/LW
Contact Officer:	Linda Wilkie	Contact No:	01475 712812
Subject:	Update on 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 progress on the re-establishment of an Early Years establishment in the Larkfield area of Greenock and to request a decision on a name for the new provision.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Ladybird Pre 5 Centre closed suddenly on 07.10.10. Children were relocated to other early years provision across Inverclyde.
- 2.2 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee agreed in January 2011 to establish a new 52 week establishment in the Larkfield area for a fixed period until June 2013. The establishment will be based in the accommodation in Sacred Heart Primary School.
- 2.3 Excellent progress has been made in relation to registration with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care; staffing; accommodation, resources and equipment. All developments / improvements are now complete.
- 2.4 All parents who previously attended Ladybird Pre 5 Centre were contacted and the majority are happy with their existing placements and do not wish to transfer to the new provision. A very small number of parents have indicated that they may move their children at the end of the school term in June. There is demand for new placements for April 2011.
- 2.5 Given the demand for places it would be appropriate to open the service in April 2011.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Education & Lifelong Learning Committee members note the progress in re-establishing a new provision in the Larkfield area and agree to an opening date of April 2011.
- 3.2 Education & Lifelong Learning Committee members are asked to agree that Larkfield Children's Centre is the name of the new provision.

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 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee agreed in January 2011 to establish a new provision in the Larkfield area of Greenock based in the accommodation in Sacred Heart Primary School.

5.0 PROGRESS

- 5.1 An extensive programme of work was implemented following the decision of Education and Lifelong Learning in January 2011.
- 5.2 Registration with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care was granted on 23.02.11
- 5.3 The recruitment of the Head of Centre is currently underway. The successful candidate will be responsible for recruiting new staff. Some staff will be redeployed from other provision.
- 5.4 An intensive programme of work in relation accommodation, resources and equipment is complete and the building is now fit for purpose.

6.0 DEMAND

6.1 Previous Clients of Ladybird Pre 5 Centre

87 parents affected by the closure of Ladybird Pre 5 Centre were contacted and asked to indicate if they wished to transfer to the new provision. The overwhelming response was that parents and children are now settled in their new placements and therefore do not want to move to the new provision. Only 9 parents have expressed an interest in the new provision with the majority of them preferring to transfer at the end of the school term in June 2011.

6.3 New Applicants

Children who turn three years of age between January and March become eligible for a nursery place in April. There are currently 13 children in the Larkfield area in this category.

Vulnerable children under 3 are eligible for a nursery place. There are currently 5 referrals in this category which will be considered at the next admissions panel for admission in April.

6.4 Family Support Service

The demand for this service has continued. The family support worker continues to support families in their homes, in community facilities in the Larkfield community and in Bluebird Family Centre.

7.0 TIMESCALE

- 7.1 It is proposed that given the demand for services the new provision would open in April 2011.

8.0 NAME OF SERVICE

8.1 It is proposed that the new service is named Larkfield Children's Centre which reflects the community the provision will serve and the range of services which will be provided.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Finance

If the service does not open until April 2011 there would be no part year income and expenditure.

Revenue

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

INCOME	Full Year 2011/12	Other comments
Grants previously paid to Ladybird CC	(£81,400)	
Wrapround Income	(£85,000)*	
Surestart / Childcare Strategy	(£7,502)	
Fairer Scotland Funding	(£25,000)**	One-off payment
Total	(£198,902)	

9.2 Personnel

There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

9.3 Equalities

There are no equality issues arising from this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None