
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	11 March 2014
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/28/14/LW
Contact Officer:	Linda Wilkie	Contact No:	01475 712812
Subject:	Increase in Nursery Entitlement to 600 hours		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to
- provide details of the implementation of the increase in the entitlement of nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours for children from August 2014.
 - provide information on the resource requirements and financial implications of the increase in entitlement.
 - alert Members to the increase in entitlement for 2 year olds from workless households.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report details Scottish Government's proposal to increase the current entitlement of nursery provision for 3 and 4 years and vulnerable 2 year olds.
- 2.3 It provides details of the consultation processes with parents / carers and with staff from Early Years establishments
- 2.4 It provides details of Inverclyde's implementation plan for the entitlement.
- 2.5 It provides initial information on the challenges in implementing the recently announced increase in entitlement for 2 year olds from workless households.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- Approve the model for delivery of 600 hours of provision as of August 2014.
 - Agree that further flexibility will be developed in future years ensuring equality of provision across Inverclyde.
 - Agree the financial commitments as detailed in the report.
 - Note the implications of the increase in entitlement for 2 year olds from workless households.
 - Note that a detailed report on 2 year olds from workless households will be submitted to the Education and Communities Committee in May 2014.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Children and Young People Bill states Scottish Government's intention to improve access to high quality, flexible and integrated early learning and childcare.
- 4.2 The Scottish Government's intention is to:-
- Increase the funded annual provision from 475 hour to a minimum annual provision of 600 hours for 3 and 4 year olds.
 - Provide provision from the school term after a child's 3rd birthday.
 - Establish a funded annual provision for looked after 2 year olds of 600 hours.
 - Make early learning and childcare more flexible and seamless for the child, and better suited to family needs.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Scottish Government have made it clear that they wish parents to have flexibility in accessing the additional hours and it will not be solely based on a straightforward extension of nursery hours over 38 weeks.
- 5.2 Scottish Government has stated that Local Authorities can work towards flexible provision but must deliver the 600 hours from August 2014.
- 5.3 Scottish Government has stated that Local Authorities should consult with parents on delivery options every 2 years. A previous report to CMT and Education and Communities Committee proposed that consultation would take place in Inverclyde when further information was available on funding.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Funding for 600 hours was confirmed to the Chief Executive in November 2013. This enabled the final consultation with Heads of Establishment and the parent / carer consultation to go ahead.
- 6.2 The consultation exercise was carried out with parents and carers from 29th October 2013 to 6th December 2013. The purpose of the consultation was to identify parental preference for the use of the additional hours.

The exercise consisted of questionnaires circulated to parents of children aged 0 – 4 years and an online survey monkey, 272 responses were received.

The findings of the survey are:

Question	Number of Responses	Percentage
Requests for Extended Part-time Session	178	65%
Requests for Flexible Service	87	32%
No preference stated	7	3%

- 6.3 Consultation was carried out with all Heads of Establishment. This consisted of 2 group meetings, a 1:1 meeting and a written consultation exercise. Findings of this process are:
- Recognition that the increase in hours is legislation and thus must happen.
 - The importance of ensuring that the service is appropriately resourced.
 - The importance of ensuring that the service meets the needs of children and families.

- The importance of maintaining quality by protecting time for curriculum planning, evaluation, assessment and professional dialogue.

6.4 A proposal for Inverclyde has been developed taking into consideration the consultation findings. This model ensures that Inverclyde Council :

- meets the Governments target of 600 hours for every child.
- provides both extended part-time sessions and flexible placements as per parental demand.
- maintains the quality of provision.

6.5 The proposal is detailed below:

Establishment	Kilmacolm / Port Glasgow			
	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Kilmacolm Nursery Class	✓			Priority development area for 2015 / 16
Newark Nursery School	✓	✓	✓	
Rainbow Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Establishment	Greenock East			
	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Blairmore Nursery School	✓	✓	✓	
Gibshill Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Glenbrae Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Hillend Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
King's Oak Nursery Class	✓			
Enchanted Forest (Greenock)	✓	✓	✓	Partner Provider
Establishment	Greenock Central			
	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Wellpark Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Whinhill Nursery Classes	✓			incl. Gaelic Provision
Wellington Pre 5 Centre	✓	✓	✓	Partner Provider
Establishment	Greenock West			
	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Kelly St. Children's				

Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Madeira Nursery	✓	✓	✓	Partner Provider
West College Scotland	✓	✓	✓	Partner Provider
Greenock South West				
Establishment	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Aileymill Nursery Class	✓	✓		
Bluebird Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Lady Alice Nursery Class	✓			
Larkfield Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Gourock, Inverkip, Wemyss Bay				
Establishment	5 x 3 hour 10 min sessions x 38 weeks per year	Limited flexibility – eg extended session	Flexible provision eg 2 / 3 / 4 full days	Comment
Binnie St. Children's Centre	✓	✓	✓	
Enchanted Forest (Inverkip)	✓	✓	✓	Partner Provider
Inverkip Nursery Class	✓			
Moorfoot Nursery Class	✓			
Wemyss Bay Nursery Class	✓			Priority development area for 2015 / 16

6.6 As a minimum, services will now be delivering 6 hours 20 minutes of provision per day which is an increase of 1 hour and 20 minutes per day. To deliver this model, whilst retaining quality, a range of supports is required:

- Additional Early Years Education and Childcare Officers (EYECO) to support reduced ratios as per Care Inspectorate legislation.
- Additional support staff to support increased hours of delivery, extended provision and lunchtime duties.
- Voluntary uplift to EYECO / Senior Years Education and Childcare Officers (SEYECO) posts from 35 to 37 hours.
- Additional escort post to remove transport duties from EYECOs.
- Increase in clerical hours to support additional workload in relation to admissions.
- An uplift in payment to Partner Providers.
- An uplift in Per Capita to reflect increased hours of provision.

6.7 Future developments to ensure full flexibility will include:

- Extended provision in Kilmacolm and Wemyss Bay.
- Development of extended year entitlement.
- Increased flexibility in all establishments.

6.8 The increase in entitlement will impact on 'wraparound' income. This has been taken into consideration in the financial implications of the development.

6.9 Children in Inverclyde are currently provided with a nursery placement in the month after their 3rd

birthday. The Children and Young People Bill states that children should be allocated a place in the school term after their 3rd birthday. Two changes to this are proposed to address concerns raised by parents / carers:

1. the April admission date for children with January / February birthdays is brought forward to March.
2. the January admission date for children with August and September birthdays is brought forward to October.

Admissions dates are detailed below:

Child's 3rd birthday	Admission Date
1st March – 31st July	August
1st August – 30th September	October
1st October – 31st December	January
1st January – 28th (29th) February	March

7.0 ENTITLEMENT FOR LOOKED AFTER 2 YEAR OLDS

- 7.1 The allocation of funding for the provision of early learning and childcare for all Looked After 2 year olds was announced by Scottish Government in April 2012.
- 7.2 The key aim is that every looked after 2 year old benefits from high quality early learning and childcare; and that where possible work with parents embeds the benefits of formal early learning and childcare in the home.

8.0 PROVISION FOR LOOKED AFTER 2 YEAR OLDS IN INVERCLYDE

- 8.1 Within Inverclyde there is a range of services that provide placements for Looked After 2 year olds:

Area	Provision	Sector	Other information
Port Glasgow	Rainbow Family Centre	Local Authority	Provide services to children from Kilmacolm
East Greenock	Glenbrae Children's Centre	Local Authority	
Central Greenock	Wellpark Children's Centre	Local Authority	
West Greenock	Larkfield Children's Centre	Local Authority	Provide services to children from Gourock, Wemyss Bay and Inverkip
	Bluebird Family Centre	Local Authority	

- 8.2 There is capacity within these services to provide placements for all looked after children; however some children cannot be allocated their 1st choice of provision. There is a particular pressure in Glenbrae Children's Centre.
- 8.3 Allowance for this increase in provision has been included in the additional support being provided to Children / Family Centres detailed in 6.6

9.0 600 HOURS FOR 2 YEAR OLDS FROM WORKLESS HOUSEHOLDS

- 9.1 Scottish Government announced on 07.01.14 its intention to offer two year old children in workless households 600 hours of early learning and childcare from August 2014. From August 2015 this will be extended to all two year old children from families eligible for free school meals.
- 9.2 The national figure for additional places for August 2014 is estimated by Scottish Government to be

15% of all 2 year olds which is approximately 8,400 children across Scotland. Based on this assumption, this means approximately 120 additional places would be required in Inverclyde.

The national figure for additional places for August 2015 is estimated by Scottish Government to be 27% of all 2 year olds which is approximately 15,400 children across Scotland. Based on this assumption this means approximately 216 additional places would be required in Inverclyde.

It is likely that the figures in Inverclyde will be higher than the national average. The national figure for children eligible for free school meals is 27% whereas 29.3% of the current Primary 1 cohort in Inverclyde access free school meals.

- 9.3 There is an extremely high number of complex issues in delivering this intention.
- Scottish Government has not yet agreed eligibility criteria which causes difficulties in calculating exact numbers and cost.
 - Scottish Government has not yet confirmed the level of funding that Inverclyde Council will receive. The national figure has been announced; however an initial estimate identifies an annual shortfall of £150,000.
 - There is **not** capacity in the Early Years sector for this expansion to be delivered by August 2014.
 - There is no commitment to capital funding.
- 9.4 This is an extremely challenging agenda given the short timescale. A full report will be submitted to Committee in June 2014.

10.0 PARTNER PROVIDERS

- 10.1 There are currently 5 Partner Providers.
- 10.2 In line with guidance in the Children and Young People Bill it is proposed to increase the annual payment rate from £1550 to £2056 per child.
- 10.3 The part year cost of the increase will be £49,770. The full year cost will be £66,260.

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Revenue Funding

Inverclyde Council will receive £709,000 for revenue spend in 2014/15. Scottish Government has indicated that there will be increased funding until 2020. Funding for future years is not yet confirmed but estimates are as follows:

2015 - 16	2016 - 17	2017 - 18	2018 - 19	2019 - 20
£1,063,350	£1,170,900	£1,288,350	£1,442,850	£1,442,850

- 11.2 The delivery plan as outlined in section 6 of this report requires significant resourcing as detailed below:

Proposed Spend	Detail	Cost (part year)	Cost (full year)
Reduce ratio to 1:8	13 x EYECO Posts	£206,960	£310,440
Uplift EYECO hours from 35 - 37	9 posts (offer only)	£11,160	£16,740
Uplift SEYECO hours from 35 - 37	10 Posts in schools /classes (offer only)	£12,660	£18,990
Clerical Hours Increase	Uplift to 7 posts	£11,790	£17,690
	Uplift to nursery classes	£2,670	£4,000
Support Staff	34.5 x 20 hour Posts	£204,700	£307,050

Escort	1 x 20 hour post	£3,600	£5,400
Partner Providers	Increase to reflect 600 hours	£49,770	£66,260
Wraparound income	Estimated 20% reduction in 'wraparound' income	£27,930	£41,900
Per Capita Uplift	26.3% increase in DMR materials to reflect 26.3% increase in delivery	£20,080	£30,120
		£551,320	£818,590

Summary:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget 2014 /15	Proposed Spend 2014/15 (Part-year)	Virement	Other Comments
	Early Years	£709,000	£551,320	N/A	

11.3 Costs for the St. John's Nursery Class development are £59,743 part year and £89,245 full-year. This funding is not required until August 2015.

11.4 The balance of funding in future years will be used to develop full flexibility of provision as detailed in the Children and Young People Bill. This will ensure equality of provision across the Authority.

11.5 Capital Funding

Inverclyde Council will receive £413,000 for capital spend in 2014/15. Scottish Government has indicated that there will be similar funding for 2015/16 and 2016 /17 although this not yet confirmed.

11.6 It is proposed that this funding is used for the following projects:

Establishment	Development	Justification
St. John's Primary School	New 24 full-time equivalent nursery class provision.	To address the shortfall in places in Port Glasgow and the lack of provision in lower Port Glasgow.
Moorfoot Nursery Class	Refurbish and relocate the nursery provision to enable direct access to toilet provision.	To address issues identified by Care Inspectorate to enable the allocation of extended sessions.
King's Oak Nursery Class	Increase provision from 20 to 24 full-time equivalent	To enable the allocation of extended sessions and to ensure relevant legislation is adhered to with regard to floorspace.
Lady Alice Nursery Class	Increase provision from 20 to 24 full-time equivalent	To enable the allocation of extended sessions and ensure relevant legislation is adhered to with regard to floorspace and toilet provision.
Larkfield Children's Centre	Remodel and refurbish toilet and office provision.	To improve the quality of provision and meet Care Inspectorate legislation.

11.7 The school estates team is currently developing a programme of work for these projects.

11.8 There is also potential developments in the following establishments:

- Refurbishment of Glenbrae Children's Centre
- Refurbishment of Hillend Children's Centre
- Refurbishment of Kelly St. Children's Centre
- Reconfiguration of Bluebird Family Centre

This is dependent on the cost of the developments detailed in 11.6 above and future funding from Scottish Government.

12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Implementation of the proposals contained in this report will ensure Inverclyde Council meets the legislative requirements of the Children and Young People Bill with regard to the implementation of 600 hours.

13.0 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Additional staffing will be required to deliver the increase in entitlement.

13.2 The additional posts / uplifts in hours will be offered on fixed term basis of 4 years.

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no known equalities implications.

15.0 RECOMMENDATION

15.1 It is recommended that Committee note the content of this report and

- Approve the model for delivery of 600 hours of provision as of August 2014.
- Agree that further flexibility will be developed in future years
- Agree the financial commitments as detailed in the report
- Agree that the report is submitted to the Education and Communities Committee in March 2014.
- Note that a detailed report on 2 year olds from workless households will be submitted to the Education and Communities Committee in May 2014.