

Report To: Education and Communities Committee

Date: 19 January 2016

Report By: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Report No: EDUCOM/08/16/LW

Contact Officer: Linda Wilkie

Contact No: 01475 712812

Subject: Increase in Entitlement of Early Learning and Childcare

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This report provides the Committee with information on the Scottish Government's plan to increase the entitlement of Early Learning and Childcare.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Scottish Government's has announced a plan to increase the hours of early learning and childcare from 600 to 1140 hours per year by 2020.

2.2 This will mean a significant increase in the number of nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds and a small increase in the number of places for 2 year olds.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that:

- The Committee note the content of this report.
- A further report is submitted to the Committee with detailed information in due course.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0	BACKGROUND	
4.1	It is the Scottish Government's ambition to increase the hours of early learning and childcare from 600 to 1140 hours per year by 2020.	
4.2	To date there has been no official notification to Local Authorities on this development; however discussions have taken place at COSLA and the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) Early Years Network	
5.0	INCREASE IN ENTITLEMENT	
5.1	This increase from the current entitlement of 600 hours to 1140 hours will mean that all children aged 3 and 4 years and 27% of 2 year olds will receive the equivalent of 30 hours per week of early learning and childcare.	
5.2	The increase to 1140 hours has significant implications. It will mean an approximate 95% increase in the number of 3 – 5 year old places across Inverclyde which is approximately 1500 places. An additional 127 places for 2 year olds will also be required.	
5.3	It is likely that these places will be delivered by a range of providers including local authority, private nurseries, 3 rd sector nurseries and childminders. Initial investigation finds that there is not capacity across these sectors to deliver this entitlement.	
5.4	It should be noted that the current school estate proposals do not address this new level of entitlement and it is likely that additional capacity / accommodation will be required.	
6.0	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	
6.1	There will be significant capital and revenue funding implications; however at this time there is no information on funding for this initiative.	
7.0	LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
7.1	There are no legal implications	
8.0	HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS	
8.1	There are significant human resources implications as these developments will require a significant increase of practitioners.	
9.0	EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS	
9.1	There are no known equalities implications.	
10.0	REPOPULATION IMPLICATIONS	
10.1	There are no known repopulation implications.	
11.0	CONCLUSIONS	
11.1	The increase in entitlement will require significant planning and investment. Guidance	

	and financial information is required from the Scottish Government to ensure that this ambitious development is in place by 2020.	
12.0	BACKGROUND PAPERS	
12.1	None.	