

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REPORT BACK ON THE FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTATION ON
THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO
600 HOURS PER ANNUM**
Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE
Date: 4 February 2014
Author: JOINT ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 At the Education Executive meeting on 29 October 2013 members agreed to Education Services undertaking a consultation on the options for families and children to access the additional 125 hours per annum of early learning and childcare provision. The Government has introduced this as part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill and the proposed changes due to be implemented from August 2014 affect:

- Three and four year olds; and
- Two year olds (subject to a kinship care order or 'looked after').

1.2 The consultation exercise focused on seeking the views of parents on the various permutations and flexibility that could be possible within three option areas:-

- Option 1 - Providing longer am and pm sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time.
- Option 2 - Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x am and pm delivery model during school term time.
- Option 3 - Extending the length of the current 38 week term by 2 weeks.

1.3 The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform Elected Members of the results of the consultation exercise undertaken, and
- Outline the proposals and make recommendations for implementing these changes to existing service provision and delivery from August 2014.

2. CONSULTATION - DETAILS OF

Although this was not a statutory consultation exercise, Education Services broadly followed the process in line with the requirements within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.1 **List of Consultees**

Letters outlining the proposals were sent, via Early Years establishments and Private Partnership Nurseries, to parents/carers of children aged up to 4 years old living in the Falkirk Council area. The consultation was also advertised on posters located in Falkirk Council and other partner organisation premises as well as on the Falkirk Council internet.

In addition, officers from Education Services met with other stakeholders towards ascertaining their views on the implementation of the 600 hours, namely:

- Private Partnership Nurseries
- Nursery Staff (SEYOs and EYOS)
- Headteachers and Managers of Early Years Centres
- Headteachers of Primary Schools with a Nursery Class
- Representatives of Unison, EIS and GMB
- Human Resources and Accounting & Budgeting

2.2 **Public Meeting Held**

There was one public meeting held during the consultation period in Graeme High School to gather further information and feedback. The minute of the meeting is contained in the Consultation Report in [Appendix 1](#).

3. **CONSULTATION - SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

3.1 The detailed responses can be read in the Consultation Report in [Appendix 1](#).

3.2 There were 514 written responses received, a summary of the key the responses are detailed below:

- 75% were from parents of children aged 3-4, the remainder covering babies and children up to 2 years old.
- 49% of responses were from parents who currently use Falkirk Council nursery provision, the majority of the rest use alternative provision.
- 67% indicated the 600 hours should be provided in the same way.
- 84 % said that they would use all of the 600 hours.
- 79% indicated that the core time should be 600 hours.
- 66% agreed that children should have morning or afternoon sessions as at present.
- 66% of parents would be willing to pay for provision over the 600 hours.
- Overall the responses show a clear preference for [Option 2](#):

Response	Option	
53%	2	Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x am or pm delivery model during school term time.
26%	1	Providing longer am and pm sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time.
14%	Other	Various other suggestions made by parents
7%	3	Extending the length of the current 38 week term by 2 weeks.
100%		

- 3.3 Education Scotland were not involved in the exercise as this was not a statutory consultation exercise.

4. CONSULTATION - RESULTS

4.1 Main Issues Arising

All of the comments raised are detailed the Consultation Report in [Appendix 1](#). In summary the main issues raised in the consultation were around the following:

- The need to meet parental preferences to support families personal and employment circumstances.
- Providing flexibility around drop off and pick up times, aligned to school start and finish times, would be welcomed especially where families have other siblings at school.
- Providing flexibility to families over how they want to use the 600 hours to off-set childcare costs in local Early Years Centres or Private Partnership Nurseries.

4.2 Delivering Flexibility

There is a significant demand from parents for flexibility around the:

- Availability of a choice of local provision.
- Arrangements for dropping off and picking up times in Nursery Classes.
- Need for parents to access extended paid for provision beyond the 600 hours.

4.3 Overall

The consultation showed that there was an overwhelming preference in favour of option 2 to extend the existing provision.

5. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

5.1 Changes to be Implemented from August 2014

Taking into consideration the results and conclusions from the consultation referred to earlier in the paper, Education Services proposes to implement the following changes from the start of the new school session in August 2014:

- **Extending Existing Provision in Nursery Classes**
The existing 2 hours 30 minutes morning and afternoon sessions will be increased to 3 hours 10 minutes, Monday to Friday, term time from August 2014.
- **Providing Flexibility Around Opening and Closing Times**
Standardised opening and closing times will be introduced both morning and afternoon to support a core provision of 2 hours 30 minutes, with the additional 40 minutes per day used to provide flexibility for parents to drop off and pick up children before or after the core start and finish time. The timings will be determined with Headteachers/Managers and reported to Education Executive in April 2014.

- **Providing Flexibility for Families Who Require Extended Provision**
Early Years Centres and Private Partnership Nurseries will be used to provide for those parents who require extended provision or increased flexibility, and who also want to use the 600 hours to offset their childcare costs within the same establishment.
- **Amending Current Nursery Education Admission Policy**
The admissions policy needs to be updated to reflect the requirement to increase from 475 hours to 600 hours. The revised policy will be submitted to Education Executive in due course.

5.2 **Further Consultation on Future Provision**

In addition to the above changes that will be implemented from August 2014, Education Services aims to:

- **Consult Parents Early in 2015**
Education Services will consult again with parents early in 2015 to ascertain their views and experiences of the new arrangements and to assess the parental demand for further flexibility to be incorporated within future provision.
- **Continue Engaging With Stakeholders**
Education Services will continue to engage with staff and other stakeholders towards continuously improving the quality and flexibility of Early Years provision.

6. **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Funding allocation**

The Government has allocated £186M nationally over the next 2 years to support the cost of implementing the 600 hours. Falkirk Council's confirmed share of this funding for 2014/15 is:

	<u>£000</u>
•	Revenue £1,487
•	Capital £918

The revenue funding is a part year allocation to cover costs over the period August 2014 to March 2015. The Government have confirmed that revenue funding will be proportionately increased to account for the full year effect in 2015/16 and beyond. The capital funding will remain as £918k in 2015/16 but that will be the final year of such funding.

6.2 **Projected revenue costs**

It is estimated that our additional revenue costs will be in line with the additional funding received as detailed in Section 6.1.

The additional cost will be incurred in the following areas:-:

- Staffing - recruiting additional early years staff
- Private Partnership Nurseries - increasing payments on a pro-rata basis
- Income - loss of income in Early Years Centres
- Children with Addition Support Needs - increasing the allocated hours

- Operational costs - increasing per capita, property and energy costs
- Nursery provision - providing additional capacity and developing the early years estate
- Support costs - implementing centralised support for early years establishments

6.3 **Projected capital costs**

Education Services is currently assessing where additional capacity both for nursery classes, Early Years Centres and development of Early Years Campuses may be required.

It is planned that a further paper detailing any such service and capacity expansions will be brought to Education Executive in April 2014. This paper will also align the estimated costs against the additional capital funding provided.

7. **EQUALITIES AND POVERTY ASSESSMENT**

The effect of the proposals in this report on groups who share protected characteristics in terms of the Equality Act 2010 and those experiencing poverty has been considered. The expansion of nursery places, particularly baby and toddler places in areas where there is currently no Council provision, will have a positive impact on women, lone parents, disabled parents, young parents, all of whom are groups more likely to make use of these services. The ongoing monitoring of provision across the Council area will allow us to continue to address potential inequalities.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 **Education Executive are asked to:**

- (i) **Note the contents of the responses contained within the Consultation Report in Appendix 1.**
- (ii) **Endorse the proposals of Education Services to implement option 2 as detailed in section 5.1.**
- (iii) **Note that the Nursery Education Admissions Policy will be reviewed and submitted to Education Executive to be approved in due course.**
- (iv) **Agree that Education Services provide a further report to Education Executive in April 2014 providing:**
 - **An implementation update; and**
 - **Details of the proposed capital investment.**
- (v) **Approve Education Services to carry out a further consultation early in 2015 as set out in paragraph 5.2.**

.....
Acting Joint Director of Education
Date:

Contact Officers: Eileen Hutton, extension 6631/Kenny McNeill extension 6652.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Consultation Report



consultation report

THE FUTURE OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN FALKIRK COUNCIL

A REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION

1ST NOVEMBER 2013 – 30TH NOVEMBER 2013

consultation report

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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

The Scottish Government via the 'Children and Young People Bill' has stated their intention to strengthen the role of early years support in children's and families' lives by:

- Securing a provision of 600 hours per annum of Early Learning and Childcare for all 3 & 4 year olds
- Offering a range of options to parents to take up this entitlement in a way that suits their needs.

Current Core Provision

Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education for all 3 & 4 year olds whose parents wish it. This is delivered as 5 mornings or afternoons of 2.5 hour sessions over a 38 week term. The time at which children become entitled to pre-school education is set down in legislation and broadly begins from the term after the child's third birthday as described in the table below:

Child's third birthday falls on or between:	Child will become eligible from:
1 March – 31 August	August (autumn term)
1 September - 31 December	January (spring term)
1 January - last day in February	April (summer term)

Proposal

It is proposed that the present provision be extended to give 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare to all three and four year old through one of the following options:

- **Providing longer a.m. and p.m. sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time.** *For example, providing 4 x 4 hour a.m. or p.m. sessions per week*
- **Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x a.m. or p.m. delivery model during school term time.** *For example, continue the 5 day delivery model but increase the current 2.5 hours per day by approximately 40 minutes per day*
- **Extending the length of the current 38 week term by 2 weeks.** *For example, continue the 5 day delivery model with increased hours per day plus 2 additional weeks introduced over school holiday periods*

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Purpose of Consultation Report

This report documents the formal consultation undertaken on this proposal between November 1st and 30th 2013.

Timelines

- Consultation Period - 1 November to 30 November 2013
- Public Meeting - 19 November 2013
- Analysing of feedback - December 2013
- Report and recommendation to Education Executive - 04 February 2014

Consultation Arrangements

Parents/carers of children aged 4 or under resident in Falkirk Council were invited to participate in a survey to indicate their preferred options for accessing 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare which can be reasonably delivered from August 2014. The consultation period ran from 1 November 2013 to 30 November 2013 and the questionnaire used is attached as Appendix A.

In addition to parents'/carers' participation being encouraged through nurseries and schools, the consultation process was publicised on Falkirk Council's web page, in the local newspaper and was distributed to Falkirk Council establishments and relevant partner organisations including local GP surgeries and libraries inviting them to display the information in an effort to reach parents of children who would be likely to apply for a nursery place within the next two years.

Responses were invited to be submitted by completing an online form or by posting a hard copy of the form to the Education Department.

All responses to the consultation were logged, numbered and dated and considered up to and including 30 November. 8 responses were received over a number of days/weeks after the closing date of 30 November. These were dated on the day received.

A public meeting was also held on 19 November 2013 at 6.15p.m. in Graeme High School to gather further information and feedback. 28 members of the public, including parents and early year's staff, attended the meeting. The meeting was during the written consultation phase and was an opportunity for people to air their views and ask questions. The minutes of this meeting are attached as Appendix C.

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The questionnaire findings are being analysed and will provide the Education Service with information to support the development of flexible Early Learning and Childcare Services for children under school age. These findings will be reported to Education Executive on 4 February 2014.

2 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

Summary

There were 514 written responses to the consultation. These are summarised in this report and can be read in full in Appendix B. These responses were received by post, e-mail and Survey Monkey. They are summarised in the tables below:

Response Analysis

TABLE 1 – Q2b What age are your children?

A number of respondees have more than one child	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Baby	9%	61
1	14%	99
2	20%	135
3	35%	239
4	22%	155
Total:	100%	689

TABLE 2 – Q3a What childcare provision you currently use?

A number of respondees have more than one child attending a nursery and use more than one of these options	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Falkirk Council Nursery Class within a school	36%	285
Falkirk Council Nursery	12%	96
Private Nursery	20%	155
Child-minder	7%	44
Family Child-minding	16%	129
Playgroup	5%	39
None of these	4%	33
Total:	100%	781

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TABLE 3 – Q4a Would you use 600 hours per year?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	84%	419
No	6%	28
Don't Know	10%	50
Total:	100%	497

TABLE 4 – Q4b Do you agree that there should be a number of hours within the 600 hours per year that should be core i.e. provided in the same way to all?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	67%	342
No	16%	82
Don't know	17%	87

TABLE 5 – Q4c How many hours should be core and delivered in the same way?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
475 hours (delivered during school term time)	21%	67
600 hours (delivered during school term time)	79%	259

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TABLE 6 – Q4d Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education. To achieve the 600 hours entitlement, parents are entitled to an additional 125 hours. Which of the following options for providing the additional hours is most preferable to you?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
1. Providing longer am and pm sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time. For example, providing 4 x 4 hour a.m. or p.m. sessions per week	26%	125
2. Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x am or pm delivery model during school term time For example, continue the 5 day delivery model but increase the current 2.5 hours per day by approximately 40 minutes per day	53%	257
3. Extending the length of the current 38 week term by 2 weeks For example, continue the 5 day delivery model with 3 hours per day plus 2 additional weeks introduced over school holiday periods	7%	34
4. Other , please specify your alternative suggestion	14%	71
Total:	100%	487

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TABLE 7 – Q4e Nursery places are currently allocated as 5 x 2.5 hour sessions in either the morning or afternoon. Do you agree that children should come to nursery for a morning or afternoon rather than full days?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	66%	326
No	34%	165
Total:	100%	491

TABLE 8 – Q5a Would you be willing to pay for additional hours you require OVER the 600 hours?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	66%	329
No	34%	169
Total:	100%	498

TABLE 9 – Q5b Would you be prepared to travel outside your local area?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
Yes	29%	96
No	71%	233
Total:	100%	329

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TABLE 10 - Q5c How far would you travel?

	% of Responses	Number of Responses
0-1 mile	16%	15
Up to 3 miles	44%	42
Up to 5 miles	25%	24
Other (Please Specify)	15%	14

From the replies to the section on travel, the furthest anyone was willing to travel was up to 15 miles with the majority in the 'Other' Category stating up to 10 miles

**Summary of
Written
Responses to
the
Consultation**

Q4a Would you use 600 hours per year?

The majority of respondents agreed that they would use 600 hours stating that it would be beneficial to parents who work. Some respondents felt that it would be too long for very young children to spend an extended period of time in the nursery and that there would also be issues in dropping off and picking up children if they had siblings at school. Flexibility in the use of hours was standard in a number of the responses. One respondent questioned how staffing would be covered.

Q4b Do you agree that there should be a number of hours within the 600 hours per year that should be core i.e. provided in the same way to all?

Of those in agreement with the question, a number of respondents expressed a desire for equality for all children and families. A few others stated that there were benefits for children, such as routine, forming relationships and planning for learning if a core time was provided in the same way. One other response suggested the proposed hours could be delivered to meet the needs of specific families as to whether they worked or not. One respondent questioned how the extra hours would be funded without investment as nurseries were already struggling with what they currently provide. A number of respondents disagreed that there should be a specific core time provided in the same way for all and expressed a wish for flexibility to meet family needs or parental choice. One respondent considered that it would also be disruptive in nursery classes to have people coming and going out with core hours as this would disrupt the nursery routine.

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Q4c How many hours should be core and delivered in the same way?

Some respondents stated that they were content with the present arrangements and intimated a desire for the 475 hours to be delivered as the core. Others wanted the 600 hours to be core hours and delivered in the same way for all children. Those who had not agreed there should be a core provision suggested that parents should be able to opt for whatever core time and additional time suited their needs, with one suggesting that vouchers be introduced to allow parents to use the 600 hours as flexibly as possible.

Q4d Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education. To achieve the 600 hours entitlement, parents are entitled to an additional 125 hours. Which of the following options for providing the additional hours is most preferable to you?

The main points deriving from the individual responses to the options were as follows:

Some respondents stated that they would prefer longer hours on fewer days of the week as this would accommodate their work pattern. A number of respondents felt that longer hours would not suit 3 year olds but may suit 4 year olds in preparation for school. A number of respondents stated that there was a need for greater flexibility to reflect parents' personal circumstances.

One respondent stated that extending the 2.5 hours session to 3.5 hours would be more beneficial and better prepare a child for primary school. There were a number of other suggestions including: extending the time at nursery before a morning session starts to suit working parents; adding 10 or 15 minutes to the start or finish of a session; extending time at nursery to suit parents' work shift patterns; longer days at nursery instead of a few hours each day and the need to extend local authority provision to offer full time all year round.

Some respondents felt that offering extra hours in summer holidays within local day nursery/extended hours establishments where numbers are often low would possibly help parents who struggle for childcare over the long holiday period. One respondent stated that just morning or afternoon slots every day was not flexible and that 3 hour sessions per week plus two weeks during the holidays would be beneficial. Another respondent thought that nursery time in the summer holidays for 2 weeks would be good because after being away from nursery over the summer holidays they tend to forget some stuff they learn and having to re-teach is like taking two steps back. It was considered that this would keep their minds refreshed. Some respondents stated they would be unlikely to choose 2 weeks

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during the holiday period because they have older school-aged children and would not opt to have holiday cover for one and not the other(s).

One respondent made the suggestion of offering the time through other groups such as music groups, sports, etc. They felt that the current time at nursery is just right and more time could lead to children being over tired. Another respondent stated that they would prefer it if their daughter only had 475 hours nursery provision and that this was certainly the educational and childcare direction that they would follow. A number of respondents stated that more flexibility was required including families being able to draw down the 600 hours flexibly throughout the year with partnership nurseries to help off-set childcare costs and for other families to increase the length of the session within current term-times.

Q4e Nursery places are currently allocated as 5 x 2.5 hour sessions in either the morning or afternoon. Do you agree that children should come to nursery for a morning or afternoon rather than full days?

A number of responses suggested that children should have full days in nursery, especially in their pre-school year as it prepares them for primary school. One respondent stated that a full day helps with transition to school hours. A number suggested that full days should be an option to meet childcare needs, especially for working parents. Equally a number of responses stated that full days would be too long and tiring for young children and that they would have difficulty concentrating. One respondent felt that a child of nursery age should not be at nursery for extended periods of time and that they thought this initiative was being set up to reduce the cost of child care for parents rather than for the good and wellbeing of the child.

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Overall Response

The consultation provided an overwhelming preference in favour of option 2 to have the existing provision arrangements extended. It is proposed this will mean:

- Nursery Classes - the existing 2 hours 30 minutes sessions will be increased to 3 hours 10 minutes, Monday to Friday, term time from August 2014 supported with standardised opening and closing times.
- Early Years Centres & Private Partnership Nurseries – providing those parents who require extended provision or increased flexibility within the same establishment.

3 SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES RAISED

Main issues raised

Summary

- An overwhelming need to maximize choice to reflect parents' personal and employment circumstances.
- Providing flexibility around drop off and pick up times, aligned to school start and finish times, would be welcomed especially where there are other siblings at school.
- Parents want the choice to use 600 hours flexibly to off-set childcare costs in local Early Years Centres or Private Partnership Nurseries.

Delivering flexibility

There is a significant demand from parents for flexibility around the:

- Availability of a choice of local provision.
- Arrangements for dropping off and picking up times in Nursery Classes.
- Need for parents to access extended paid for provision beyond the 600 hours.

The full text of the responses can be read in **Appendix B**.

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APPENDIX A: CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN FALKIRK COUNCIL

A CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS / CARERS

BACKGROUND

The Scottish Government via the 'Children and Young People Bill' has stated their intention to strengthen the role of early years support in children's and families' lives by:

- Securing a provision of 600 hours per annum of early learning and childcare for all 3 & 4 year olds
- Offering a range of options to parents to take up this entitlement in a way that suits their needs.

CURRENT CORE PROVISION

Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education for all 3 & 4 year olds whose parents wish it. This is delivered as 5 mornings or afternoons of 2.5 hour sessions over a 38 week term.

The time at which children become entitled to preschool education is set down in legislation and broadly begins from the term after the child's third birthday as described in the table below:

Child's third birthday falls on or between:	Child will become eligible from:
1 March – 31 August	August (autumn term)
1 September - 31 December	January (spring term)
1 January - last day in February	April (summer term)

NEXT STEPS

Falkirk Council wishes to consult with you over the opportunities and challenges presented by the Scottish Government's commitment so that a model of provision can be devised:-

- To deliver 600 hours of early learning and childcare to all 3 & 4 year olds from August 2014
- Which best meets the needs of our residents and provides best value.

Parents and other interested parties are invited to a public meeting where these proposed changes will be discussed on Tuesday 19th November from 6:15pm to 7:30pm at Graeme High School. You are also invited to respond to the consultation by completing the attached questionnaire and submitting this by 30 November 2013 to:

Early Learning and Childcare Consultation, Education Services, Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB or by e-mail to: educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk. This questionnaire is also available to complete online at www.falkirk.gov.uk/nursery600

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RESPONSE FORM – EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE CONSULTATION

1. ABOUT YOU

1a. Name

1b. Address

 Postcode:

☐

Tick this box if we should keep your name and address confidential

2. ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN

2a. How many children do you currently have aged 4 or under?

- I have children currently aged 4 or under

2b. What age are your children?

Age:	Baby	1	2	3	4
Number of children:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3. ABOUT YOUR CURRENT CHILDCARE PROVISION

3a. Please tell us what childcare provision you currently use.

(Tick all that apply)

		Please indicate by ticking on a daily basis if this is AM or PM or Both									
		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri	
		A M	P M	A M	P M	A M	P M	A M	P M	A M	P M
<input type="checkbox"/>	Falkirk Council Nursery Class within a school										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Falkirk Council Nursery										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Nursery										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child-minder										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family child-minding										
<input type="checkbox"/>	Playgroup										
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of these										

Comments

4. ADDITIONAL CORE ENTITLEMENT

4a. Would you use 600 hours per year?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Comments

4b. Do you agree that there should be a number of hours within the 600 hours per year that should be core i.e. provided in the same way to all?

☐

Yes
(go to question
4c)

☐

No
(go to question
4d)

☐

Don't know
(go to question
4d)

Comments

4c. If yes, how many hours should be core and delivered in the same way?

☐

475 hours (delivered during school term time)

☐

600 hours (delivered during school term time)

Comments

4d. Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education. To achieve the 600 hours entitlement, parents are entitled to an additional 125 hours. Which of the following options for providing the additional hours is most preferable to you?

☐

Providing longer a.m. and p.m. sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time. For example, providing 4 x 4 hour a.m. or p.m. sessions per week

☐

Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x a.m. or p.m. delivery model during school term time. For example, continue the 5 day delivery model but increase the current 2.5 hours per day by approximately 40 minutes per day

☐

Extending the length of the current 38 week term by 2 weeks. For example, continue the 5 day delivery model of 3 hours per day with 2 additional weeks introduced over school holiday periods

☐

Other, please specify your alternative suggestion below.

Other (please specify)

- 4e. **Nursery places are currently allocated as 5 x 2.5 hour sessions in either the morning or afternoon. Do you agree that children should come to nursery for a morning or afternoon rather than full days?**

Yes

No

Comments

- 4f. **Do you have any other suggestions as to how 600 hours of early learning and childcare should be provided? Please state these below.**

Comments

5. ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY

- 5a. **Would you be willing to pay for additional hours you require OVER the 600 hours?**

Yes
(go to question 5b)

No
(go to question 6)

- 5b. **If yes, would you be prepared to travel outside your local area?**

Yes
(go to question 5c)

No
(go to question 6)

- 5c. **If yes, how far would you travel?**

0 to 1 miles

Up to 3 miles

Up to 5 miles

Other, please indicate

miles

6. END OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Signed

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please send this to Early Learning and Childcare Consultation, Education Services, Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB (or by email to educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk) by 30 November 2013

APPENDIX B: WRITTEN RESPONSES

Pro-forma
responses,
e-mails and
Survey
monkey

The written comments attached to the responses received are shown below:

Q3a Do you have any comments on the childcare provision you currently use?

- My husband works full time and I work part time (22.5hrs) per week. We view the provision in Falkirk Council Nursery as education, as opposed to childcare. We need to pay for childcare with our child-minder when our child attends.
- *2 year old - playgroup
4 year old - nursery*
- We use family child minding, however this is not every Tuesday/ Wednesday due to shift work.
- *I use Bright Beginnings nursery for the private childcare and also 5 afternoons at Comely Park nursery - I am very happy with both establishments, they provide the right balance of care, stimulation and education for my 4 year old.*
- We currently do not use 5 days a week. We use dates dictated by parents shift pattern but will use 5 days a week once pre-school starts in August.
- *Private Childcare is very expensive*
- Having looked at and spent a lot of time investigating childcare provision in the Council, we decided that a child-minder was best placed to look after our daughter. This is a decision that was not made lightly. However, we have not looked back as it has been the best decision that we have ever made! Our child-minder knows our child inside-out. I would, and do, highly recommend her to our friends! Having seen the impact that her care and attention has had on our daughter we certainly would not put her into a nursery placement fulltime.
- *Both childcare facilities are good but it is appalling that because I work and require childcare from 8 till 17:30 that my twins can only get 5 hours each of their entitlement. More provision should be made with private nurseries and the council so that childcare costs can be reduced.*
- Child-minder is am/pm alternate weeks - am 6hrs pm 4hrs
- *I would prefer to have my child in nursery more than he is however we, as a family, are restricted due to the cost.*
- I use a private nursery as there is no one available at the moment to look after our child out with the times he is at the nursery school.
- *Would have preferred to use council nursery within school for longer hours if provided wrap around care which I would be willing to pay for*
- Currently I am not able to access the 475 hours I am entitled to, as the private nursery I use (Little Stars) does not have partnership funding. Due to my work location, and working hours I cannot access school nursery hours as they do not provide wrap around care, and I have not

heard encouraging reports that 3 year olds attending school nurseries are receiving care to meet their needs.

- *Excellent, my son's sessions were able to be arranged so that I could return to work and know that he is being in a safe learning environment where he is still thriving.*
- This will be changing in Jan. term to nursery with a school.
- *My daughter currently attends a Private Nursery 3 days a week, on the days I normally work (I am currently on maternity leave). From January, she will attend 3 half days at this Private Nursery and 5 half days in a Falkirk Council Nursery Class within Ladeside Primary.*
- Both children attend Glenbervie while I go to work.
- *I often feel my son would benefit from more time in structured play, meeting and socialising with other children.*
- Also used private nursery from 0-3
- *Queen Street Nursery 2's room*
- Both children attend private nursery on a Thursday.
- *None of these*
- I work afternoons so morning class suits me as I have no-one to pick kids up from nursery
- *My child attends Larbert Day Nursery to cover my work pattern at the end of the week. I am unable to get a shared place with Kinnaird Nursery at the moment.*
- *Its' so expensive, we are middle aged, middle management, middle income earners and feel that we pay disproportionately in taxes with little to help in return from government, tax benefits etc. (esp. as childcare vouchers reduced and losing child benefit...) this increase in hours is a great improvement for us and we welcome it - would like to see more help!*
- *My son attends Kinnaird Nursery and has received 2 years of pre-school due to his birthday being in June. I think the standard is excellent and he has really benefitted from it. My daughter is a September birthday so wouldn't be eligible for ante pre-school until the January intake, unfortunately it looks like Kinnaird is at capacity so is unlikely to get a place until the August. It would be very disappointing for her to receive less provision than her brother. I know in other council areas in Scotland children get their nursery places as soon as they turn 3 (i.e. in mid-term) - is this something Falkirk council would consider?*
- I would prefer interaction with other children in the area but cost constraints dictate.
- *Family minding can vary to part of the week to all of the week.*
- It has maintained a high level of service but lacks empathy within management.
- *School nursery place for eldest son if full time as I cannot have set days of work. Private nursery accommodates by switching days to allow work and therefore whichever day this is day he misses school nursery (youngest not yet 3 but still use childcare for work)*
- I do not think of the school nursery as childcare as the 2.5hrs per day are in no way sufficient childcare for most working parents, self-included, and rely on relatives, friends for drop/pick-ups. I see the school nursery as a plus but more as a playgroup / personal development environment which will also help set my daughter up for school. She loves it. I work 4 full days and it's a real juggle with drop off and pick up for the school nursery slot. I'm fortunate that no's and

consideration of Hallglen nursery staff let my daughter do 3 afternoon sessions a week otherwise she wouldn't be able to go as we have no one to do drop off / pick-ups for 5 days of the week.

- No
- My 3 year old is due to start school nursery Jan and will be attending 4 afternoons. He will no longer be in private nursery.
- *I work alternate Mondays so only use private nursery every other Monday.*
- Child only a baby - 12 weeks old
- *Our son starts the free hours in January 2014.*
- Excellent childcare provision.
- *This is due to change in August as my son will be entitled to funded nursery however he is unable to take a school place until August despite turning 3 in January. Our nursery is a partnership nursery so we will receive funding however it /seems strange that he would otherwise miss out on this entitlement for 6 months or thereabouts. When he does get a school place, I need to drop my working days from 4 - 2 as it is too difficult to arrange / fund wrap around care for him whilst also putting my daughter into private nursery.*
- the current nursery my child attends is excellent and gives a very good standard of care and education
- *Kinnaird primary excellent as is Glenbervie kindergarten*
- We attend playgroup 1 day but parents stay with the child for the 2 hours.
- *I am currently on maternity leave from my work, so am able to take my 4 year old to a council school nursery every day. Previous to this I had to send her to a private nursery one day a week, then to stay with grandparents in Glasgow 2 nights a week while I was at work, as private nursery 3 days a week was too expensive.*
- This is only a recent pattern as I am on maternity leave, prior to this 4 full days Mon - Thurs private nursery.
- *Due to nature of shift work daughter is either with parents or grandparents.*
- Due to work commitments and childcare demand I am unable to rely solely on Falkirk Council Nursery place.
- *Occasional extra sessions at private nursery during busy work times.*
- Currently on maternity leave returning to work Jan 2014. Upon return one child will be Mon-Thurs. (am & pm) Falkirk Council Nursery. The other Mon (am & pm) then family member Tues-Thurs. (am & pm)
- *Inchlair nursery is an excellent facility*
- And looking to hire a child-minder next year maybe.
- *I work part time Mon - Wed and husband works a 5 day week shift pattern so this is our maximum requirement but it can vary from week to week depending on husbands shifts.*
- it is very good, for the resources available to the nursery school
- *This nursery is very professional, the staff are fantastic with the children. Everything that I wanted from a nursery for my child. I am more than happy to have my son attend this nursery. (Sacred Heart Nursery).*
- I am a full time mum and also provide a child minding service.
- *Husband and I both work reduced hours to ensure care of children.*
- My eldest child attends the nursery provision within St Patrick's primary school, Denny. The standard of early year education delivered

there is good, the accommodation however is far from ideal.

- *Both excellent*
- Excellent provision which works with Falkirk Council although it is a private nursery.
- *My Child currently goes to a playgroup. It is great but is only 2hours in the morning. With me working 9 till 5pm Mon Tues Thurs. Fri it would be great if more affordable full time nursery becomes available in my area.*
- I am very satisfied with the provision at St Francis Xavier Nursery School currently.
- *We do not use council nursery on Tuesdays as we need all day care and pick up and drop off is not practical during the day.*
- The childcare provision we currently use is excellent.
- *I work 3 days per week and put my daughter in a private nursery on those days. I receive 4 "funded" sessions towards this cost. I am only able to put my daughter in the school nursery on a day that I don't work due to the hours involved. I receive 1 funded session for this. The short session does not allow for working parents unless they have a child-minder or grandparents to help out. I have chosen to put my daughter in the school nursery for one session in order to let her get to know the school and possible future classmates. It seems ridiculous to have to use this care on a day that I don't work but it is the only way that I can do it under the current system.*
- We use this as my wife works part time and this was the best arrangement we could reach to allow her to do so.
- *N/A*
- Temporarily until January 2014
- *We use a private nursery because no council nursery can support our son's disabilities.*
- 4 year old - School Nursery AM then wrap around care and PM at Private Nursery 2 year old - 2 full days at Private Nursery.
- *Both my 3 year old son and 4 year old daughter attend Antonine Nursery in the afternoons.*
- Having a 2nd year of an afternoon placement is unfair, especially for working parents.
- *Private Nursery needed to allow me & my Husband to work fulltime (provision is needed 8-6)*
- 4 year old in Monday/Thurs/Fri 2 year old only in Thurs/Fri
- *Great nursery (Glenbervie) - great it incorporates council funding*
- Currently I am not able to access the 475 hours I am entitled to, as the private nursery I use (Little Stars) does not have partnership funding. Due to my work location, and working hours I cannot access school nursery hours as they do not provide wrap around care. I am very happy with the nursery, and prefer to have them there. However I believe I should be allowed access to the hours to which I am entitled.
- *Happy with current arrangements*
- I feel the provision my child has is ample for his age. I don't see the need to increase the nursery hours already provided.
- *I need this provision to enable me to work*
- It is excellent
- *4 year old attends school nursery two afternoon sessions in preparation for school.*

- I don't require childcare Thurs/Fri mornings
- *As I work shifts over a 5 week period I do not commit to any of the above instead I use family when required.*
- I previously used a private nursery until my daughter turned 3, then changed to a child minder that would provide nursery pick up and drop off.
- *I am delighted that my son's nursery is a Falkirk Council partnership nursery and they provide a fantastic provision for my son.*
- I currently have to use two full days of private nursery care per week as due to the finishing time of 11.30 for school nursery and the starting time of 13.00 for private nursery afternoon session I have a gap of 1.5 hours for child care on these days. The private nursery that I need to use also does not benefit from the funding from the council for nursery places and therefore my cost is higher.
- *My girls go to Kool Kidz in Denny which is a fabulous private nursery. My ideal solution would be if Kool Kidz was granted partnership with the council so that my children can receive their council hours in an environment where they are already settled and flourishing, when they become eligible for it.*
- Very expensive!
- *The nursery provide an excellent level of education for preschool children and should continue to be seen as an educational rather than child care resource. I have also previously used a Lochgreen playgroup for anti-preschool and felt this was an invaluable resource and an ideal introduction to early education.*
- Nursery know my daughter well and provide us with regular feedback with regards to her Learning Journey. Having a nursery experience was important to our daughter's social development. Child-minder provides a home environment which gives our child a home life experience which includes going to shops etc. which she may not receive at nursery. A family member looks after our daughter one afternoon a week which saves us a bit of money and has built a strong bond between our daughter and her Papa.
- *We use family child-minding but not on a regular basis.*
- Our daughter also attends nursery in Kilsyth at the nursery I work in on a Monday and Friday
- *Grandparents helping with childcare*
- Larbert day nursery is a great, well run facility.
- *Days above are average as flexi care so change weekly.*
- The childcare we use is giving our son a great early start in his education and providing invaluable socialising with children his own age.
- *Expensive.*
- Really happy with Carron nursery school and the staff.
- *My daughter has just changed nursery from one in South Lanarkshire to one in Stirling - both are partnership nurseries and I highly value the care provided whilst I work. Both were chosen as they are/were near my place if work and because I wasn't keen on any of the nurseries in the Falkirk locality.*
- As a self-employed parent, using a private nursery offers me flexibility in terms of choosing the hours I need to allow me to work part time.
- *Fantastic private nursery which were turned down for partnership with Falkirk council to offer pre-school places for in my opinion not very good reasons*

- Unable to use full allocation of hours due to requiring to use a private nursery on a Monday for childcare. Unfortunately the nursery has been unable to get funding from the council for funded pre-school places.
- *I use my mum and work part time as childcare within nursery is unaffordable on my wage. It would not be worth my while working.*
- Both my children attend morning private nursery for 3 days to allow me to work.
- *The childcare is excellent. No issues with the quality of service*
- Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm at Camelon Nursery
- *Private nursery hours good as covers my full days working hours. A 2.5 hour slot would be no use to us*
- My youngest son has been on the waiting list for several months for one of the local day nurseries - I would much rather he was at a council run nursery but the waiting lists are far too lengthy.
- *I use council crèche with community groups from old Bainsford.*
- Private childcare very expensive
- *My mother will stop minding my daughter for the full day on a Friday as she is 69 years and her health is deteriorating.*
- Funded by Social Services. I am a foster carer for Falkirk Council
- *I pay for additional hours out with the core allocation at a Council run nursery on a Tuesday & Wednesday*
- I utilise x2 sessions at school and x3 at private nurvery-3/5 sessions refunded. Excellent balance and flexibility allowed by council
- *My son currently attends Ladeside Nursery class and I couldn't be happier with the standard of care, support and education which he receives there*
- I work shifts therefore family watch children at different times of day and different days.
- *No problems with Nursery, however I think it would be good to extend opening hours from 8-6pm. 8am opening does not allow enough time to commute to Glasgow or Edinburgh for 9am. The same in reverse if you finish at 5 - 5.30pm it is difficult to make it back for 6pm. 7.30am to 6.30pm would be better. Studying in Glasgow for a Social Work degree at University, I am in the process of applying for childcare costs, but unlikely to be awarded full costs from University due to available funds. Completed HNC last year and College paid for full childcare costs. For adults returning to education full day Falkirk Council provision at nursery would allow Further Education funds to be directed elsewhere.*
- I think the current provision for my 3 year old is excellent. I personally think the proposal is a waste of finances and will put a strain on the already sufficient service provided by Falkirk Council.
- *We use 2.5 hours pre-school on a Monday. We use a private nursery the rest of the week. This nursery does not work in partnership with Falkirk Council at present so we do not receive any reduction in the fees.*
- My 4 year old is currently in primary 1.
- *I am content with the provision currently provided.*
- I am a single parent who works 2 full days and uses the nursery for my 2 year old boy. Thankfully he loves his time spent in nursery and feel once he's 3 in January and starts his placement he will enjoy and benefit the time, get him used to getting ready for school.

- *Pre-schooler pm nursery school. Ante-pre-schooler will begin Nursery January as 3rd birthday in December, Christmas Holidays.*
- Your form assumes multiple children do same thing! 3 = 3yr old, 4 = 4yr old
- *As a shift worker my childcare varies per week and per month but children attend nursery every day.*
- I have 2 children - older one is 6 and at school. The younger one attends Wellside full time.
- *I would like to be able to send my daughter to school nursery every day but I work full time so can only manage to get time off to take her two mornings a week.*
- Private nursery is great - it is good quality, reliable and allows me to work part-time, but is very expensive. Council nursery is great educationally and for getting the kids ready for school, but not very useful for allowing parents to work.
- *very expensive*
- Both very good
- *I require a nursery that can open early to allow time to get to work therefore I a private nursery is the only option, also I need a nursery that will provide care 52 weeks per year. I need a private nursery to allow me to go to work and I have been required to change my choice of nursery due to wishing my child to access pre-school education. I feel fortunate that there is a local private nursery that has signed up to the pre-school scheme, however I am left disappointed that my child is unable to access pre-school nursery due to the lack of flexibility that only allows access to those parents that do not work or work part time.*
- Have always felt the hours are not long enough.
- Your form assumes multiple children do same thing! 3 = 3yr old, 4 = 4yr old
- My 4 year old attends private nursery on a Friday because there is no wrap-around care at the school and my 1 year old attends nursery on a Friday as well.
- *Tues, Wed, Thurs 8am - 3pm*
- I am very happy with the nursery place my daughter has at Carronshore Nursery. She is doing well there.
- *My baby doesn't currently go to nursery but he will come August 2014.*
- Hours of care suit my working day which is 8.30am to 5pm.
- *My child currently attends Inchlair nursery which provides a high quality standard of care and education. My concern with these proposals is that those standards may drop if staff and budgets are stretched to cope with increased hours. Whilst flexibility is great it can also cause disruptions to learning as people come and go at a variety of times.*
- Matthew goes to Queen Street Nursery which is great.
- *Also mother-in-law watches my daughter on a Wednesday.*
- My son is currently attending a nursery class within a school five mornings a week. As the sessions are only 2.5 hours, we still have to utilise a child-minder and pay full fees for her to drop off and collect so we have unfortunately had no financial benefit from our son starting pre-school. If the sessions were longer - i.e. the full morning, we would be able to only pay her a half day's fees.

- *Larbert Day & Larbert Village Nurseries are excellent.*
- No
- *Monday 9-3.45pm Tuesday 9-3.45pm Wednesday 9-4.45pm*
- They attend child-minder 2 mornings per week whilst I work
- *Very satisfied with the nursery and playgroup my son attends.*
- The class was full in the January following my son's birthday so he missed his first year.
- *Would like my child to be in nursery for a longer time as this would benefit them for starting school.*
- I am currently on maternity leave but when I go back to work my children will need to go into private nursery 3 days per week as I can't come home from work to drop them at nursery for the pm sessions
- *Camelon nursery is an excellent facility where my children have always been happy and the staff are always welcoming and friendly*
- Care provided required by child-minder and family is variable each week but two days required by a child-minder and a minimum of 1 day from family due to shift work
- *I have nothing but praise for Carron nursery school. In the short time my daughter has been attending here I see a huge difference in her confidence and abilities. The teachers are genuinely enthusiastic and interested in the children's development.*
- I work 3 days a week and I use Private Nursery care at the moment as I have to drop my son off at 7.30am and am unable to pick him up again until 6.00pm. I would love to be able to use the Falkirk Council Nursery Class within the local school as part of his childcare so that he could socialise with the children he will be going to school with but due to circumstances out with my control I have no supporting family nearby to collect him once the 2.5 hour session is complete for the day.
- *School Nursery is fantastic but the children could do with just a bit longer*

Q4a Would you use 600 hours per year?

- I don't require nursery provision as a child care facility, however it should be available for the very many that do need it. It would help a lot of mums who wish to work without worrying about childcare costs
- *Depends what activities/provision it included*
- Would depend on the way the Council choose to take the 600 hours provision forward
- *We both feel that our daughter has benefitted greatly from attending Denny Primary Nursery Class. It is a welcoming, friendly, learning environment and she thoroughly enjoys going. Additional time in this provision would be seen as an asset.*
- I think that children aged 3 in nursery who will be 4 when they start school need extra nursery time to prepare them better when they start school. My daughter was 5 when she started primary 1. This year is a lot more prepared than my son who will start school next year when he turns 4 on the 9th January. I think this because my daughter was in nursery longer from the way her birthday falls. I think staying in nursery for longer really prepares them for school, etc. I think before they start school they should be able to write their name at least and a lot of other stuff, i.e. numbers.
- *I think it would be a great idea for children and parents to have longer hours in nursery*
- Would help families that work.
- *Yes but my son will be 5 in March and due to go to school but I support this and would have used it.*
- This would be a great hand with working parents.
- *As we all know childcare, especially private childcare is so expensive. My child was unable to be accommodated in a Falkirk council nursery and that is why I opted for a private nursery. 600 hours would allow me to take my child to a Council Pre-school nursery (on my days off from work) when she is 3yrs and any leftover hours that could not be accommodated would roll over to allow a deduction from the private nursery fees.*
- Probably - although it would have to be the right environment. I am not keen on using school nursery for ante-pre care as I feel this is too much for small children
- *If we were to take up the 600 hours per year we would lose our current childcare provision. Given our work commitments this is not something that we could afford to do and there would not be anyone else who can assist with childcare while we are at work. We would prefer it if they provision remained at 475 for our daughter.*
- I feel for a 3 and 4 year old that 2.5 hours is quite sufficient. I know extending the hours is to benefit the parents as well and give them more time to attend work or even get every day chores done, however having another child at the school means I would be there dropping him off and picking him up and probably having to do a separate drop off and pick up for the nursery child. Whereas at the moment dropping off and picking up times are almost the same time which makes things easy. So basically, I'm not sure about the extended hours. It might be more hassle than its worth for me and not really benefit my child.
- *Only if they were allowed to be part used in private nursery.*
- I am lucky that I am a stay at home mum but if I did have to work I

might use the extra hours.

- *I am working mum and the extra hours would help with childcare*
- How will staffing be covered?
- *I require more than 600 hours a year childcare, but within a day-care/wrap around setting. These should be available to all private nurseries, as they are for the child not the location.*
- It will be my sons pre-school year and I can see a benefit in him receiving education through nursery placement before P1
- *It would depend upon start/finish times and the days.*
- Work full-time
- *Alexa (my daughter) loves nursery and more hours at nursery would better prepare them for the longer hours at school.*
- This would assist with working
- *My child will be at school next year so none of this really applies to me.*
- Yes if it was available to help my children be more prepared for school.
- *If nursery will then finish at a different time from the rest of the school, it will make childcare more difficult.*
- I feel what the children receive is enough
- *Due to working term time and my son turning three next year I would use 600 hours per year.*
- Brilliant yes please
- *As my child goes to school next term*
- Not now - but my son has just entered into primary school. If this was available when he was 3 and 4, I would definitely have used it as I did not believe that the current system helped parents that worked due to the fact the child would still need to be picked up/dropped off whilst I was working. Therefore I had to enroll him into a private nursery.
- *School nursery hours - unlikely for reasons mentioned in previous question. Private nursery yes as their hours are flexible to fit round working parents. We use Cherry Tree nursery and find it very frustrating that they do not receive the childcare funding. As working parents who need childcare provision and pay tax, the childcare provision seems to most favour parents who work fewer hours or not at all and can be flexible on time themselves.*
- Yes as I believe additional hours will play a significant part in children's development.
- *My childcare at the moment works fine as my son is at school - the same school as my daughter's nursery and they finish at the same time.*
- Perhaps too high expectations on 3 year olds (5 hrs. a day?)
- *Not sure extra time is required, can be a long day for 3 year olds. However happy to go with majority decision.*
- It's all about the child's needs - GIRFEC.
- *I would very much like to use it and ensure my children were receiving structure early learning from the earliest age however the inflexibility of provision makes that very difficult. We had scoped placing our son in school nursery three mornings and private nursery two however were told this was not possible as we would need to take all 5 mornings or nothing at all.*
- I currently pay for 1500 hours of nursery per year so yes!!!

- *Depending on how it was offered. I would not use full days at nursery as I feel it is too long at their age due to the structured learning taking place. I also think my kids like many others would not be put off going to nursery as they have never been away from family childcare until this time therefore the current half days are a good stepping stone towards building emotional resilience before starting primary school. My son is very tired as it is when he comes out of nursery and even at 3 and a half still often needs a little nap in the afternoon. I would also not use any extra hours during school holidays. I would however use it if was distributed across the current 5 day e.g. if each day was just extended by 40 minutes such as morning nursery starting at 8.30am and coming out at 11.40am.*
- I think the current system is adequate, especially at the ante pre-school stage.
- *Definitely - 2.5 hours per day is very short as my daughter loves to learn and really enjoys her time at nursery.*
- My 3 year old loves nursery and enjoys and wants to go every day. He has come on leaps and bounds thanks to all the wonderful staff.
- *If it was available and did not affect others*
- It would only be used if I could have ability to use with a private nursery of my choice as I will not be on maternity leave with second (as yet unborn) child. It's too little time at a school nursery to be effective for full time working parents.
- *600 hours useful in pre-school year.*
- I would gladly use 600 hours per year as I work therefore it would save me money and would provide an incentive to work.
- *It would be an excellent facility although with only current provision in schools or a select number of private nurseries for part days, there must be many parents who cannot use their current entitlement due to working full time and an inflexible system. (i.e. having to pick up and drop off leaves only 2 hours' time at the moment; no use for anyone with a job/employer vs. non-working or self-employed (like me) parents. More flexibility is needed.*
- This would definitely assist with my childcare costs.
- *Very beneficial as I run my own business. The school nursery is close to our home therefore allowing us to take to and from nursery each day.*
- I think so
- *It would depend on how the hours are delivered and if my husband or I are able to fit drop offs/pickups around our work patterns.*
- Yes I would it would be very beneficial for my son.
- *I think when child is in pre-school after Xmas child should be offered more hours to get them adjusted to the hours they will spend at school. It should be optional.*
- The cost of child care can be very expensive so working parents will use all the free care they can get.
- *Definitely. My sons learning would benefit and so would my Childcare arrangements.*
- Better for children
- *I wouldn't just now as my son is on his last year at nursery and it took him a while to settle. I would have used the 600 hours previously as pre-school on my other 2 children.*
- I don't know if I would use 600 hrs. For my daughter in her ante-preschool year but I probably would in her pre-school year.

- *Might do if some during school holidays if flexible.*
- I would use 600 hours from the age of 4 but less at the age of 3
- *We definitely would use it.*
- I am of the opinion that it is more important for me that when the time comes that my daughter is given a place at the age of 3 years old. As my son only just got a place due to the numbers at the nursery being increased or he would have had to wait until January instead of August to get his place. So I would find it more beneficial for the hours to stay as they are so long as at age of 3 my daughter gets a place. This may be a separate issue but wanted to get this point over. However my understanding is that the Scottish government want this 600 hours in place so I would use it.
- *This would be fantastic as would enable longer periods in nursery to accommodate travel time to and from work.*
- Depends on how it is allocated - if it is during holiday time then no as I am a teacher.
- *Next session 2014/2015 my 3 eldest children will all be at school. When my youngest child turns 3 years old, then I will have the option to return to work. Up until now it hasn't been financially beneficial for me to put my children into childcare for me to return to work.*
- I already use more than this in a private nursery. I would not be able to use the full entitlement in a council run nursery unless the length of the sessions was to change. It would probably also mean that I would need a child-minder for before school and possibly after school. Current private nursery hours used are 7.45am - 5pm.
- *As before we both work so the greater the provision the better for us.*
- Possibly. This would depend on working hours
- *Most people with children of nursery age would like them to finish at the same time as primary school morning session. Would be fine to extend by 40 minutes but afternoon would not be as easy.*
- It would make a huge difference to us financially. We have paid £200 a month for our kids when they were in nursery for at least 5 years despite work or no work.
- *Would be beneficial to use this as it will give additional learning opportunities.*
- Preschool education is invaluable. The more time the better. Great preparation for school.
- *Both of my children are receiving a fantastic early year's education and I would happily send them for a longer time annually.*
- I think it is only fair that children and parents are allocated a morning slot at some time during their nursery journey. It is unfair if a parent does not get their preferred timing at any level of nursery intake.
- *Had it been available!*
- Get children used to school hours and help for childcare.
- *I work Wednesday to Friday so any extra childcare would be fantastic.*
- I am quite happy with the current 475 hours. It works round current work/child care. However if it was to increase to 600 hours with this extra time added to the length of session - this would be ok so I would then use the 600 hours.
- *This would be fantastic and very welcome*
- I think my daughter would benefit from the additional hours particularly when she moves into her Pre-School Year in her current

nursery.

- *These should be available to all private nurseries, as they are for the child not the location. I couldn't use school nursery hours due to my working schedule, so feel I am being disadvantaged compared to other working parents.*
- I think 2.5 hours 5 days a week is enough for them at that age.
- *Depends on the structure and availability of alternative childcare to work around the structure.*
- To keep me working I need every extra help I can get as childcare for 3 is very expensive.
- *I already use more than 600 hours per year*
- This would make a big difference to me as I feel my daughter benefits from spending time with children her own age and from taking part in structured activities.
- *By the time this starts 4 yr. old won't need and 1 yr. old too young but will be using all entitlement*
- Currently my 2 children are both in nursery for 17 hours per week so I would definitely use the 600 hours per year.
- *Already using more than this at present.*
- At ages 3 and 4, 600 hours per year is an excessive amount of early learning and childcare. The current level of 475 hours is sufficient.
- *It depends what the agreed hours would be?*
- Particularly for pre-school age
- *If the morning sessions my child attends were to be longer it would mean that I would only need private childcare for two afternoons per week instead of 2 full days. This is because I would collect and drop off during my lunch hour, which is impossible at the moment.*
- This would enable me to take on more hours at work
- *Provided it was during term time.*
- My husband and I both work full time and therefore would use 600 hours per year.
- *Being working parents who both work Monday-Friday the 600 hours would benefit us and our daughter loves going to her nursery*
- At age 3 I think 600 hours is quite a lot. My little girl goes every morning but I think it tires her out quite a bit. Maybe from 4 onwards it would be better
- *Due to working full time all year*
- I currently pay for both children to attend nursery as I returned to work
- *I would like to be able to use the free entitlement however as I work full-time I am unable to as I don't have the wrap around care i.e. someone who can take my child to and from the free entitlement to the private care. Ideally the council would provide the free entitlement in my private nursery.*
- When we first started sending our son to nursery I thought 2.5 hours a day 5 days a week was possibly too much, he is only 3. I would say now though to increase the time spent in nursery would be too much for children so young.
- *If it was available then yes. If not then family would help me out but I would prefer a professional nursery to properly care for my child's development and looking after but I can't afford this.*
- As my daughter is in a Stirling nursery I will get the 600hrs because

they're introducing it from January 2014. It will make a huge difference to me in terms of reducing the cost if my childcare.

- *Definitely.*
- I definitely would use as childcare is very expensive
- *As long as they were delivered in a way we could use the full allocation then the hours would be used.*
- More and more mothers are returning to work after having a family. More hours also gets the children used to a longer day and perhaps better prepare them for a day at school.
- *Definitely.*
- I would welcome the increase to 600 hours per year
- *Not necessary in school provision and also outside school term, better support from crèches under 2 hours.*
- Definitely. I would have benefited from this if it had been introduced earlier. However, it will help other mothers to manage to work and get work whilst they have young children.
- *I think it would depend on when the extra hours will be.*
- Would be incorporated within current childcare provision
- *Having my daughter in nursery for longer would help with myself finding employment.*
- Fantastic idea.
- *At present we cannot benefit from our full entitlement but if our nursery is successful applying - we could use this over the week through partnership or extending the hours on our days off.*
- 2.5 hours a day isn't a useful amount of time for any parent who wants/needs to work.
- *I think this is a great idea - especially as many mothers are considering working, or going back to work once their child is this age. The current hours/system do not allow for this and private childcare is required if parents want to work. The provision of more hours might allow a parent to take on some part-time work without needing to pay for private childcare.*
- We could use more hours at private nursery which means we aren't time restricted.
- *Of course we would. It is educational for the kids and they need childcare while we work so this is the preferred option.*
- It would put us on a par with English schools
- *This is long overdue*
- My children will attend main stream primary education by this time.
- *Yes I would be grateful for this help as I work full time*
- Would use if it was available all at the same nursery not having to chop and change.
- *Child attends 25 hours a week due to work commitments*
- Would fit in better with working hours and be less restrictive than current nursery drop off and collection times.
- *If I was able to use 600 hours I would take this in a shot but how can I? How do I drop my child off for 0900 when I have to be at work for this time? This system is a very unfair one in which parents who both work shifts/9-5. It would seem much better if morning sessions started earlier this would open up opportunities to working parents.*
- Of course we would it is educational for the kids and they need childcare while we work so this is the preferred option.
- *I feel my daughter is ready for school and the extra time would be*

beneficial.

- At the moment I feel that the transition from nursery to primary one is quite big - if the child was able to attend pre-school nursery for longer (say 3 hours per day) then it wouldn't be as big a transition.
- *Yes definitely that would help working parents.*
- Extra childcare/nursery provision would be beneficial for my children's education. My daughter is a mature 4 year old and could easily have started school this year so more time in nursery would be good for her progress. It would also lessen the burden of childcare that is put on my parents.
- *Absolutely! Nursery is a great way for children to learn and develop more. It also helps them get ready for school.*
- Dependent on the set up of this yes I would use this but would also need to keep a child-minder since I work full time.
- *Currently 2.5 hours a day limits the activities that the Nursery Teacher/children can do on a daily basis.*
- I would definitely utilise 600 years - not only the financial benefit which would be a massive help, but also 2.5 hours a day is not enough for my son - he loves going to his nursery class! Another added benefit would be when he starts school - it would not seem such a leap from 2.5 hours a morning to full days.
- *My children love nursery, they get so much out of it. They would benefit from the extra hours, also as grandparents babysit the children after nursery this would also assist them.*
- This is definitely most helpful for a full time mum like myself. He gets drop off at 8am and picked up at 5:30pm. The additional hours will help financially.
- *Would be fantastic to get some extra hours per year and would definitely use them.*
- Feel it would be beneficial to my son to spend longer with other children the same age.
- *I currently have my child in nursery full time from 8am - 6pm due to work commitments so would definitely use this.*
- Depending on how they were placed.
- *I could only use 600 hours if they were offered in partnership with the private nursery we currently use, otherwise I would be unable to take advantage of this*
- It depends if the extra hours cover those that I currently pay for. If for example the 600 hours were deducted from my nursery fees I definitely would use the hours. If it means that in order to use the 600 hours my daughter would need to attend nursery on my day off work then I would not use the hours as I feel it is important my daughter spends time with me as well as socialising with other children and I feel we have a nice balance right now.
- *My child attend nursery for social skills and education. 2 1/2 hours is sufficient for these educational needs. She does not attend for day-care.*
- More than likely would depending on how the new provision would change current sessions and affect child-minder/family when required due to work commitments
- *Without knowing full details I couldn't confirm but initially I think it would be a good decision.*
- I would use if I could split it between playgroup and nursery. I am a teacher so do not need it to carry on further into the holidays.

Q4b Do you agree that there should be a number of hours within the 600 hours per year that should be core i.e. provided in the same way to all?

- *Allows for fairness and equality*
- *I assume you mean that the provision is of a standard pattern across all nurseries? Variety of care provides choice of pattern, but also means you may have to choose based on pattern and not quality or location. In balance it would be better if it was standard.*
- *I think it needs to be flexible otherwise it will not benefit families e.g. could take more than 2 and a half hours per day. My older daughter missed out on the opportunity to attend a preschool nursery because I could not be available (working almost full time) to drop her off and collect her within this timeframe each day. As a result of this she never had the opportunity to be engaging with other preschool children who would be starting school with her. For parents who cannot rely on grandparents or who work more than a couple of hours per day, this must be a problem for them too.*
- *Although as above I would need to be assured that ante-pre and pre-school are separate as their needs are different.*
- *The hours should be able to be used variably depending on each family's needs*
- *This would ensure that our daughter could still attend nursery for 2.5 hours a day while still ensuring that our childcare provision remained intact for her for the rest of the day. Our child-minder is well aware of our daughter's needs and her pastoral care remains consistent and continuous, this is certainly a provision that we would prefer.*
- *If it is done this way then I don't even see the point in extending the hours. Then people that disagree to the extended hours would just continue to start and finish the nursery time as normal. It would also be a bit disruptive in the nursery classes to have people coming and going out with core hours. I think one of the key things to pre-school kids learning is a routine, i.e. welcome time meeting, snack, tidy up time etc. If core hours were introduced this would all be disrupted.*
- *Everyone's situation is different so how can the core be the same?*
- *Essentially yes but differing age groups may have different needs.*
- *The needs of each family and child are individual. Core hours only available in a school nursery would be akin to starting school a year earlier.*
- *Always good to have an option to work round family life.*
- *Different people have different work patterns*
- *Parents who wish to draw upon the 600 hours flexibly to suit their childcare arrangement would be able to do this all year round.*
- *I think those parents who work should be offered more hours - those who choose to stay at home should do so for the benefit of their children. My husband and I both work to ensure we can afford to bring our children up as best we can. Those parents who choose not to work and live off the state should not be entitled to as much childcare.*
- *Different families have different needs so should be as flexible as possible.*
- *I may use the extra hours to add an additional day*
- *Everyone has different circumstances*
- *I don't think children should be segregated into different time groups*

etc. but should be flexible for people to choose if want to take up the offer as may not suit all

- Different needs. Flexibility is key to help and support working parents.
- *Hopefully not just to suit times for parents that don't work. Please take into consideration working parent's hours of work.*
- I think there should be a suite of options made available however I understand these need to be limited as providers also need some certainty in terms of resourcing, scheduling etc.
- *It depends on parents/child's needs*
- As per previous comment, more flexibility is needed if this is really to help working parents. More private nurseries need to be included - this is how nurseries in Edinburgh work it. It works as a cohesive and joined up system where parents can add to the base hours with paid extra hours.
- *I think it should be used to suit the individuals needs in agreement with the nursery i.e. over 2 days if they so choose.*
- Unsure of new proposal
- *All parents have different working circumstances and what might suit one family may not be suitable for another.*
- The time my son gets at the nursery at the moment is long enough.
- *Personal circumstances vary widely between each family therefore the hours offered should reflect this. Flexibility is what parents need but there is no flexibility with core hours.*
- I think this should be kept as flexible as possible.
- *As long as the CFE is being followed*
- However - if there was an option to allow longer periods on a given day that would enable more mums to work part time.
- *Every child should be treated as equal and should be given the right to use all of the 600 hours. Otherwise the government would be discriminating against some children. Therefore if the LA can't provide 600 hours for all then they should reduce these hours to such that all children will benefit equally.*
- I think there needs to be more flexibility within the system but I can understand the Council needing to run part of it in the same way.
- *We believe that this would be a positive step to ensure that all children attending nursery are given the same start to their education.*
- It is important for young people of this age (3 & 4) to have familiarity.
- *Some families need year round childcare and others only during term time so each person should be able to decide how they want to use their hours.*
- I don't fully understand this question
- *The need of each family and child are individual. This would be akin to starting school a year earlier.*
- I feel that council nursery is a great way for kids to learn and play within safe and friendly environment
- *Parents should be free to use the childcare as and when needed to fit around family and work commitments.*
- Every family has different requirements and core hours may not suit some parents which would mean their children would not receive the benefit of full nursery hours in order to develop their social and learning skills.
- *Everyone should be treated equally. Not everyone has family who can assist with childcare and the cost of childcare provision can be*

costly, especially when you have more than one child.

- To encourage parents to use this time to go out to work the hours should be flexible.
- *I think this would assist with consistency and quality of care provided. Complete flexibility may create a 'crèche type' attitude.*
- It would depend upon what the restrictions were
- *I think it is important to remember that pre-school provision is about learning and preparing for school and should not be seen as child care.*
- For children to feel part of a nursery and get a sense of belonging, I think it is important for them to have similar experiences and have time to come together which could be difficult to manage if some hours were not core.
- *Depends on individual circumstances but also yes as then everybody offered some experience*
- We recently moved back to the area from London; 600 is the norm down there and we were very surprised to find it otherwise in Scotland.
- *Set morning and afternoon places don't suit most working families - I think hours should be flexible. And I also think it would be far better if school nurseries had wrap around.*
- Yes as I think it's important that children attending nursery have continuity in terms of the same routine and same classmates to feel secure and build relationships.
- *All children should be taught the same basics to assist with the transition to primary school*
- Same hours should be offered to all children
- *I think there should be a flexibility so parents have options to when to use the provision*
- I think the current five half days at school nursery for pre-school children is appropriate. However, the ante-preschool provision is not as consistent and availability of this seems to depend on when your child's date of birth is.
- *Stay at home and working parents have different needs. Give options of times and days available and weekend workers not catered for only 9-5 Mon to Friday work.*
- Not all parents have the same working commitments and the same childcare needs.
- *No-parents need/want flexibility to fit around work/family commitments. 'One size does not fit all'*
- All hours should be flexible to suit the families' needs. However, there should be a minimum of a half day in nursery at a time for the child but parents can choose which days and whether full or half. Not provided hourly.
- *Perhaps people who work should be allocated 600 and non-workers less hours*
- Not sure what this question is asking
- *As much flexibility as possible would be good.*
- Not only would extra hours help, but so would greater flexibility.
- *It's important that the children are sharing the same education in the same core time. I don't see why taxpayers' money is being directed to paying for childcare, for parents who work, whilst some are being given free school dinners, and child benefit for all is stopped.*

- Your question is so vague it causes confusion! Everyone should be able to take up the full 600 hrs at any or any combination of providers.
- *Don't understand this question*
- Greater flexibility should be built in if possible
- *Each family will have individual childcare needs and there should be some flexibility within this to ensure that parents receive the childcare when they need it most.*
- Flexibility and choice would be the ideal
- *I think everyone should be offered the same entitlement as suits working parents as well as those not working but ideally there should be a flexibility to how they are used to reflect every family's circumstances.*
- I don't understand this question??
- *Keeps things consistent and for example, if a child was changing nurseries the transition should be easier.*
- I like the structure of the school holidays and it suits our current childcare arrangements.
- *All families should have the same standard 600 hrs. as core which should not be income based*
- Should be flexible for working parents.
- *If it was available I would use it but my concern is how on earth this is supposed to be funded. The council's and schools / nurseries are already struggling with what they currently provide, to add further burden to the system without any investment seems crazy to me.*
- I would need to know more about this to be able to comment. I think it should be what is best for the children's learning followed by convenience to parents.
- *Everyone's circumstances are different and more parents need to work longer hours therefore let people use these hours in a way that benefits them*
- I don't really understand this question. As far as I understand the government already provide the same nursery placement to all 3 and 4 year olds.
- *I am unsure what is meant by this? If it means it should be for everyone like the 450 hours are just now, then yes I do.*

Q4c How many hours should be core and delivered in the same way?

- This is more than enough time to ensure children are not too tired and have plenty free time to take part in other groups and activities to allow a broader experience
- *In order to help working parents, it may be beneficial to use the additional 125 hours in a more flexible way, e.g. vouchers to parents to pay childcare provider, e.g. child-minder/private nursery/council nursery, etc.*
- If we keep 600 hours per year the children will get tired. The 475 hours per year is nominal
- *All children should be given 600 hours as core as by giving 475 hours core only allows people to give and take when their children use the extra hours available when it suits them*
- With different needs accommodated.
- *Nursery children need to have the same school holidays as siblings.*
- My preference would be to see the additional provision added to what is currently provided.
- *Odd question as has it not already been decided that it will be 600hrs - so just looking for ways to implement.*
- More hours would be beneficial to kids and prepare them better for the longer hours when they go to school.
- *Offer 475 hours to all regardless of family circumstances.*
- If by Aug 2014 600 hours will be core rather than 475 hours (as current), then I believe that these additional hours should be delivered in same way as 100% core hours.
- *This would be of benefit to many working parents.*
- I feel that the children should all attend nursery in the same time frames so they are in a routine and are all the same.
- *There needs to be some flexibility to fit in with work patterns and other childcare, (only within day nursery setting!)*
- Don't feel strongly either way.
- *Question is too restrictive and leads to only two options, neither of which might be preferred. I suggest that a number of options be offered to parents who may look for 5 days per week term time or full allocation over 2/3 days. Lack of child care provision during non-term time is exactly the reason why I am having to give up work for a further 2 days per week.*
- At least 475 as is it isn't too short a time. If time was increased it would mean an overlap in time with AM and PM children. Either that, the PM would have to start later and finish late after school finished which wouldn't be feasible for parents with older kids in the primary school. If the AM and PM were to overlap the classroom might not be big enough to feasibly fit all children and there would need to be extra staff for ratios.
- *The core hours should address literacy and numeracy skills in a fun and interactive manner.*
- Keeps it simple to administer and equally available provision to one and all.
- *475 is what my child receives I think but if so this is more than enough hours for him. This time is enough.*
- I think the option to extend should be available to parents.

- *I feel that it would be too complicated to provide hours to suit every parent. Core hours should be the same for all.*
- I believe that the 600 hours should be available throughout the calendar year and not restricted to term time.
- *Unsure.*
- I think the extra time would enable higher, broader and deeper learning opportunities for all children.
- *We agree that there should be some degree of flexibility within the deliverable hours.*
- Every child should receive the same support.
- *A lot of children are now used to full time nursery care so I don't think being in nursery at school for longer would be detrimental to them. If anything my son would love to go to school nursery for longer!*
- In an early years environment, I feel building relationships and learning about routine is essential. Therefore I feel having 600 core hours is the simplest and most effective way forward. I feel this will best prepare our children for school life.
- *I think the current learning model can be extended to accommodate these extra hours without compromise on core learning.*
- Allowing for extra hours for other activities.
- *I think that the number of hours should always be provided the same way to all. I think it would become too complicated to try and suit the needs of all parents by offering different options.*
- I think for consistency and continuity for the children, it is important that nursery education is treated like school and as such, there should be standard core hours for those children who attend.
- *This would prepare a child better for the longer days at school and help working families with the cost of childcare. Nursery time is valuable in preparing the foundations for Primary 1 and any additional time can only be a benefit.*
- More hours should be considered to make it worthwhile going to work.
- *I think these hours are a crucial part of a child's development.*
- I would not use the hours if they were provided during holidays when my other children were at home therefore this would be the only way to ensure my child got her full entitlement.
- *I work during term time so this would suit my personal circumstances.*
- Children need routine and familiarity. It would be unfair to split their hours in different ways.
- *Not sure.*
- While I understand that some vulnerable families really benefit from extra help as this is needed, often working parents are left feeling penalised as they don't get the same support for their children.
- *I believe all pre-school should be core as quite often my older child came home from pre-school have done his own thing for 2.5 hours having learned nothing.*
- I think there should be some flexibility allowed to assist working parents, etc.
- *Early education is a fundamental part of installing the will and eagerness to learn. I feel the more hours provided would be so beneficial to any child regardless of their teaching capabilities.*
- Again, I like the structure of the school holidays and it gives the children a few breaks throughout the year.
- *Not sure.*

Q4d Falkirk Council currently provides 475 hours of pre-school education. To achieve the 600 hours entitlement, parents are entitled to an additional 125 hours. Which of the following options for providing the additional hours is most preferable to you?

- Offer the time through other groups such as music groups, sports, etc. The current time at nursery is just right and more time could lead to being over tired.
- *Providing 475 as core and vouchers to parents to "purchase" additional hours for suitable providers.*
- Ability to use hours as part of full day (full time core required)
- *I think that nursery time in the summer holidays for 2 weeks would be good because after being away from nursery over the summer holidays they tend to forget some stuff they learn and having to re-teach is like taking two steps back. It would keep their minds refreshed.*
- As I am a part time working mother, I would use a nursery wrap-around service and would be happy to pay for this but spaces are very limited.
- *If most of the parents are looking for 600 hours per year then we can go for the second option by increasing 40 minutes per day. But it is still too much for kids.*
- I think this would be the best option for parents. My only reservation with this is that there is enough availability each day for everyone. If there wasn't, would there be an alternative available?
- *Could hours be used between two nurseries e.g. a private nursery in the morning and a state/school nursery in the afternoon?*
- We would use core hours for nursery provision for our daughter
- *We would prefer it if our daughter only had 475 hours nursery provision. This is certainly the educational and childcare direction that we would follow.*
- No 2 & 3 are both good ideas. For working parents extending the term would be good as would solve childcare problems during holiday period, although don't think teachers would vote for this option.
- *The hours should be provided to the child to be used in the most appropriate way for the family, they should be allowed to use them at different nurseries (if required), take some full days where this benefits the family and child, and have some days where they do not go to nursery. The council should consider that younger children should have ante-pre hours within a day-care nursery setting as these children are not self-sufficient enough and I hear poor reports of their physical needs being met in school nursery settings. This would take a lot of strain off of school nursery nurses.*
- Provision out with school term time
- *Parents would be able to draw down the 600 hours flexibly throughout the year with partnership nurseries to help off-set childcare costs. For other families I would increase the length of the session within current term-times.*
- 3 or 4 days per week, longer sessions i.e. 3 x 5hr sessions
- *None of the above suggestions would work for me as I have four children and would require me to collect children at 3.00pm from school then wait around with them till nursery finishes!!! Or I would be sending one to nursery when others were off on holiday!! Leave it as it*

is please.

- Happy with any arrangement thanks
- *Consider full days*
- I would prefer 2 longer days at nursery instead of a few hours each day.
- *Flexible use of hours for parents to reflect their personal circumstance.*
- I feel by increasing the time and reducing the days will benefit the children as it incorporates structure and consistency. I feel the current 2.5 hours is too short a time to settle the children.
- *As a minimum, an improvement would be to extend the sessions available to parents as 2.5 hours is very restrictive. As previously stated however, I think there should be options whereby parents could select the best fit within a range of preferred options.*
- Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 x am or pm delivery model during school term time - Nursery am and pm starting earlier and finish later e.g. am starting at 08.30 - 11.40 and pm starting 12.10 - 15.20 or something like this. Or make the additional 30 minutes at the beginning of the session and 10 minutes at the end of the session optional so that parents/carers that it does not suit can drop off/collect children at the current times or between then and the new times.
- **Longer am and pm hours will not fit into the school day for school nurseries. *I feel personally that extending hours over existing 5 x am or pm is unsuitable for younger children especially at age 3. I wish to offer my child ante pre-school as a 'taster' with hours building up with age on to school and P1. I have no desire to drop them off for a 4 hour session. *Extending the term time does not fit well for those who have older children in schools.*
- Give parents freedom and choice to use at nursery of choice. It's not practical for full time working parents to have a child only attend a few short hours per day and to manage logistics. It's discriminating against some parents.
- *If the 2.5 hours currently provided more extended to 3.5 approx. this is more beneficial and better prepares child for moving to primary.*
- Include more private nurseries to allow choice for parents.
- *The four day model will suit me upon my return to work as I will only be working 4 days.*
- Preference to retain 5 days in preparation for our son starting primary school, being in the routine of a 5 day week.
- *Keep the status quo and use hours for those children who have additional needs.*
- Longer hours over fewer days would be good but I would like the hours to be more flexible than has been suggested. I would like to choose hours that overlap the am and pm. the problem with the suggested longer am sessions is this would mean having my child in nursery at 8am and then getting my other child to school at 9am. This is just not practical and I would not be able to use that extra hour in the morning so my child would lose out.
- *My son will be moving to a nursery class soon, and I feel extending his sessions with an extra roughly 40 minutes each day would be again beneficial to his learning experiences and also my Childcare*

arrangements. I feel the 5x 2.5 hours isn't enough.

- The 600 hours feels like a lot for a 3 year old (I understand children who aren't in their mothers care would benefit, but it's too much for my little one). Pre-school - 4 x 4hrs, Friday off - that's perfect.
- *Ideally the 600 hours should be available to use throughout the year at the discretion of the parent. If I have to choose then extend the length of the sessions offered over the existing 5 x am or pm delivery model*
- Option 1 preferred - as this could accommodate work for half a day.
- *I think term time is better in recognition that many families have older children in school and therefore operate on a term time basis. Pre-schoolers could cope with a 4 hour session. Younger ante-pre-schoolers may struggle with a 4 hour learning session.*
- I don't see how extending the current 38 week term to 40 weeks would increase the provision by 125 hours. Unless you mean $600/40=15\text{hrs}$ per week or 3hrs session per day. I still think that this is too short to be useful for most working parents. I think that working parents would prefer to have the option of a full day session e.g. 8-6pm (10hrs) or a half-day session (5hrs) 8-1pm & 1-6pm. This would be more in line with private nurseries. Ideally parents would be able to choose the days of the week to suit their days of work. If this was done over 40 weeks then parents could choose how 15 hours of care would best suit their needs e.g. 3 half days or 1.5 full days with the option to pay for extra care.
- *For working families being able to use all of your entitlement towards days you need - other than using unnecessary hours to fill quotas. I'd rather use all my hours towards the Thursday/Friday.*
- The hours should be provided to the child to be used in the most appropriate way for the family, they should be allowed to use them at different nurseries (if required), take some full days where this benefits the family and child, and have some days where they do not go to nursery. They could book school nursery sessions for a term in advance to ensure suitable staffing, but in this way people can access the hours at private nursery.
- *Flexible use of hours to suit child. Initially shorter sessions and then increasing in line with school system. We have to supplement all entitlement due to work commitments.*
- As a full time mum 2.5 hours over 5 days is not helpful. It would be much better if these hours were more flexible. Having more hours over fewer days would certainly make a difference. My little boy who is now 5 lost out on 2.5hrs last year because the current hours are set times.
- *Allowing morning plus afternoon session on a restricted number of days*
- The only option which would work for me would be if the sessions were available within my private nursery. If that was the case, any of the options would be fine. Without that, I am unable to make use of the free provisions whilst I work full-time.
- *My second preference would be your second option, to lengthen the existing am and pm sessions over 5 days. I would not use sessions during school holidays.*
- I do not wish to extend the current arrangements for nursery times
- *Personally I have a 1 1/2hr commute to work each way and rely on*

unpredictable trains so extra care to compensate for this would best suit my needs.

- Extending the length of the current 38 week term would not work as it would not coincide with the school holiday dates, which would be difficult for families that have older children in school already.
- *Flexible days to suit working families!*
- It would be useful to choose option 1 and 2, given that it would offer flexibility e.g. Ages 3-4 it would be useful to have this over 3 days, but then 4-5 it would be good to have my son in pre-school nursery 5 days.
- *Flexible options should be available for parents to use their hours in different ways.*
- My son is in a nursery and we use it all day Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I believe there should be an option so that the 600 hours can be used when required, therefore for myself the full day (8.15-5pm) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This model should be adopted for the nursery that current offer extended provision. For the normal nurseries then extending the length of session over the existing model would suit most people
- *Extended to 40-48 weeks of 3-4 hour sessions or even 2 whole 7-8 hour days as part time school doesn't work for parents who work outside district.*
- Because myself and my partner work full time, we will have to hold back my child from attending a school nursery until he is 3.5 years old when the private nursery will be able to drop off and collect him for me. 2.5 hours per day is obviously not convenient for full time parents.
- *Not all parents want or need their childcare over 5 days. Most parents work for a full day so being able to use it all over two or three days would be better.*
- 2 x Full days (9am - 3pm @ 6 hours) plus 1 x half day (9am-12pm/12pm-3pm @ 3hrs) Full day childcare means more parents would be able to return to work as it is not possible to fit your employment around half days. Also would encourage more to return to work as you would have minimum childcare costs to pay direct to nursery. If private nurseries can manage resources so should school nursery provision. You could still have 5 half days Mon- Fri if you opted for this too.
- *Although extending the length of the sessions is the most viable option - I personally think that any longer than 2.5 hours is too long for a 3 year old.*
- We cannot benefit from full entitlement at present as both parents work and have no family to take/collect from pre-school. A 4 hour session one day a week would be slightly better than the 2.5 hours we have at present.
- *My child is in full time care 8am - 6pm. To me it doesn't matter how additional hours are allocated.*
- I think that flexibility of choice would be great (although a potential headache for Falkirk Education Services). The increase/change in nursery hours is really only of benefit to those who need, or desire to work. Therefore, it makes sense if changes can accommodate this. For example, someone might need 4 morning sessions while someone else might like to use 4 sessions over 2 full days.
- *Private Nursery where can be taken alongside full day care.*

- Hard one to answer as this does not affect me personally.
- *Extend nursery provision to 40 weeks - i.e. don't have October week or Feb week or reduce holidays at another time and then offer 5 x 3 hr. sessions per week (40 x 5 x 3 = 600hrs). This should be allowed to be taken flexibly, i.e. 2 sessions in one day if the parents want this. Not just morning or afternoon slot every day.*
- Allowing parents to specify the times that would suit them based on the availability of their childcare provider. E.g. maximum number of hours to be used each week but complete flexibility to choose when, how and where these hours are used (within approved childcare facilities who are supported by the council)
- *6 sessions of 2h40ish per week out of a possible 10 sessions. e.g. 0850-1130 & 1230-1510; 5 days a week. By adding an optional paid for 'lunch club', parents could then choose to use the entitlement to provide good pre-school education for their children and enough time to realistically hold down a job. Timing would also tie in with pick-ups/drop-offs for older children already at school. Availability of the entitlement through approved private partners would remain important too.*
- Having an older child at school I would not like the term extended for nursery. I think a lot of the children would miss the extra time as families will take them out to go away.
- *Offering extra hours in summer holidays within local day nursery/extended hours establishments where numbers are often low. This may help parents who struggle for childcare over the long holiday period.*
- Full days if possible
- *Parents to decide how they want to use the allocations. Give a choice of the 1st and 2nd options above. As some parents who work part-time may prefer option 1, while others option 2*
- Could possibly be fulfilled with 1 full day with 4 x 2.5 hour days.
- *Extend the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 day delivery model during term time but also give parents who need to use private nurseries an opportunity to benefit by allowing some of the hours to be used there too*
- 5 mornings/afternoon + 1 extra morning/afternoon session (i.e. 1 full day and 4 half days)

Q4e Nursery places are currently allocated as 5 x 2.5 hour sessions in either the morning or afternoon. Do you agree that children should come to nursery for a morning or afternoon rather than full days?

- I feel full days would prepare them for starting primary 1.
- *Allows children to explore other interests or have 'down time' or family time as well as experience nursery.*
- However, I do not think you should have to stick to mornings or afternoon. There should be some element of flexibility
- *Many children attend full-time childcare from a young age. Our personal preference is a child-minder so that our children are not in the same place all day long.*
- Already full day in Private Nursery so full time care will be required.
- *I'd prefer full days that way I could go back to work.*
- I think for younger children a full day would be too much. I think to spread it over the week is better to keep their minds active and to keep it consistent. I think that 2.5 hours per day is enough especially for younger children that are going into school at age 4. Maybe extend it to 3 hours.
- *Everyone's circumstances are different, either half day or full day is fine. Perhaps starting with half day and building up to a full day in the second year.*
- I feel full days will benefit the child
- *Full days could be too much for some children at such a young age.*
- Yes, children should come either morning or evening. If we keep a full day session they will be very tired and it's too much for them.
- *I think there needs to be flexibility especially if no wrap around care available for children attending nursery*
- At the age of 3 I feel children should do half day sessions. Although at age 4 increasing their length of day would quite possibly benefit them for starting school.
- *This decision should be evidence based, i.e. based on studies of how children of that age best perform and learn. It should not be based on convenience of parents. It is a parent's choice to take up the 600 hours or not. I personally would prefer full days for convenience but not at my child's disadvantage - I would work round the pattern that evidence showed was optimal.*
- My child currently attends Private Nursery for 3 full days and at the age she is (almost 3) she is benefitting from the whole structured day. I also think this is good preparatory work for when children start school and are attending full days there. Also for the reasons stated earlier, 2.5 hours per day is too short a time to allow parents to go to work for full or almost full days.
- *A full day is too much if too structured - there needs to be plenty of space for play and relaxation.*
- In August 2014, our child will be at a private affiliated nursery in the morning and the pre-school nursery in the afternoon. It would suit us and would be less disruptive to our child to be at the one nursery for the full day.
- *A full day for a 3 or 4 year old is too long. Too long to stay focused, too long to be away from myself, too complicated for eating and snacking, etc.*

- Morning or afternoon is great for those people that do not work. They are useless for parents that work full time.
- *I support nursery children being at school full time.*
- I feel that a whole day is too long for such a young age.
- *Reason for this is some children may just be 3 when they start nursery and a full day can be too long, especially if they have a nap am or pm. Also, not enough concentration at young age for full days.*
- It's good to have routine every day in preparation for school.
- *I feel, especially for younger children, attending nursery for a full day is too much. I appreciate that they are encouraged to rest however I know that my own son finds this very difficult to do when there is so much stimuli around him.*
- It depends on the child. Full days prepare children for school.
- *Depends what doing while there!*
- Education sessions should be limited at 2.5 hours per day, as at this age this is sufficient for their attention span. However, if there was facilities to allow the children the ability to rest, play, be fed and toileted correctly, then sessions could be longer. This currently doesn't happen in school nurseries but does in private nurseries meaning children can be at nursery for the full day, allowing parents to work.
- *Sometimes it is not easy for working parents to get away to collect children from nursery after a couple of hours. Full days are better for full time working parents but obviously everyone's circumstances will be different.*
- Full days allow more flexibility for working.
- *More morning places should be available.*
- There are arguments for both. Where parents work part time, shorter days, sometimes it is best for just AM or PM sessions. However, for those parents who work full days, full day places at nursery would be advantageous for the children and the parents.
- *Full days may benefit some people.*
- Certainly for ante-preschool full days are too long influenced by concentration span and day sleeps required.
- *Perhaps longer session for pre-school year.*
- I feel full day sessions are a lot for such a young age group.
- *I feel an all-day session for that age would be too much for them.*
- Children in private nurseries should be able to use their entitlement over full days.
- *It would possibly be more useful to working parents if there was an option for longer sessions.*
- Full days are much too long for children of this age. The majority come home exhausted after 2.5h. Extending the length of session would necessitate vastly reducing the intensity of the activities during each session.
- *I think the current provision is adequate for young children. I feel any longer would be too tiring for a lot of young children.*
- Due to my work commitments normal school times suit me (9am till 3.30). Difficult to make other arrangements for half days.
- *Full days are too long for children under 4. Morning or afternoon is plentiful with added variety, the rest of the day provided by parents and/or family.*
- I don't think young children would like to be away all day. The children

get tired and bored and maybe wouldn't like being away from family all day at such a young age.

- *As a mother to 3 children I do not feel at 3 years old my children are old or mature enough to cope and believe it could cause behavioural issues etc., being put into nursery all day. I also feel as a working mother I want to spend time with my kids and have days out. A full day in education will be achieved when they go to school.*
- For pre-school year, longer sessions would give more opportunity for learning skills to start primary one and would get children used to longer days of school.
- *This would depend on if it is a day nursery or school nursery. I don't think a full day is suitable in a school nursery.*
- My child is tired after 2.5 hours and is ready to go home. Any longer would be too much.
- *I think so as it seems a very long day at that age to be there all day, although some children do it, so not that bothered either way.*
- I think the children that are pre-school age, 4, are ready to have some long days at nursery. Structured days in preparation for full days of structure at school. I think all nursery age children should attend nursery to help aid development.
- *The full day helps with transition to school hours.*
- A child of nursery age should not be at nursery for extended periods of time. I think this initiative is being set up to reduce the cost of child care for parents rather than for the good and wellbeing of the child. 2.5 hours per day is sufficient in my opinion. Children need to be with their families and be allowed to be children and get outside and play! Not stuck in a nursery for extended periods of time away from their families...
- *When child is in pre-school year and all nursery can offer is afternoons then it means it can be difficult to get child into school rhythm/pattern.*
- Full days would be a good option.
- *I think it depends on the individuals circumstances.*
- Full days get them ready for school.
- *Undecided.*
- Perhaps offer opportunity on the build up to full school days.
- *Too long a day at that age, especially if they are not used to being in a nursery environment.*
- I think full days would be beneficial closer to school age.
- *The children are far too young for full days.*
- I feel that a full day session is preparing the child for a full day at school.
- *The split session requires wrap around care at either side which is often hard to source or financially prohibitive.*
- I have an older child who is currently in primary one. She never attended the nursery attached to the school as I work full time and therefore need full time child care and the short sessions were completely unworkable for myself.
- *Yes, without any doubt is a huge change for children starting nursery - even those who have been in private childcare/nurseries. (I experienced this with my older son who was in a private nursery). The gradual build-up starting with am or pm sessions for a couple of years helps to ease the transition and build their emotional resilience*

to better prepare them for the move to full days at primary.

- The transition from nursery to school would be easier and less tiring initially if a child had had experience of a full day in a classroom environment.
- *Absolutely agree with half day / 2.5 hour sessions.*
- It would be more helpful for working parents to have the opportunity to choose to have half or full days depending on work commitments.
- *I feel the option of a full day at nursery 2.5 days per week is a good way to prepare a child for school. Also for childcare costs, it would save parents juggling childcare and pick up/drop off for 2.5 hours per day.*
- Both - for the first year at nursery it is good that the children are eased into nursery but it might be more beneficial for some parents that are working to have their children in for 2 full days.
- *Dependent on individual circumstances.*
- It would be far more practical to have a solution covering a parent's working day.
- *In preparation for spending a full day at school there could be a phased stage/block where kids spend longer days and shorter weeks.*
- It would suit our childcare arrangement better if it was full days. I do think a half day is enough if very structured nursery place.
- *I would like to have full days.*
- Personally, a full day nursery placement is more useful due to working and also allows my child to get used to a long school day.
- *My children would be very happy to spend full days at nursery as it would work much better for us.*
- Should be to suit individual's needs.
- *This is a gradual progression from being a toddler with their parents to half day. Also advantageous to be attending same school environment.*
- Personally it would be difficult for me to use the 5 x 2.5hrs slots on the days that I work for drop off/pick-ups. I would only be able to put my son in on the days that I don't work (i.e. Thurs/Fri) so I can get him to/from nursery.
- *I think a full day would be too much. An afternoon class is perfect for my son.*
- AM session could go on later and PM session could start earlier.
- *The parents should have the choice and have their children at nursery when it suits them whether that's a half day or a full day. There is high demand for nurseries which have a full day option because parents need this option to allow them to go to work. Many children of working parents are already used to attending nursery on a full day basis well before they are 3 years of age. Parents should not be forced to have only am or only pm.*
- I am happy for my son to attend with am or pm sessions at his future nursery class. However, my son currently attends a day nursery until he starts his nursery class and I like him being in full days. I would be happy with either or, when he attends his future nursery class. I have a preference for his nursery class sessions am or pm to be extended to more than 2.5 hours per day.
- *Especially if they are only 3. Pre-school should have the chance to extend though.*
- Children in their pre-school years won't "learn" all day. They should

have rest and chill time. 2 or 3 sessions in a day is too much and then merely becomes childcare.

- *This is fine if you have other childcare provision - i.e. if you do not work or if you have family to help - not very useful if you work and need childcare for (for example) several full days per week. More flexibility would be useful.*
- This would depend on the length of days, how learning activities were structured and if meals were provided.
- *I think that nursery sessions should last longer but not necessarily a full school day. 4 hour sessions would be ideal*
- The funding should follow the child and more private nurseries should be in partnership as it's not fair for working parents
- *As I work 9-5 (Mon - Wed), my son currently attends nursery for 3 full days per week.*
- It would be more favourable to have the option to mix morning and afternoon sessions rather than being restricted to one or the other.
- *Disagree - I think full days would be useful for parents who work. We provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for our private nursery.*
- I feel that from the experience of my son the 2.5 hours a day gets him into a good routine. I think a full day for a 3 year old is pretty long and only looks good as an option to help with childcare which should not be the case.
- *There may be a benefit in having full days in the run up to children preparing for P1.*
- As above pre-schoolers could cope either way. Ante pre-schoolers would need half day sessions, especially as some still need a nap.
- *Many nursery children would struggle with full days, although personally our 4 year old would be fine as she is used to private nursery full days from 9 months old. Half days allows them to ease gently into full days at school. Also allows them to participate in classes such as swimming/mini gyms at other times in the day.*
- I believe that a choice of both could be offered. Stability and routine is essential. My child would be confident going daily 5 times a week for longer sessions or attending full days a few days a week.
- *My child attended a private nursery from 1 year old and so was used to attending full days long before she started at school nursery. I understand that it may be better for those children who have never attended nursery before though.*
- If the current model of delivery was extended to make these longer sessions this would be easier for us to manage.
- *A full day would be too much for a child this age unless nap time would be accounted for within this time*
- I would be happy with either model.
- *I believe some children would flourish being at nursery for 5 full days. My children would love this, however others may struggle.*
- I believe children of pre-school age are not mentally or physically equipped to have a full day "education".
- *Full days allow for parents who may only work part time to use all their free hours and also gives children an experience of what school will be like.*
- I think at this age it is long enough. I know some kids struggle in P1 with the long day.
- *Just make their time longer.*

- I don't have strong views on this but as Primary 1 is full days it would help children get used to being in a learning environment being in Nursery for a full day. It would also help working parents and limit/save chopping and changing childcare arrangements. (E.g. my daughter goes to private nursery at 8am every morning, then to her School Nursery for 2.5 hours every afternoon, then back to her private nursery until 5/5.15...)
- *3 and 4 year olds are just little and tire easily. I believe that they benefit from being at home or in a home-like environment, for at least half their day. It's a good stepping stone between 100% home and starting school.*
- Not for working parents! I work in Edinburgh so there's no way I can drop off/pick up in morning/afternoon. Need to be more flexible.
- *I feel that a full day at nursery is too long for a 3/4 year old. I think its best breaking the hours up over 5 days per week rather than 2/3 full days per week.*
- I would be happy for my child to do longer sessions (of 5) - or do to full days for example.
- *Education sessions should be limited at 2.5 hours per day, as at this age this is sufficient for their attention span. However, if there was facilities to allow the children the ability to rest, play and be fed and toileted correctly then sessions could be longer. This currently doesn't happen in school nurseries but does in private nurseries, meaning children can be at nursery for the full day, allowing parents to work.*
- A full day is too long for a three year old and most four year olds to cope with.
- *It's easier to match working hours on every day basis (e.g. 4 hours daily rather than 10 hours twice a week).*
- I need full day provision or I would be unable to work.
- *When I am at work I have no-one to collect my daughter from nursery. I need her to attend for a longer period of time.*
- Suit child needs and family commitments. Longer days prepare for school timetable.
- *Either.*
- It depends on the child and family circumstances. Some children with working parents are already used to being in nursery for full day, however, some may not be able to cope with this. Therefore it should depend on the needs of the child. I prefer to have my children at home with me on my days off to engage in other activities such as swimming and family time.
- *I think full days are too long for young children and they may become too tired in nursery after a long day to be able to get the full benefit of their time at nursery.*
- This is not helpful when you work full time. It also helps the child prepare themselves for school if they are in full days. This also allows parents to work if a child is in a full day.
- *I feel in there ante pre-school year full days are better to build them up to the length of day they would be at school.*
- Provided it coincides with a normal school day, i.e. if younger child had afternoon place I would want them finishing at same time as their older sibling finishes school.
- *At ages 3 + 4, full day early learning is not appropriate.*
- A couple of hours in morning/afternoon is fine.

- *Nursery is to prepare children for school, 2.5 hours is not enough time to do this. I would also question how beneficial the activities completed during the session given the length of time vs. no. of children.*
- *Full days seem too long for 3 year olds.*
- *I do not feel that a full day session would be in the best interests of the children at nursery age and therefore benefits of additional time would be minimised.*
- *This makes wrap around childcare much easier if the children are in nursery for the full day. It would enable me to go to work*
- *I believe young children benefit from the shorter day where they can focus on learning.*
- *No, my child currently only attends an am session but previously loved her full day sessions. Her confidence and friendships grew as she met new children and she was able to experience different activities which happened throughout the full day.*
- *Not necessarily. A full day may be tiring for some children but many children of this age will be at private nurseries for full days*
- *Being working parents means our daughter is in nursery full days so it would benefit us using our 600 hours both in am and pm sessions*
- *It breaks them in gently. Think it would be too much for them to do full days.*
- *Only should go to nursery full time when there are no other options for full time working parents*
- *I feel the first year should be morning or afternoon and the second year all day to prepare for school.*
- *Not sure. I work and I have my children in nursery but if I didn't work I don't think it would matter what days as long as consistent.*
- *Full days seem to work perfectly well for our children.*
- *This is much harder to organise childcare out with these times for working parents.*
- *Full days offer more flexibility to working parents. My daughter has been attending private nursery one full day per week since she was 9 months old and loves it, although I was worried it would be too long for her.*
- *Full days are preferable to get them into a proper routine for when they are ready to start school and as said previously, a professional carer can properly provide for the child's development etc.*
- *At present, my daughter does not get 2.5 hours a day at nursery. She goes in between 12.45 and 1pm then pick up is at 3pm (you can be as late at 3.15 but the children are just sitting waiting for us with jackets on from 3pm)*
- *Short sessions do not suit working families. I also think full days help prepare children for school where they'll need to be able to cope with full days.*
- *Yes definitely. At this age full days are too long and offering mornings or afternoons (albeit longer than a 2.5 hour session) would offer children the chance to learn and play in a structured way but be balanced with spending time at home. I wholeheartedly support the idea of offering say, 4 x 4 hour sessions per week and perhaps offering parents the choice of either 4 morning sessions or 4 afternoon sessions, or even 2 morning sessions and 2 afternoon sessions for example.*

- I think at age 3 a full day might not be suitable as many still have a sleep in the day. However, age 4 definitely should have full days. Many children struggle when starting P1 as they aren't used to the full day.
- *I think it depends on the child, but as a rule no, I think there should be flexibility offered.*
- A daily routine for school based nursery is preparing the children for school so consistency is important.
- *4 year olds should attend nursery adequate school hours e.g. 9-3pm as an option.*
- Full days are easier when both parents are working. It would make it easier for us to organise childcare requirements for the rest of the week.
- *Maybe have pre-school children in for longer closer to their last term at nursery to get the idea of longer days.*
- I would like more flexibility so that my daughter could attend her school nursery at least for some time. This is not possible for me as I work full-time.
- *A full day is my only option as I work and 2.5 hours would not be an option at all for us.*
- Full days at school nursery are too long and tiring for children of this age.
- *Doesn't allow time for out of school activities i.e. trip to beach, castles, and museums.*
- I think at that age full days are too long and children get tired.
- *Okay if you have no work commitments - otherwise depends on parent's working week.*
- Full days would be a better option for full-time parents.
- *This can be difficult for mothers trying to continue to work and who do not have good support from e.g. grandmothers. The above does not work well for working mothers. Working mothers need their child at nursery for a full day. Nowadays women need to go back to work - a full day at nursery helps this and in the absence of support from grandmother.*
- Full day 5 days a week too much for 3 year olds.
- *This works well for my child at the moment but 4 year olds might benefit from full days to help them prepare for school.*
- I work all day - so do most people. Child at nursery all day is much easier.
- *I think full days in nursery are too long for 3 year olds.*
- I don't think it appropriate for pre-school children to attend full days at such an early age. They spend a good part of their lives schooling and working full days.
- *Possibly as they get closer to going to school they could maybe do a couple of days a week full day to get them used to going to school.*
- My daughter goes to school next year and I don't feel that 2.5 hours a day of nursery will properly prepare her for 6 hours of school a day.
- *Ante pre-school, half day is enough Pre-school, could cope with full day.*
- Full days at nursery helps children settle into school quicker, as does longer mornings or afternoons.
- *Not really FOR or AGAINST.*
- A full day nursery session would be too long for the young children.

- *For my older two children I had to use a private nursery to drop my children into school nursery as I did not want them to miss mixing with their P1 peers. It was confusing and particularly upsetting for my son who took weeks to understand why he wasn't going home when he left the private nursery to go to the school nursery. It would have been much better if they could have stayed at the school nursery all day instead. It was also expensive for us but there was no alternative. We could see over these years why parents would not work as it did not seem worth working for nothing (to pay childcare costs). For children who are not receiving good parenting at home, this would be an opportunity to extend their nurture within the nursery to full days, having a greater effect on their wellbeing. As the nursery would be operating with other children in full days the child would not feel singled out.*
- Not possible for those who work.
- *I think a full day would get them more used to starting school.*
- 3 year olds especially would find an 8 hour day very tiring and less beneficial.
- *It depends on parents' working situation. They may work full time on say a Monday.*
- My children attend nursery on a full time basis so I do prefer full days.
- *Don't think full days should be ruled out. These are easier for working parents.*
- I think full day will be better for kids to prepare for school and for parents to have more time (free time (shopping, house)).
- *I think it gives the child a chance to adjust to not just being at home with family, eases them into what school will be like gradually. Get used to new routines, other children, etc.*
- I do feel that the 2nd year of nursery should be a longer class to prepare children for the school day.
- *I personally think full days are too long for children age 3. AM or PM sessions are long enough but full days would suit families where both parents work full time.*
- At 3/4 years old I feel a full day at nursery is too tiring.
- *If you were able to provide full days, the 600 hours would be more readily achieved as lunch hours would be included.*
- Either way, I don't mind. They will need to get used to 5 full days a week in P1 anyway.
- *This will depend on individual circumstances and work commitments.*
- It's harder to manage for working mums and dads.
- *I think there is a benefit to the children going to pre-school nursery every week day so as to get them used to that arrangement before starting school and on the basis that fulltime free nursery places won't be allocated (and nor should that be expected) a morning or afternoon session is ideal.*
- Yes because working parents can have options for other childcare in conjunction with an 'am' or 'pm' session. Full day nursery would not start before 8am enabling working parents to travel to work and full day nursery would not keep the kids till 6pm when parents return from work. Bo'ness is a commuter town so parents commute!
- *Depends on a child's care requirements and parent's circumstances.*
- Yes in respect to this provision. My own son does full days and he enjoys his days.

- *If it suits parents, children should be offered the chance to have a full day slot at school nursery. It would prepare them better for the full day attendance when they eventually have to start school.*
- For full time working parents, having AM only or PM only sessions is very difficult. Far more flexibility needs to be offered to allow working parents to take up these places.
- *Full days would allow parents, guardians to seek employment or education.*
- She manages full day at private nursery fine. Only going for a few hours in the morning is quite disruptive as she doesn't really settle in very well before its time to come home.
- *Nursery should be flexible. For working parents children can miss out if there is nobody available to drop off and pick up children at specified times, e.g. children looked after by family members who live in another area or have commitments with children at another school.*
- Help to get used to full days at school.
- *Think this depends on every family but would be good to have option of full days to make it easier for working parents and less expensive. So good to have more provision where full days are offered. However, days that I do not have to work would rather have am or pm sessions.*
- My son is at private nursery from 8am - 5.30pm the days I work. So long days are not an issue.
- *I feel children should attend nursery for longer hours to get them ready for attending school. My daughter was at another nursery before attending school nursery. She was there 9am till 1pm which I felt benefited us both more than the hours she now gets.*
- Depends on the structure of learning. A 4 hour day may be too long for younger children if there is a certain level of concentration required.
- *I think full days prepares them more for school.*
- This can be very difficult for working parents to work wrap-around care. Particularly if commuting long distances.
- *A full day would be too long at age 3 for nursery education. I don't like the thought of having my children away from family all day. We have always used family to help with childcare for this reason.*
- I feel 3 and 4 year olds get great benefit from going to nursery but it's too much for them to go all day. Although I do appreciate some people don't have a choice and have to send their children all day.
- *There should be flexibility to suit both the needs of the child and the parent / carer. Some children might not cope with full days.*
- I think parents should be given the choice of half or full days to better suit family life.
- *I think that 2.5 hours per day gradually phases the child in to when he/she has to go to school.*
- When they go to school they are in for full days so should have choice to do this if you want.
- *I think a half day is enough at first although longer than 2.5 hours would be better as I think it will prepare them better for starting school.*
- Not necessarily. Probably for ante pre-school 2.5 hours is long enough for some children and parents. However, for my son's pre-school year it would be great if a school nursery could do longer hours, then it would mean I wouldn't need to use 2 nurseries to cover my part- time working hours. But if this is not possible 3 hours per

day, 5 days per week would be ok.

- *In private nursery children cope well with full days. Half days create childcare issues as there is not enough time to work for such a short period. Full days would also fit in better with older children.*
- Nursery is a big step and a full day would be much harder for the 3 year olds to cope with. It is very tiring for them to be as independent as nursery requires of them.
- *I think a full day can be quite long for a young child. However I do think a full morning or afternoon is acceptable and the current 2.5hrs is very short.*
- I think the children should do their first term of nursery 1/2 days and then after that full days the same as they will do in school.
- *I think at that age a full day can be draining.*
- I would welcome 6 hours sessions, from 9am to 3 pm
- *I think as long as children are getting their full entitlement then it doesn't really matter.*
- Maybe not a full day but just a bit longer than they already do.
- *Some children could cope with full days at that age but others may not be able to.*
- I think a full day is more beneficial for both child and parent as this doesn't impact on working hours.
- *A full day would be too much for my son. He would be exhausted and would not get that much out of his time at nursery*
- Full days would help parents gain employment. Half days are impractical for a working parent.
- *I think it would be easier to manage if it was full days rather than 2.5 hours.*
- This is not an easy arrangement for those parents who work. My daughter attends nursery two days a week as that is when I require child care. It is not feasible for me to get her to and from nursery when I am at work.
- *I think slightly extended sessions in am or pm would be ideal. I feel full day sessions for 3 and 4 year old might be too much. Perhaps the new hours over 4 days.*
- If this is more productive for them.
- *I can only afford to work 3 days as my Private Nursery care is expensive and I work half an hour away from home. If the hours of entitlement were to be increased over fewer but longer full days this would help parents who work out with the local area to reduce the cost of childcare by being able to use the Council Nursery class within the local schools so that transition of nursery to school is not so scary for the child.*
- Morning/afternoon places are ideal although maybe offering all morning/afternoon + 1 full day would benefit both parents and prepare children for the longer school day when they start primary school.

Q4f Do you have any other suggestions as to how 600 hours of early learning and childcare should be provided?

- It should be spread evenly over each day of the week - (5 days). It keeps it consistent for the kids as it might confuse the children and for the rest of the time in the summer holidays as they tend to take a few steps back after being away from nursery for a big period of time.
- *Private Nurseries should reduce bills and offer 2.5 hours free.*
- Allowing children a full 2 years early education provision would benefit children more, when a child's birthday is say December they will only ever get 1.5 years nursery education. If a child at 2.5 got a placement in a day nursery/ child-minder paid this would hugely benefit the child and they would be getting 2 years like all the other children.
- *Can it be flexible for each family? 600 hours could be tailored to individual families' needs over the course of a year.*
- No
- *I feel Falkirk council needs to work in association with more private nurseries so that all parents can take advantage of this and not just the non-working ones.*
- I have no further suggestions to make
- No
- Should be a choice of a number of full days either at school or private nursery
- *See above. The hours should be allocated to the child to be used as best suits the child and their family. Currently a child can access these hours at school nurseries, or some "select" private nurseries. This is unfair to parents and children who cannot access these facilities. As regards availability, in private nurseries it should be all or none. Either all private nurseries to be funded or none. This is fair. If the council preference is for no private nurseries funded, then the council must provide wrap around care to the equivalent standard of the private nurseries, which must be available to all children.*
- Allocation of monies to the registered childcare provider to be set against private fees
- *Longer days would be good option. Don't think the idea of coming in during school holidays would work.*
- Start with being able to provide good quality early learning to all children in a catchment area - i.e. Kinnaird.
- *I think the sessions could either be longer, or you could extend the term to 40 weeks. Many parents find it difficult to find alternative care during the holidays, and although nursery is a learning environment, we rely upon it so that we can go out to work. Government need to make it easier and more accessible for parents to go out to work, and extending nursery provision would help this.*
- I believe all nurseries (incl. private) should be included in the 600 hrs. Failure to allow this results in working parents, whose children cannot attend council nursery, being discriminated against and are financially worse off.
- *The option of adding extra days or the option of reducing the cost of existing child care arrangements already in place.*
- To increase the number of hours in a session but only if it means whole school still finishes at same time.
- *Please leave as it is. You would be turning an education*

establishment into a babysitting service.

- No
- *Individually tailored to meet the needs of working parents*
- *At home by the parents...now there's a revelation! We live in such a nanny state it's utterly pathetic...*
- *I think it would be delivered over 5 weekdays. I fail to understand how a system of additional cover over 2 weeks of the summer holidays would be advantageous. This type of cover would waste resources as anyone who has school age children will be restricted if they want to go out.*
- *Use of private council validated nurseries (pre funded) for the extra hours/provision to be given to child with care remaining within schools nursery that child will be foreseen to be attending. i.e. 5 x 2.5hrs remaining within school and extra hours prefunded elsewhere (=3.5hrs) or given to parents in voucher form to access extra hours by registered childcare provider.*
- *More funding allowed for private nursery care. More friendly hours to reflect parents work e.g. afternoon session at Hallglen starts 12.20. Barely time for lunch before session finishes at 2.50pm. The whole day is dictated by the nursery slot but timings do not allow for much else.*
- *Could be provided as a monetary value to pay other professional child carers i.e. nannies, child-minders*
- No
- Flexitime?
- *Think we have to look at parents that work part-time or full time hours. That full day sessions are more appropriate as this fits in with their work/lifestyle, giving the child a chance to have a full day away from parents, grandparents, child-minders etc. This preparing them for school life making the transition easier for the child. This also allows families a chance to have a fair balance of work & play within their family life.*
- *It would be good to have the option to pay to top up the early learning with wrap around care to better accommodate working parents.*
- *They should be provided as full day or half day sessions to give the children of parents who work the opportunity to attend a school nursery, especially in the year before they start school.*
- *Allowing parents to transfer the some/all of the funding to a private Falkirk nursery*
- *The 600 hour early learning provision sounds like it will suit parents who already pay for full days of nursery care within day care nurseries. These parents will see a reduction in their child care costs. My child is cared for by family only. My personal preference is to ease them into education. The current system suits well and in fact with a previous child I have used only 3 half days at ante preschool rising to the 5 half day provision. I intend to do the same with my 2 year old who is due to start in August 2014. This leaving time for educating and play at home (important routine for homework etc. later) and attending the library and other activities. Perhaps the 600 hours can be offered as an option to those who want it or who already put their children into nurseries every day. My strongest feeling is that it should remain as 2.5 hour blocks.*
- *Flexibility and as part of a day care provision to support working parents.*

- *No - see previous response.*
- *I would like to be Monday until Friday and full day like primary.*
- *Perhaps in a self-directed support model where vouchers for time at nursery is given and used flexibly and hours following child - not with nursery - so could be used in private nursery where there is more flexibility for working parents.*
- *Possibly a "voucher system" with approved private and school nurseries. Parents can then choose how they use their allocation. Again this is how I heard it can work in Edinburgh and South Queensferry.*
- *Will be difficult due to resource issues (staff/money available for equipment etc.)*
- *No happy with additional 40 min x 5 days*
- *I would like to see earlier drop offs and later pick up to allow parents who work to use the service.*
- *What my child has just now is enough. I don't think there is any need for anymore.*
- *None*
- *Optional holiday activities provided in local sports centre etc. rather than causing chaos with a system that already works.*
- *Extend the am and pm nursery class sessions. Making nursery classes longer i.e. 9-12am or 1-3pm. Or two/three long days e.g. 9-3 (not 5 full days)*
- *4 x 4 plus 1 day off for pre-school 5 x 3 hours. Lunch would also need to be provided/accommodated as 4 hours is a long time.*
- *That parents could decide what hours and when from (say) 8.30 to 5.30, up to 600 hours over the year. E.g. be able to book for all day Mon, all day Tues and a Wed.*
- *The model should be based on delivering 600hours of early learning for every child in complete blocks so a full am. or a full pm. class each day and not be restricted to school term time. Many parents are not in professions that have the same school terms. It should be down to the parent as to whether the hours are used throughout the year or within term weeks*
- *Could child-minders be used if they covered the curriculum?*
- *In school nurseries longer am or pm sessions but allow private nurseries as its ridiculous that partnership isn't given to more nurseries*
- *No I feel the best option is the same days but just a little longer each session.*
- *Two "core" options 1) 2.5 hrs a day or 2) 3 hours a day PLUS for those choosing option 1 the ability to "top up" the 2.5 hours as needed.*
- *Children get far too many holidays per year and this is a challenge for working parents.*
- *Offer mix of half day sessions and full days? For those able to cope with longer days could do 1 or 2 full days mixed with half days. Perhaps difficult to manage.*
- *Perhaps some families would be happy to use their extra hours to support them during the school summer holidays in order to help with childcare issues. However this should be optional as it probably won't suit many parents as this option clashes with those families with older siblings. This option also only works if the childcare professionals are*

happy to work extra weeks of the year and be paid extra on top of their existing salary.

- No
- Give the hours to those that need it. Unemployed, low income, single parents.
- *I don't believe the current school terms should be altered so the additional provision should fit into this model.*
- As much flexibility as possible.
- *No other suggestions*
- See above. The hours should be allocated to the child to be used as best suits the child and their family. Currently a child can access these hours at school nurseries, or some "select" private nurseries. This is unfair to parents and children who cannot access these facilities. As regards availability, in private nurseries it should be all or none. Either all private nurseries to be funded or none. This is fair. If the council preference is for no private nurseries funded, then the council must provide wrap around care to the equivalent standard of the private nurseries, which must be available to all children.
- *Look in to including playgroups/ child-minding groups to offer a range of providers rather than only one option (school nurseries) for the full 600 hours*
- No
- *Flexibility is key. Child's needs, interests and family commitments key to tailor provision. Allow choice of sessions, length, day, etc.*
- Extending the length of session would be best
- *Every child should have an approximate weekly allowance of hours and the hours should be more flexible, i.e. full days/half days. 2.5 hours which are set hours are not helpful.*
- Into extra-curricular activities such as active sports and exercise, music, etc.
- *As per previous comments, 600 hours should not be a target Falkirk Council are aiming for.*
- These hours should be more flexible. The council should grant partnership to more private nurseries to enable consistent care to young children.
- No.
- You could continue with 2.5 hour days for ante-preschool and provide this during the afternoon and increase to 3.1 hours a day for preschool provided in the morning. This would allow for a progression through nursery. I believe every nursery would need to employ an additional qualified member of staff to allow the existing staff time for planning, preparation and recording.
- *I do not feel all 600 hours should be core but perhaps a percentage of these could be flexible to suit the needs of each family.*
- Just add extra hours to be allocated in the current model would seem sensible.
- *It should be provided within all nurseries in the area, including private nurseries so that working parents are not disadvantaged.*
- I only have one child so this is all new to me.
- *Perhaps the extra hours could be used to pay towards playgroup, or to extend the time at nursery each day, though this would cause issues ensuring the nursery staff get a lunch break.*

- As I've said previously I think the 600hrs would be best provided on a flexible basis. Most of my friends with kids use partnership nurseries and nursery centres with wrap around because this suits their work patterns.
- *It would be good if there could be a degree of flexibility to help meet the needs of individual families but this should be balanced by the fact the priority should be early education for the child and not childcare.*
- I think giving parents a choice of full days rather than 2.5 hours a day, would provide flexibility for the parents that have to work full time
- *None - the suggested offerings are a reasonable range.*
- Parents should be allowed to choose where their child receives their hours. Perhaps in private nursery with time and days that suit the family.
- *Longer AM or PM sessions*
- Provision should be flexible.
- *Greater flexibility should be offered so that childcare is provided free when the parents require it*
- There should be more flexibility for parents to choose days/hours to suit their work patterns.
- *Greater flexibility of timings would be better e.g. a 9 am start makes it difficult for working parents to drop their children off at nursery.*
- Options for full time childcare outside school more flexible hours and times.
- *600 hours should be given irrespective of whether you have holidays or not and carried over.*
- I feel 2.5 hour sessions is too short for working mothers (and I only work part time). It would be better if it was 4 hours over less number of days i.e. 4 x 4 am or pm sessions per week or possibly 5 x 3 hour sessions.
- *Parents should be able to pick their own provider according to their situation i.e. private nursery and have the funding made available for that.*
- If they were available in all childcare settings it would help parents to arrange full time care so that they can work.
- *For full time children let it just be taken off the total bill. Let nurseries do what suits them best.*
- The 600 hours should be allocated to the child and not to set playgroups. This would enable children currently attending a private nursery to use these hours at the nursery they are familiar with.
- *If funding was flexible i.e. could be spent over year-could it allow some parents to work regular days up to the child tax/working credit. This would need to be centrally funded in order to avoid misuse of funds directed at children's education.*
- N/A
- *Feel this would be too long for small children and may lose interest in learning as they only have short attention span.*
- No
- *Just strongly that it should be provided in full days. Parents would be able to pay for additional hours or money can be directed to better after-school and holiday school clubs. I am unable to get my older too into after-school club on the days that I need as it has a waiting list!! Falkirk Council could work with private nurseries to provide more accessible childcare, such as after school and holiday child care.*

Because of the trouble with my older two children it is likely that my 2 year old will be staying at her private nursery until P1 rather than being transferred midday.

- As suitable to parents circumstances that way it provides a financial benefit
- *Deducted from fees at private nurseries. The current system is not very effective for working parents with no family support to assist after nursery sessions.*
- *I would appreciate any childcare help as currently pay over £800 a month. My daughter is 3 in February so looking forward to reduction in fees.*
- None
- More nursery places or pre-school clubs
- No
- They should be provided in the same nursery so parents and kids don't have to chop and change about between nurseries.
- *Private nurseries (and other local authorities) offer places where a child can attend for full days and the period of time between the AM and PM Sessions and the "after school" hours can be paid for as additional care. This allows full time working parents to access funded places at the feeder nursery for their proposed school. Our family currently has had to make significant changes to our working hours to accommodate the nursery hours and this has affected our household budget. We're lucky we can afford to do so and have employers who are allowing this flexibility. For many families this is not possible and their children are losing out simply because Falkirk Council do not take family circumstance into consideration. Private nurseries understand they are providing a service and their clients' needs are important. Falkirk Council needs to understand this too in order to provide the best service for the children in the local community. The Council might also consider offering these additional hours as school holiday play schemes for parents who find childcare during school holidays difficult to secure.*
- *I do not think that the suggestion of extending the current 38 week model by 2 weeks would meet the additional 125 hours of provision*
- *No, maybe just more flexibly*
- Why can I not be entitled to use my weekly allocation of hours to manage child care that supports me to work so I am receiving the same amount of hours non-working parents receive weekly - rather than receiving only a daily allocation of hours - how can this be justified???
- *I would like to see the days extended with the possibility of lunch for am and pm sessions together e.g. Morning 9-12.30 12-1 lunch Afternoon 12-3.30*
- No
- *Longer sessions to fit around working hours.*
- If not used as part of the nursery early learning, then perhaps the extra hours could be used for swimming lessons as this is an important skill for every child to learn.
- N/A

- At the moment, as my son only attends nursery 4 out of 5 mornings a week (private nursery), I cannot take advantage of receiving the full allocation of hours available to me (10 out of the 12.5) even although he attends nursery for more than 12.5 hours a week. The current system is restrictive and means I am missing out on 2.5 hours a week of funded pre-school education as I don't put my son in nursery all 5 mornings. Parents should be able to claim all their entitlement for the week if they are in nursery attendance for 12.5 hours or more regardless of the number of days a week they attend.
- *Providing the choice of fewer full days would be excellent for me as childcare can be difficult to get/offered.*
- n/a
- *To suit each individual's needs.*
- There could be a greater focus on physical activity within the allocated hours.
- *9-12 am and 12.30-3.30pm*
- A mixture of full and half days could be made available. 2 full days and one half day would allow parents to secure a part time job.
- *As a working mother I am normally unable to drop my daughter at the school nursery at 12.30 and pick her up at 3pm (I'm currently on maternity leave so short term can do this) therefore I have no option but to use a private nursery. I think private nurseries who meet all relevant guidelines and have good inspection reports should be given partnership to enable parents to use some or all of these 600hours to offset their childcare costs.*
- Nursery is used by many parents as child care is required by those who work, a greater number of nurseries will have to be given scope to give council hours as it is unrealistic for working hours
- *If I was given the extra hours I would use it to pay for the playgroup my child attends in the morning prior to going to nursery in the afternoon.*
- Morning/afternoon sessions as just now + 1 session at another childcare setting i.e. child-minder for example would also work.

APPENDIX C: MINUTE OF CONSULTATION MEETING

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN FALKIRK held within GRAEME HIGH SCHOOL, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2013 at 6.15 P.M.

In attendance from the Council	Councillor Alan Nimmo, Portfolio Holder for Education (AN)
	Nigel Fletcher, Joint Acting Director of Education (NF)
	Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education (GG)
	Kenny McNeill, Acting Head of Service Support, Resources and Infrastructure, Education Services (KMcN)
	Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator, Education Services (EH)
	Jan Baxter, Principal Peripatetic Nursery Teacher, Education Services (JB)
	Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer, Chief Executive Office (AS)

Welcome and Introduction	AN, Portfolio Holder for Education welcomed parents to the Falkirk Council consultation meeting on the Scottish Government's the Children and Young People Bill. The Bill aims to secure the provision per annum of 600 hours early learning and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds by August 2014.
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Background to Proposals	GG confirmed the current provision of 475 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents wished it. This is currently delivered within the Falkirk Council area over a 38 week term as 5 mornings or afternoons of 2.5 hour sessions. The Council operates 45 nursery classes which are integrated within the primary schools' estate. Local authorities would now be charged with providing increased provision to 600 hours through a range of possible delivery options.
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Possible delivery options	KMcN detailed the following three possible delivery options currently being considered within the Falkirk Council area for the increased entitlement of 600 hours:-
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- (i) Providing longer morning and afternoon sessions delivered over fewer days of the week during school term time. This option, for example, could provide 4 x 4 hours mornings or afternoon sessions per week;

- (ii) Extending the length of sessions offered over the existing 5 mornings or afternoons during school term time. This option, for example, could continue the 5 day delivery model but increase the current 2.5 hours per day by approximately 40 minutes per day; or
- (iii) Extending the length of the current 38 week term time by 2 weeks. This option, for example, could continue the 5 day delivery model with 3 hours per session and 2 additional weeks introduced over school holiday periods

The Council was now required to consult with parents on the new Government proposals and seek the views of parents on meeting the increased provision taking account of local needs, demand and circumstances.

Questions and answers session

Questions were then invited from the various parents and staff in attendance (approximately 29 in total) at the meeting.

Questions are individually listed and response shown:

Q(1) Clarification was sought on the availability of full time provision.

EH:- There were currently eight stand-alone nurseries operating within the Falkirk Council area from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. They operated throughout the year, with the exception of In Service training days, Christmas and New Year. They operated in most of the larger towns.

Q(2) Clarification was sought on whether the council would be increasing the funding presently available for children attending private partnership nurseries.

NF:- Funding will be increased from the current 475 hours to 600 hours in the private nurseries in partnership with the council

Q(3) Clarification was sought on whether parents could be allocated the funding direct to choose and pay the nursery school.

EH:- The funding for nursery provision was allocated to the local authority to undertake partnership arrangements with nurseries and therefore could not be paid direct to parents.

Q(4) Clarification was sought on whether the child's potentially increased number of hours would lead to a need for the provision of additional food.

EH:- The children are currently provided with a healthy snack at snack time in line with Government guidelines and this would continue within a flexible framework.

Q(5) Clarification was sought on the opportunities for flexibility in terms of attendance hours bearing in mind that parents may also have other childcare arrangements in place on those days.

EH:- The Education authority aimed to ensure that the agreed nursery delivery option would provide more flexible operating times. This could include establishing a core time and the flexibility to deliver and collect children outwith those hours.

Q(6) Clarification was sought on the educational structure and duration within the daily nursery programme.

EH:- Each nursery's daily programme would be structured around education and the individual child's learning and education would not be affected by children's differing start and finish times.

GG:- Should parents consider that the educational component would be best provided at specific times? They were invited to submit their suggestions to feed into the consultation?

Q (7) Clarification was sought on the flexibility of Council nurseries.

EH:- The nurseries were geared to be as flexible as possible whilst being subject to appropriate standards and criteria.

Q(8) Clarification was sought on the future consultation arrangements with staff within classroom nurseries and primary schools.

EH:- Consultation would take place in the first instance with Trades Unions and have added complexity due to certain contracts being negotiated locally and others nationally. Consultation would however be robust and transparent and staff would receive regular updates and briefings.

Q(9) Clarification was sought on whether other delivery options were being considered.

EH:- The Children and Young People Bill highlighted various delivery options. Falkirk Council's local consultation focussed on the most obvious options. Other options would be considered and assessed against other factors including staff contracts and buildings.

Q(10) Clarification on the level of advertising of the consultation meeting as the low number of attendees was disappointing.

JB:- All nursery school children were provided with an information pack to take home to their parents. In addition, advertisements were placed in local newspapers and information was sent out to a variety of centres including GP surgeries, Social Work Offices, Community Centres and libraries. It was also provided on the Falkirk Council website.

GG:- The Education Service to date had received 300 completed consultation forms and more responses were invited.

Q(11) Clarification was sought on whether the welfare implications for the children from the increased daily attendance had been fully considered.

EH:- The children's welfare was paramount and the delivery option chosen would have their welfare at it's heart.

Q(12) Clarification was sought on whether parents were permitted to provide lunch for the children within the nursery.

EH:- The local authority nurseries are subject to strict health and safety guidelines and, to avoid the risk of cross contamination, parents/guardians are not permitted to bring food into the nursery for the child's consumption as the food is provided solely by the local authority.

Q(13) Clarification was sought on the envisaged delivery option.

EH:- There would be a comprehensive assessment of the range of delivery options available and their implications. The Council would welcome as much feedback as possible through the undernoted methods:-

- by email to: educ.consultaion@falkirk.gov.uk.
- the opportunity to access the consultation document and submitting a response at www.falkirk.gov.uk/nursery600 by 30 November 2013

The minute of this consultation meeting would, in due course, be available on the Council website and the Council's final proposals would be submitted to the Education Executive on 4 February 2014. Legislation required that the Education Authority would review its proposals and arrange public consultations every two years.

Q(14) Clarification was sought on the provision for children with special needs and disability.

EH:- Although the Bill did not distinguish between children with different needs, the Education Service would ensure that additional support was available for children with specific needs.

**CONCLUDING
REMARKS**

GG as a concluding request asked for a show of hands from the floor in relation to the preferred option. The majority of attendees indicated a preference for option (ii).

**CLOSE OF
MEETING**

AN closed the meeting by thanking all parties for their attendance and confirming that the final proposals would be submitted to the Education Executive on 4 February 2014.