

Councillor D Goldie entered the meeting during discussion of the preceding item of business.

Councillor Dr C R Martin declared a financial interest in the following item of business as he would financially benefit from the changes in childcare hours and considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective text in the Code of Conduct. Thereafter, he left the meeting.

EE8. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO 600 HOURS PER ANNUM

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which (a) provided an update on the implementation of the 600 hours of early learning and childcare per annum; (b) detailed the updated implementation strategy; (c) outlined the plans to increase capacity and staffing to meet Phase 1 of the implementation from August 2014, and (d) detailed the proposed planned capital investment schedule.

The report provided detailed information on the implementation strategy for Phase 1, including a summary of current early years provision and the plans by the service to address the shortfalls which have been identified. Information was also provided on the staffing implications and the capital and resource implications. The report also outlined the plans announced by the Scottish Government to extend the requirement to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare to 2 year olds from workless households from August 2014, and to extend this further to 2 year olds from families eligible for free school meals from August 2015

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the current strategy and implementation plan;
- (2) to approve the core session time (2 hours 45 minutes) as set out in section 4.1 of the report;
- (3) the proposals of Education Services to address the shortfall in provision as detailed in section 6 of the report;
- (4) to note the revenue and capital resource implications as detailed in section 7,8 and 9 and summarised in section 11 of the report;
- (5) to note the Government's announcement to include the same provision for 2 year olds from workless households;
- (6) to endorse the next steps/way forward as set out in section 13 of the report, and
- (7) that Education Services provide a further report to Education Executive on 17 June 2014 providing a further implementation update and details of the Government's announcement on 2 year olds from workless households (Phase 2).

