

EE5. Early Years Learning and Childcare – Expansion to 1140 hours by 2020

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on additional funding provided by the Scottish Government towards the expansion of early years provision.

Falkirk Council had received an additional £0.653m revenue funding and £1.252m capital funding from the Scottish Government for the expansion of early years provision in 2017/18. The funding must be fully spent in 2017/18. It was likely that further funding would be provided for the period 2018-2021. The aim of guidance issued by the Scottish Government was that authorities make best use of assets by:-

- making full use of all existing assets;
- using what we purchase developing and enhancing use of partner assets; and
- creating what we need creating or building new capacity where gaps exist.

Local Authorities were required to submit an Early Years Expansion Plan to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017. In addition, Authorities were requested provide an analysis of infrastructure expansion plans and estimated costs and future additional staffing requirements.

The report summarised key considerations in the following areas of service provision:-

- use of private and voluntary sector nurseries;
- use of child-minders;
- early years establishments staffing structures;
- further education increased places and course provision;
- national graduate programme; and
- use of external space for classroom or play provision.

An initial phase of infrastructure projects, which when completed would provide 1140 hours of provision were set out. Projects at Langlees, Slamannan, Easter Carmuir and Avonbridge primary schools were presented for consideration.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the information and content of the report;**

- (2) the Children's Services revenue and capital expenditure plans for 2017/18 as detailed within the report, and**
- (3) to ask for a further report later in 2017 on the progress of current expansion plans and an update on future infrastructure investment.**