

EE61. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan Update

Ashley Cupples and Gemma Paterson, Early Years Pedagogues gave a presentation on Marvellous Mealtimes in Falkirk, which had been developed in Bowhouse and Nethermains Primary Schools' Early Learning Centres.

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the ELC expansion plans and progress, together with details of new proposals that support the ELC expansion and implementation plans.

Significant work had been undertaken to develop designs and access ELC options for Kinglass Social Work Office, Callendar Business Park Nursery, Inchlair Nursery School, Woodburn Day Nursery and Victoria Primary school; and the projects at Hallglen ELC and Kinnaird ELC.

The projects identified in Phases 2 & 3 were all currently "on track" as planned. A further 3 establishments had been proposed to accelerate and bring "on stream" earlier than previously planned and within the resources available.

Children's Services have identified proposals which will provide support to partner provider nurseries in phasing in the implementation of 1140 hours; to ensure that their staff and their premises meet the necessary requirements, and to offer increased packages that will provide additional flexibility for parents.

Information was provided on how Children's Services propose to meet the challenges around providing those children accessing 1140 hrs, with a meal at lunchtime and the proposal for additional funding, to allow existing charges for nursery snacks to cease, from August 2019.

Children's Services plan to review and expand the ELC workforce to ensure there is a diverse, gender/age balance workforce, and to create opportunities for "on the job" training programmes. It is estimated that an additional 75fte posts will be recruited by August 2019.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the overall content of the updated progress report;**
- (2) agreed to the proposals detailed in Section 4.3 to accelerate a further 3 projects;**
- (3) agreed to the proposals in Section 4.4 (ii) to accelerate and support the implementation of 1140 hours across our Partner Provider Nurseries;**

- (4) agreed to the proposals detailed in Section 4.5 to review and consider options around meal provision in our ELC establishments;**
- (5) noted the provision of additional funding as detailed in Section 4.8 and request that the Director of Children's Services provide details on the funding bid at the next meeting;**
- (6) agreed to the proposals to recruit additional staff as detailed in Section 4.8, and**
- (7) noted the updated financial information showing new commitments in Section 6.**

Merle Stevenson left the meeting after consideration of the previous item of business.