

ECYE42. Report on the Survey to the Future Demand for Gaelic Medium Education in Falkirk Council

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing the outcome of the survey exercise undertaken with the parents of children starting their ante pre-school year to determine the future demand for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Falkirk. This had been requested by the Education, Children and Young People Executive at its meeting on 17 September 2019 (ref ECYE19).

Parents/carers of ante pre-school children attending all of Falkirk's Early Learning Childcare (ELC) provisions had been invited to complete the short survey.

The survey was distributed to 885 parents/carers, with 170 responses received (19%). The outcome of the survey was provided in an appendix to the report, which suggested that there may be demand for GME in Falkirk that was greater than long standing uptake figures to access provision.

Due to the difficulty in establishing how robust the results were, as the survey only asked for a simple yes/no response, proposals were set out to undertake further engagement with parents/carers. This would ascertain how many of those who had indicated an interest in accessing the provision would retain that interest when more information and understanding on GME delivery was provided. The Director confirmed that all parents of children within the cohort would be able to attend the consultation event.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;**
- (2) agreed the proposal set out in paragraph 4.12 of the report, to engage further with parents/carers who had indicated an interest in accessing GME for their children, and**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services be instructed to provide a further report to the Education, Children and Young People Executive.**