



## **Agenda Item 6**

**Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) –  
1140 Expansion Plan Update**

Falkirk Council

**Title:** Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – 1140 Expansion Plan Update  
**Meeting:** Education, Children and Young People Executive  
**Date:** 23 March 2021  
**Submitted By:** Director of Children's Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report provides the Education, Children and Young People Executive (ECYP) with:

- an update on progress with the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans;
- updated information on the Scottish Governments announcements on the Temporary Restrictions Fund, the Deferred Places Pilot and Progress Reports;
- additional information on the next phases and proposals to expand early intervention support;
- proposals to increase capacity to meet anticipated growth in demand for statutory places; and
- an update on the overall financial position.

**2 Recommendations**

2.1 Education, Children and Young People Executive is asked to:

- (i) note the overall content of this update report;
- (ii) note the updates provided on the remaining projects as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (iii) agree the proposals outlined in Sections 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4 regarding the progression of the of early intervention strategies;
- (iv) note the early intervention pilot project and next phases as outlined in Sections 4.3.5 and 4.3.6;
- (v) note that Children's Services Officers will be responsible for the administration of the recently announced Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF) as outlined in Section 4.4;
- (vi) agree to the proposal, regarding increasing statutory place capacity as detailed in Section 4.5; and
- (vii) note the financial position as detailed in Section 6.1 and in Appendix 2.

**3. Background**

**3.1 National Context**

Following the Scottish Government's decision to move to an August 2021 implementation date for the delivery of 1140 hours provision, a number of key decisions have also been made to progress several separate workstreams:

- Deferred Place Pilot;
- introduction of Temporary Restrictions Fund; and
- Improvement Service Progress Report Updates.

Further information on these are contained in this report.

### 3.2 Local Context

Officers from Children's Services and Development Services continue to liaise with contractors, sub-contractors and Planning Teams to progress the remaining work projects.

In addition, Officers have been considering how the Covid situation, in particular, financial and economic insecurity and poverty, could affect future demand for statutory ELC places.

## 4. Considerations

### 4.1 Remaining Projects – Update

- At the time of writing this report 1 project has been fully completed and it is expected that another 2 will be fully completed by the time the EC&YP Executive meet.
  - St Francis PS (Completed)
  - Nethermains PS (Due to complete March 2021)
  - Parkhill ELCC (Due to complete March 2021)
- In summary, **18** projects remain on-going of which **4** of them relate to minor or external landscaping work.
- Full details of these projects are contained in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Deferred Places Pilot

- Following the selection of the 5 local authorities, including Falkirk that will form the Year 1 pilot, from August 2021, the Scottish Government have established a small working group to oversee, assess and review local authorities' experiences and challenges in Year 1.

### 4.3 Progress Update – Developments to Support Early Intervention & Prevention

- The impact of the pandemic (COVID-19) has impacted negatively on key groups and communities resulting in more families meeting the eligibility criteria for benefits which, in turn, increases the demand for early learning and childcare places for two-year olds.
- Officers from both Education and Children and Families divisions have developed a proposed plan to increase the delivery of early intervention and prevention services targeted towards families of young children through a series of phases which are aligned to the Closer to Home Strategy and the principles of GIRFEC.

#### 4.3.1 Phase 1: Support for Learning Assistants (Agreed)

- Recruitment is underway with the planned implementation date of August 2021.

#### 4.3.2 Phase 2: Proposal -Targeted Family Support and Positive Parenting

- This proposal involves the creation of a small dedicated team of 3fte Family Support Workers who will focus on and deal specifically with ELC referrals.
- Initially, it is intended to seek interested volunteers from internal advertising, enabling the existing Family Support teams to move into this new ELC focussed team.
- It is envisaged that, if approved, this team will be an integral part of an overall conjoined and enhanced early intervention approach to providing parenting and family support to those children and families that require it.
- This phase will form part of Children's Services planned re-design of the overall Family Support Service as part of the Closer to Home strategy. A separate report on this will be presented to the EC&YP Executive at a future Meeting.

#### 4.3.3 Phase 3: Proposal - Increase the Capacity for Eligible 2-Year Olds

- Officers expect that as a result of the financial and economic insecurity caused by the current Covid position, there will be a consequential increase in the number of families that will meet the qualifying criteria for a statutory 2-year old place.
- Whilst Officers will keep a close watch on the expected increase in demand against available capacity, it is important that where opportunities arise to increase such capacity, that they are proactively captured.
- From August 2021, as part of the agreed planned expansion, capacity for 2-year olds was due to be increased by 15 places:
  - Kinglass ELCC, Bo'ness – 15 places (new establishment)
  - To meet the expected growth in demand for these places, it is proposed to further increase capacity by 15 places by undertaking some internal works at Langlea ELCC.
- These developments will increase the total capacity across Falkirk settings for 2-year olds from August 2021 to 294 places.

#### 4.3.4 Phase 4: Proposal - Prioritisation of Available Baby Places to Meet Statutory Need

- Across the ELC estate, there are currently **7** ELCCs that have **57** baby places.
- All of these places are currently used by families who pay for non-statutory childcare.
- This proposal seeks to re-prioritise **27** of these places across the estate over a period of time for the purpose of providing statutory early intervention and prevention support for very young children who are referred by Health or Social Work as being deemed to be at risk or vulnerable.
- This would mean that across the 7 ELCCs baby places would be re-prioritised as:

<u>No of ELCCs</u>	<u>No of Baby Places</u>	<u>Fee Paying</u>	<u>Statutory Need</u>
3	3 in each (9 total)	2 (6 total)	1 (3 total)
4	12 in each (48 total)	6 (24 total)	6 (24 total)
	<b><u>57 Total</u></b>	<b><u>30 Total</u></b>	<b><u>27 Total</u></b>

- If approved, Officers would re-prioritise these places but only as and when the current fee-paying places are vacated. No one who currently has a baby place will be displaced.
- This would be kept under review during the course of the academic session 2021/22 and further updates on this will be reported to EC&YP Executive.

#### 4.3.5 Future Phases

- Officers plan to consider the following areas of potential support and service provision over the next few months:
  - Community Childminders; and
  - Psychological Services

Proposals around these areas will be brought to a future meeting EC&YP Executive once they have been finalised.

#### 4.3.6 Pilot Project - Single Point of Contact for Initial Referrals to Social Work

- As part of the early intervention funding already agreed by EC&YP Executive, work has already commenced on a pilot project that involves supporting the creation of an Initial Response Team (IRT) within Children & Families.
- The IRT aims to provide a single point of contact for all new referrals of concern, to ensure timely responses and a dedicated resource to provide effective child protection responses and early help for families in need.
- This team would ensure that the appropriate information gathering and assessments are undertaken with the appropriate Officers, underpinned by a Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach across Schools, Early Years Establishments, Social Work Localities and Specialist Teams to ensure that all referrals are properly and professionally assessed, logged and correctly signposted.
- This team will consist of an additional 4 x Social Workers supplemented by management support.
- This IRT pilot project will be evaluated as part of the Closer to Home strategy.

#### 4.3.7 Costs of Early Intervention Proposals

It is expected that the overall revenue costs associated with the proposals for Phases 2, and the IRT Pilot Project can be funded from the **£450k** previously agreed by the EC&YP Executive to be allocated to support Early Intervention Strategies.

The capital costs associated with the proposal associated with Phase 4 can be met from existing capital resources.

#### 4.4 Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF)

- The Scottish Government recently announced a further package of **£3.8m** of financial support for all private nurseries and out of school care providers for each 4-week period that they remain open to provide childcare to support key worker and vulnerable families.
- Falkirk's share of this funding is **£80,000** plus a **£2,000** administration fee.
- Claims close for the first 4 weekly period (Mon 4 Jan – Fri 29 Jan 21) on 1 March 2021.

- The payments will be fixed based on the registered capacity of each establishment. They range from **£575 to £ 2,800**.
- In a similar manner to the process adopted for the Transitional Support Fund (TSF), local authorities will be responsible for receiving and assessing applications and making the payments as agreed via COSLA.

#### 4.5 Improvement Service Progress Report Updates

- As part of their regular information gathering exercises, the Improvement Service have recently confirmed that local authorities will be asked to submit details and data relating to their ELC1140 progress between March 2021 and April 2022.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report is due to be submitted by 15 March 2021.

#### 4.6 Workforce Update

- At 16 February 2021, the ELC Sector showed a total of **658 fte**.
- These figures do not, as yet, fully reflect the additional workforce decisions agreed by the EC&YP Executive in January 2021.
- A summary of the current ELC workforce structure is attached as [Appendix 3](#).

### 5. Consultation

- 5.1 Officers will continue to consult with appropriate stakeholders including parents, trade unions and colleagues working on the Strategic Property Review as required as the Expansion Plans continue to be developed and rolled out.

### 6. Implications

#### Financial/Resources

##### 6.1 Summary of Current Years Financial Position (2020/21)

<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>Projected Spend to Year-End</b>	<b>Projected Balance to be C/Fwd</b>
Revenue	£16.535m	£16.160m	£0.375m
Capital	£10.456m	£ 4.300m	£6.156m

- A more detailed analysis of the Revenue position is attached at [Appendix 2](#).
- Details of the Capital expenditure banding for each project is contained within the information in [Appendix 1](#).

Note: The above funds are both ring fenced therefore carry forwards can be made.

#### Legal

- 6.2 Current plans have been developed in recognition of the relevant Statutory Guidance that has been issued in relation to the Early Years Learning and Childcare Duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## **Risk**

6.3 The key inherent risks associated with this major project are:

- delivery of infrastructure expansion projects on time;
- ensuring that planned expenditure is kept in line with resources;
- ensuring we have sufficient staff recruited on time;
- potential disruption to the supply chain as a result of price inflation or non-availability of materials linked to Brexit;
- the potential impact that any current or future COVID/lockdown decisions may have on all aspects of the overall expansion plans; and
- Officers are considering and reviewing contingency plans in liaison with external providers.

## **Equalities**

- 6.4 The current plans for early intervention strategies aim to provide more targeted and prioritised support to those children who have additional support needs and strengthen the interface and linkage with vulnerable families.
- 6.5 The proposals to realign existing and future capacity to increase the number of statutory place available directly supports those families in most need and augments and underpins the equalities agenda.

## **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.6 All project infrastructure work has been developed in a way that supports and enhances the quality of our school estate. Many aspects of this work have also augmented and improved energy efficiency targets and our overall aim to meet national climate change ambitions, this has included the replacement of older buildings.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 As the expansion project enters its final and most challenging and exciting phase, several of the larger projects will now start to evolve and take shape on site. Whilst the reopening of the ELC sector is welcomed, the Covid position means that contractor's progress may be restricted by the operational and on-site health and safety guidance that applies. Officers from both Children's and Development Services will continue to liaise with the contractors and the local ELC establishments and schools to ensure that any challenges that may arise are dealt with positively and rapidly.

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Date: 25 February 2021

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Details of Outstanding ELC 1140 Infrastructure Projects at 20 Dec 2021.

Appendix 2 - Details of 2021-21 Revenue Projections

Appendix 3 - ELC Workforce Overview

### **List of Background Papers:**

- Education & Children and Young People Executive – ELC1140 Update Reports
- Scottish Government letter 16 December 2020 – Deferred Places



**Section 1 – Larger Work Projects to be Completed (14)**

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
					£10-50	£50 - £250	£250 - £500	£500 +
1	Kinglass ELC Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site investigations completed – ground conditions require foundations to be upgraded.</li> <li>Revised tender due in 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb to reflect additional foundation works.</li> <li>On-site planned March'21.</li> <li>Anticipated Completion date – Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	August 2021	40 - 3-5yr olds 15 - 2yr olds 3 - Babies				X
1	Kinneil PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender for the new kitchen has been awarded.</li> <li>Work due to start March'21.</li> <li>Work completion – Easter 2021.</li> <li>Internal nursery alterations complete.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	64 - 3-5yr olds 10 - 2yr olds			X	
2	Abbotsgrange ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor has now started on site.</li> <li>Some on-site flooding challenges.</li> <li>Est. Completion date – End April'21.</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	88 - 3-5yr olds				X
2	Beancross PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen improvement works complete.</li> <li>Remaining building works scheduled for Summer 2021.</li> <li>Est. Completion date – Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	64 - 3-5yr olds		X		
3	Head of Muir PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans now finalised.</li> <li>Updated cost schedule due February'21.</li> <li>On-site start planned April'21.</li> </ul>	August 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
3	Denny PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised plans for conversion of former CLD building on-site with covered play area finalised.</li> <li>Updated cost schedule due February'21.</li> <li>Officers assessing kitchen options.</li> </ul>	TBC	80 - 3-5yr olds				X

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
4	Inchlair Amalgamated Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modular units due to be installed April'21.</li> <li>Building work and asbestos removal work underway.</li> <li>Est. completion date – June'21.</li> </ul>	June 2021	80 - 3-5yr olds 40 - 2yr olds 12 - Babies				X
4	Carron PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning stage is completed.</li> <li>Proceeding with modular design.</li> <li>Updated cost schedule due March'21.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	August 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
4	Carronshore PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modular units on-site works starts March'21.</li> <li>Est. completion date – August'21.</li> </ul>	August 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
5	Larbert Village PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen works planned for Easter 2021.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter 2021.</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	32 - 3-5yr olds	X			
6	Woodburn ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor due on site Easter 2021.</li> <li>Discussions taking place with Planning re: outdoor boundary area.</li> <li>Est. completion date – July'21.</li> </ul>	July 2021	48 - 3-5yr olds 20 - 2yr olds				X
6	Callendar Park ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised design plans completed.</li> <li>Tenders currently being assessed</li> <li>Est. completion date – Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	August 2021	40 – 3 -5 yr olds				X
8	Westquarter PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers are finalising plans for the creation of an external/outdoor play area.</li> </ul>	TBC	50 - 3-5yr olds		X		
9	Glendevon ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor started on site on November'20.</li> <li>Plans to accelerate work programme to allow completion Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	96 - 3-5yr olds				X

**Section 2 – Minor Work Projects to be Completed (4)**

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
					£10-50	£50 -£250	£250 - £500	£500 +
1	Bo'ness PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor kitchen alterations will be undertaken during Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	August 2021	32 - 3-5yr olds	X			
1	Deanburn PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor kitchen alterations &amp; refurbishment of the modular unit agreed.</li> <li>Care inspectorate have confirmed capacity as 72.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter 2021.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	72 - 3-5yr olds	X			
7	Glenburn ELCC (Hallglen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New establishment opened on February'20.</li> <li>Some external landscaping work has still to be completed.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	72 - 3-5yr olds 20 - 2yr olds	X			
8	Laurieston PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All internal works now.</li> <li>Some external landscaping still to be completed.</li> </ul>	From Easter 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X

## APPENDIX 2

### Falkirk Council – Children's Services

#### ELC1140 Expansion Programme Revenue Expenditure Projections For 2020/21 at 20 February 2021

	£000s
<b>Annual Grant Available</b>	<b>16,535</b>
 <b><u>Summary of Projected Expenditure</u></b>	
Staffing Costs - Direct and Central Teams	10,410
Payments to Partner Providers	1,940
Supplies & Services	140
Catering - Meals and Snacks	770
Loss of Childcare Fee Income	650
Contribution to Capital (CFCR)	1,000
Technical & Design Team Support	200
Premises Costs	200
External Pupil Support	150
Current Projected Expenditure	15,460
Contingency for 20/21	700
Expected Carry Forward to 21-22	375
	<b>16,535</b>

**Falkirk Council Children's Services – ELC Manpower Summary****1/ Early Learning & Childcare Centres (13)  
Nursery Classes (39)**

<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
Managers	13.0
PEYO's	12.8
SEYO's	71.5
EYO's	394.4
EYA's	61.6
Clerical/Administration	13.0
SFLA's	24.0
Caretakers/Janitors/Others	3.6
Early Years Pedagogues (Ext Funded)	7.9
Modern Apprentices	16.8
Peripatetic EYA's/EYO's	17.0
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b><u>635.6</u></b>

**2/ Central Admissions & Support Team**

Clerical/Administration	18.0
Private Partner Nursery Support	<u>4.4</u>
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b><u>22.4</u></b>

**TOTAL CURRENT MANPOWER** **658.0**

**3/ Staff Funded from Other Services**

Note that in addition to the above staffing, staff are also employed in the following Service areas that support the ELC Sector:

- Cleaning staff
- Catering staff
- SFLA's – Direct ASN Support