

ECYE6. Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – 1140 Expansion Plan Update

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on progress with the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans; updated information on the Scottish Government's Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF), the Deferred Places Pilot, ELC Capacity and Progress Reports; updated information on further proposals to enhance early intervention approaches, and an overview of the current financial position. There were 12 larger work and 3 minor work projects that remained in progress.

There were c230 children who had been registered for a deferred place in ELC establishments from August 2021. As the number of deferrals had increased from that of previous years it was proposed that the Central ELC Team was increased by 2.0fte on a temporary basis for 1 year to oversee and develop the play pedagogy and learning provision that was offered to 5 year olds, ensuring also that qualified ELC staff were trained and supported to deliver this across all establishments. It was proposed that £65k, from the £0.8m of additional funding that the Scottish Government had provided to support the pilot project, was earmarked for this in the current financial year.

Learning from phased implementation of 1140 hours since 2018 had identified the need to consider a range of options for children who reached the age entitlement to 1140 hours and who either: had known additional support needs; or required intensive nurture support due to their development stage. It was proposed that a cohort of Community Childminders were employed to provide care and support to children who would benefit most from a blended support model where they could access both types of settings/provision. This would form part of a staged enhanced transition approach that would support children in building-up to maintaining a full-time placement in a setting.

The Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2021 would introduce a scheme, known as the "Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme" to replace the UK Nursery Milk Scheme. The Scheme aimed to ensure that as many eligible ELC children received a daily serving of milk and a healthy snack to support the development of healthy eating habits for later life. This supported Falkirk's approach to snack and mealtimes (Marvellous Mealtimes) in ELC settings as part of the focus on health and wellbeing within the 1140 expansion programme. Funding would be provided to local authorities to administer the scheme and to make payments directly to eligible childcare providers who met and complied with the scheme rules. To support the administration of the scheme and to help oversee and develop the nutritional content of school meal provision as part of the Marvellous Mealtimes project it was proposed that a 1fte Administration Officer was recruited.

In line with previous practice, parents, staff and Local Members had been consulted on the preferred options for the new name for the following

ELCC. The proposed name change was for Denny ELCC to become Myot View ELCC.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the updates on the remaining projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) agreed the proposals outlined in sections 4.2 and 4.6 of the report regarding additional recruitment to support both the Deferred Places Pilot and administration of the new Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme;**
- (3) agreed the proposals outlined in sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of the report regarding progress of phases 5 and 6 of the Early Intervention Strategies;**
- (4) agreed to name the Denny ELCC – Myot View ELCC;**
- (5) noted the proposals outlined in sections 4.7, 4.8 and 4.10 of the report and requested that further information on these is presented to a future meeting, and**
- (6) noted the current 2021/22 financial position as detailed in section 6.1 of the report.**