

EE12. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – Expansion to 1140 Hours by 2020 Update Progress Report

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on progress Children's Services have made on the planning and stepped implementation of an Early Years Expansion Plan, which is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017.

Information was provided on how Children's Services plan to increase the early learning and childcare workforce in order to meet future service demands, while supporting the current workforce to further develop their skills and practices. Work was also progressing on the deployment of registered childminders to ensure that families, whose access to services can be restricted due to various reasons, receive their full entitlement.

Infrastructure expansion plans are being progressed as part of the Council's Strategic Property Review to ensure that investment in assets provide solutions for early years provision.

The report also detailed the proposed changes to the existing early years admissions policy which would allow the majority of 3 year olds to have earlier access to an early years place.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the content of the report;**
- (2) agreed the strategic approach to increase early years capacity within the private and voluntary sector as detailed in section 4.1 of the report;**
- (3) agreed the proposed increase in Modern Apprenticeships as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;**
- (4) agreed the recruitment of five Principal Early Years Officers (PEYO's) as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;**
- (5) agreed that the Director of Children's Services progresses the deployment of childminders and report on progress with this to a future Education Executive as detailed in 4.5 of the report;**
- (6) agreed that £120,000 is allocated to expand partnerships with private and voluntary sector nurseries as detailed in 4.6 of the report;**
- (7) agreed the increased hourly rate paid to partner nurseries from 2017/18 as detailed in 4.6 of the report;**

- (8) agreed that the quality standard criteria for private/voluntary sector nursery partnership is adopted as outlined in section 4.6 of the report, and**
- (9) agreed to the proposed changes in the Council's Early Years Admissions Policy as outlined in section 4.8 of the report.**