

## **ECYE25. 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; information on the new date for the implementation of 1140 hours; Deferred Places, and proposals to expand early intervention support.

The Scottish Government had revised the statutory requirement on local authorities to deliver 1140 hours to August 2021. Following this officers had been liaising with the main contractors to update and finalise timelines for the remaining work projects.

Work was on track to complete the expansion works at a further 4 projects:-

- St Francis PS – planned opening Jan 21 (capacity 64)
- Laurieston PS – planned opening Jan 21 (capacity 64)
- St Margaret's ELCC – planned completion Feb 21
- Nethermain PS – planned completion Feb 21

There were 21 projects outstanding 15 were larger work projects and 6 were minor work projects.

The Scottish Government had confirmed that Falkirk had been selected to be one of 5 pilot local authorities who would assess the roll out of the planned changes to the legislation from August 2021. Additional funding for the pilot would be provided once it had been ratified by COSLA's Settlement and Distribution Group. Approval was sought for a new Support Officer post which would allow the existing team to realign and for support to be provided for the families of eligible 2 year olds.

Consultation had been undertaken with parents and Local Members on the preferred options for the new names for the following ELCCs:-

- Moray PS / Oxbgangs – proposed name Abbotsgrange ELCC.
- Maddiston PS – proposed name Glendevon ELCC
- St Margaret's PS – proposed name Parkhill ELCC

Falkirk's ELC expansion strategy had created both new and additional support level posts, namely ELC Assistants and Support for Learning Assistants. This had supported the delivery of a refreshed workforce to deliver the expanded hours in a way that supported children's needs and parental choice.

Approval was sought to increase the current core DSM weekly hours of 530 by 370 additional weekly hours. This would create additional hours for some staff and some additional posts which would be recruited to in February 2021.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) noted the updates on the remaining projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) noted that Falkirk had been selected as a pilot authority to progress the Scottish Government's planned changes to the Deferred Place legislation;**
- (3) agreed the names of the new ELC Centres as set out in section 4.3 of the report;**
- (4) agreed the changes to the Support for Learning Assistant DSM allocations set out in section 4.4 of the report, and**
- (5) agreed an additional Support Officer post set out in section 4.5 of the report.**