

**THE EXPANSION OF FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN  
SCOTLAND– ARGYLL AND BUTE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE  
UPDATED DELIVERY PLAN**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for members on the progress being made by the Education Service in preparing for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and the implementation of 1140 hours of funded ELC in Argyll and Bute by 2020.

1.2 Specifically the report provides information on:

- The update to the Argyll and Bute Delivery plan for Early Learning and Childcare, agreed by the Community Services Committee, and first submitted to Scottish Government in September 2017 and reported to this committee in March 2018.

1.3 As Early Years have progressed with implementation, the following factors have informed changes to the Argyll and Bute Delivery Plan:

- Consultation with parents, partners, practitioners and community groups, and
- Ongoing work with property and catering colleagues.

**1.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Community Services Committee:

- Note the progress of implementation to date;
- Endorse the positive steps the Early Years Team has taken in partnership with colleagues from other services in implementing the Argyll and Bute ELC Delivery Plan;
- Note the contents of the Argyll and Bute updated ELC Delivery Plan, and
- Request that the Executive Director, Customer Services bring forward further progress updates in relation to the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to the June 2020 Community Services Committee.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

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- 2.2 Specifically the report provides information on:  
The update to the Argyll and Bute Delivery plan for Early Learning and Childcare, agreed by the Community Services Committee, and first submitted to Scottish Government in September 2017 and reported to this committee in March 2018.
- 2.3 As Early Years have progressed with implementation, the following factors have informed changes to the Argyll and Bute Delivery Plan:
- Consultation with parents, partners, practitioners and community groups, and
  - Ongoing work with property and catering colleagues.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Community Services Committee:
- Note the progress of implementation to date;
  - Endorse the positive steps the Early Years Team has taken in partnership with colleagues from other services in implementing the Argyll and Bute ELC Delivery Plan;
  - Note the contents of the Argyll and Bute updated ELC Delivery Plan, and
  - Request that the Executive Director, Customer Services bring forward further progress updates in relation to the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to the June 2020 Community Services Committee.

## **4.0 DETAIL**

### **4.1 The Updated Delivery Plan**

In January 2016, the First Minister announced the Scottish Government's commitment to investing in the expansion of the provision of funded ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours by 2020.

The expansion prioritises a high quality experience for the child to capitalise on the significant contribution that ELC can make to a child's development and to closing the poverty related attainment gap. The 1140 hours of ELC will be offered by a range of providers across Argyll and Bute, including Local Authority, Private, Voluntary, Independent and Childminders.

### **4.2 Updates to the plan attached at appendix 1 include:**

- Most recent parental feedback summary;
- reducing the delivery models to two to reflect the parental survey feedback;
- changes to the order of phasing some settings driven by property work and capacity;
- changes in plans by voluntary groups;
- updated spending for 2018/19, and
- our plans for outdoor nurseries.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 This paper outlines how Argyll and Bute are work towards delivery of 1140 hours and provides an update of the Authority's ELC Delivery Plan to Community Services Committee.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- |     |           |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.1 | Policy    | The ELC Updated Delivery Plan will assist the Education Service to implement the relevant sections contained within the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014. |
| 6.2 | Financial | Funding from Scottish Government is adequate in allowing Argyll and Bute Council to enable delivery of the plan.                                                       |
| 6.3 | Legal     | The ELC Delivery Plan is assisting the Education Service to implement the relevant sections contained within the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014.        |

- 6.4 HR Workforce development and recruitment is required to continue to deliver the expectations set out in the Delivery Plan.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: There are no potential issues around this.
- 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics
- The Delivery Plan aims to respond to the challenge of reducing inequality and improving outcomes for children and their families within the diverse geographical and social context of Argyll and Bute.
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty 1140 hours must be free at the point of entry there. By August 2020 all children in ELC will receive a free healthy and nutritious meal.
- 6.5.3 Islands Almost all of our islands are already delivering 1140 hours
- 6.6. Risk A number of risks exist with workforce recruitment and development, provision of a free meal by 2020 and, as yet unknown levels of uptake within communities.
- 6.7 Customer Service Our youngest children and eligible 2 year olds will benefit most from the expansion of ELC. There are significant benefits for families with parents/carers able to use the extended hours to enable them to return to employment, reduce childcare costs and access training

**Douglas Hendry**  
**Executive Director of Customer Services**

**Anne Paterson**  
**Head of Education: Lifelong Learning & Support**

**Councillor Yvonne McNeilly**  
**Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning**

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Early Years Delivery Plan