

## [Oban Lorn and Isles Post 1140 Consultation](#)

Argyll and Bute Council's Early Years team recently carried out a survey to seek views on the accessibility and suitability of the provision on offer, following the recent phasing of 1140 hours funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in the Oban Lorna and Isles (OLI) area.

The survey was open to everyone with an interest/requirement of/for ELC in the OLI area, and was open for two weeks, from 10 May – 25 May 2022.

OLI has 31 funded ELC Providers (childminders, voluntary, private and local authority settings).

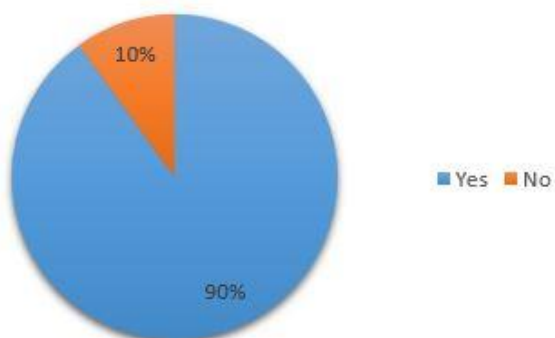
61 responses were made.

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey and provide comments.

All comments made have been taken into consideration however, not all are published to protect the privacy of respondents.

**We asked:** Since the introduction of 1140 funded ELC hours in the Oban Lorn and Isles area, are you happy with choice of ELC settings available? (I.e. Local Authority settings, Partner Provider and Partner Childminder settings).

**You said:** 90% are happy with choice of ELC settings available.



- “I had hoped to continue using my childminder when my daughter turned three for some of the hours, however this was not possible. Childminder had said the council was making it too difficult for childminders to provide the funded ELC hours”.
- “There isn’t enough spaces to meet demand. My child didn’t get into...when they turned 3 but did the following year for their pre-school year. So I wasn’t given a choice, I was told where to put them...as it was the only nursery with space. I don’t think this is giving children the best start especially if they have particular needs”.
- “There are nowhere near enough spaces to allow to pay for wraparound childcare..., and nothing has been done really to try and encourage people to become childminders or open new nurseries”.
- “Not enough childminders for younger children”.
- “Only one Gallic [sic] option in Oban so choice is limited  
The outside spaces in the nurseries are very small and often children have to take turns to get outside”.

#### **We Will:**

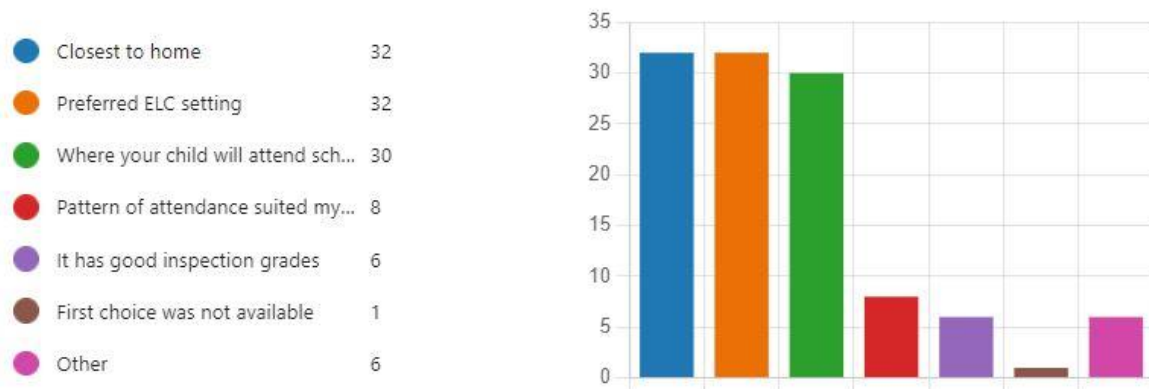
- Review the Funded ELC Childminder Process and liaise with other Local Authorities regarding their processes.
- Continue to promote the work that is currently being carried out around the recruitment of childminders.

Please visit [Argyll & Bute \(childminding.org\)](http://Argyll & Bute (childminding.org)) for further information on the Childminder Recruitment Campaign that is currently happening in Argyll and Bute.

- We are aware of a lack of childcare availability for working parents/carers. The Local Authority are currently investigating ways to support working parents with non-statutory childcare – 2 year old and wrap around. Work to continue.

**We asked:** Why did you choose to register your child at your chosen ELC setting?

**You said:** The top 3 reasons were closest to home, preferred ELC setting and where your child will attend school.



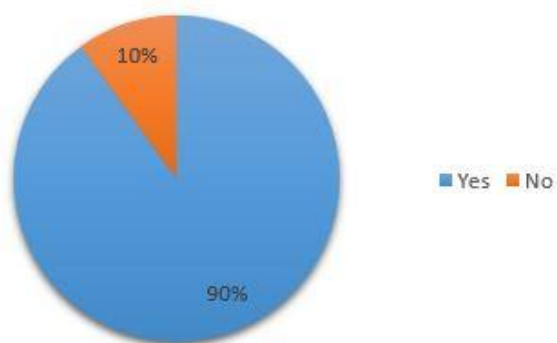
- “Because we speak Ghàidhlig, and want/need a Gaelic nursery to run alongside the GME in the school”.
- “It’s the only option on the Isle of Coll”.
- “Recommended by someone”.
- “Gaelic”.
- “As offers GME”.

**We will:**

- Ensure that we continue to have a variety of ELC Settings

**We asked:** Does the pattern of attendance on offer meet your needs? Pattern of attendance is the number of weeks your child attends their ELC setting and the number of hours offered per day/week, e.g. 38 weeks, 6 hours per day.

**You said:** 90% of respondents said that the pattern of attendance on offer meets their needs.



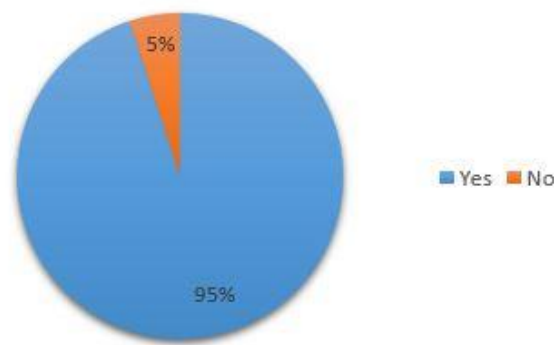
- “The funded hours are fantastic, however do not provide wrap around care. The school day hours do not suit working parents”.
  - “It’s challenging to find appropriate childcare during the school holidays and wrap around work hours”.
  - “Wraparound care is not available in Gaelic Medium, so we are prevented from a full time place and have to have split placement with a private childcare provider to cover it!”.
  - “Only partly meets needs. Would like to have option for half days over lunchtimes/afternoons”.
  - “I work longer hours than the offered ELC hours so have to pay for childcare on my working days.
- No wrap-around care offered at ELC setting”.
- “Need more weeks available in the year”.

#### **We Will:**

- We are aware of a lack of childcare availability for working parents/carers. The Local Authority are currently investigating ways to support working parents with non-statutory childcare – 2 year old and wrap around. Work to continue.
- Early Years will meet with Funded Providers to discuss future flexibility around their models of provision e.g. session start/finish times

**We asked:** Do you believe you have been treated with equity and fairness in relation to the provision of ELC?

**You said:** 95% of respondents said that they have been treated with equity and fairness in relation to the provision of ELC.



If you wish to follow this up and discuss please contact our Customer Service Centre on 01546 605522 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**We asked:** Are there any comments you wish to add in relation to ELC in the Oban Lorn and Isles area?

**You said:**

- "...has been the most incredible nursery. I am so pleased all my children have been able to attend and hope they continue to be able to do so in the future".
- "My child is thriving having more hours available, it is great for the whole family as I can also now work".
- "My only issue is that my child turned 3 in the end of March but can't access his 3 year old place until august I wish he could have started when he turned 3 and due to this is still have to pay for his place at another nursery and at his childminders when he should be able to access his government funded place".
- "More settings offering year round provision..."
- "...The outdoor space is outstanding, The staff are the best, with children & Family's , Can not recommend this setting enuf [sic], will be sad to leave this year, with wee personal going of [sic] to school, Keep up the good work, More family's will come".
- "...With the introduction of more hours, it had reduced most elc spaces by Atleast [sic] half (no longer separate morning and afternoon sessions)..."
- "There is a really fantastic choice of options for kids in the area".
- "There needs to be more help available for working families who struggle with childcare but who are not entitled to benefits, getting a job to fit around nursery hours is not easy".

- "...has been very flexible with my child's needs and informing me about my child's progress".
- "The ELC and connection to the Primary School gives my child with Additional Support Needs a supportive and adaptive community for their needs, staff are caring, compassionate and work using a person-centred approach, and family inclusion".
- "There are not enough places, or spaces available. Gaelic is offered to all and many use it with no interest or intention of sending their child through GME. Why?..."
- "It's a shame cooked meals aren't available for ELC children attending Childminder settings".
- "There is a huge lack of spaces for children in the area, I know many folk without any idea how they will return to work after having their children".
- "In relation to ELC and primary schools I wish that there was wraparound available. The lack of wraparound is a huge issue for working parents and puts out council far behind others who provide excellent options for parents to pay for wraparound services".
- "...ELC is a wonderful learning environment for my child and I am delighted with the provision. The renovation of the building is superb. We are very happy that ELC is now funded full time and that school meals are provided".
- "I'm happy with the nursery..."
- "More spaces for under 3's  
Provision for better outside spaces".

#### **We Will:**

- Raise awareness of ELC Process, e.g. ELC Information Booklet, Registration Information etc.
- Feedback comments to individual settings.
- Investigate with our Gaelic Medium Education (GME) settings, comments around lack of sufficient capacity in their settings.