

**ITEM No ...6.....**

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022

**REPORT ON:** ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN STARTING PRIMARY ONE

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 163-2022

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This Report provides information about a consultation exercise and proposal to go to full time provision from the beginning of Primary One.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- note the contents of the report
- approve the proposal to go to full time provision from the beginning of Primary One from August 2022

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Nil

**4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Our current position is that children attend school for half days instead of a full school day during their first three weeks of Primary One. Almost all other local authorities' children start full time education from day one in Primary One.

4.2 Most children already experience Early Years provision of more than half days in a week and, following effective transitions plans, are ready to embrace full time education from the beginning of Primary 1.

4.3 This proposal would ensure all children will have access to their entitlement for free school meals from the start of Primary One.

4.4 Children and Families Service is seeking approval to go to full time provision from the beginning of Primary One and bring Dundee City Council in line with almost all other local authorities in Scotland from August 2022.

4.5 This proposal would be implemented across all local authority schools.

4.6 This proposal has been discussed with parent council chairs across the city prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, again in September of 2021 and supported fully.

4.7 Head Teachers and teacher trade unions were also aware of the consultation and offered the opportunity to share any views.

4.8 The Children and Families Service has recently undertaken a consultation with parents and carers regarding the proposal to go to full time provision from the beginning of Primary One from August 2022.

4.9 961 parents and carers responded and 78% of our current nursery and P1 parents support.

- 4.10 Reasons cited in support of moving to full time provision from the start of Primary 1:
- Parents would not require to take time off work (some un-paid) to accommodate half days – 186 (25%) of the 750 responses in support of removal
  - Child is already in nursery full days – 425 (57%) of 750 responses in support of removal
  - Much easier for working parents to manage – 35 (5%) of 750 responses in support of removal
  - Arranging childcare for the first 3 weeks is very difficult and costly- 150 (20%) of 750 responses in support of removal
- 4.11 Some individual requests were raised by parents/carers asking for autonomy at school level to allow shorter half day periods. Head Teachers will continue to be empowered to organise bespoke transitions for individual pupils taking in to account the individual needs of the child and context of the school.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been subject to an assessment of any impact on equality and diversity, fairness and poverty, environment and corporate risk. There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team, Children and Families Service Management Team, Head Teachers, and parents have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

Audrey May  
Executive Director Children and Families Service

Pam Nesbitt  
Education Manager

May 2022

In view of the timescales involved this report was approved by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service in consultation with the Convener of the Children and Families Services Committee, Labour Group Spokesperson, Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson and the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Member.

*Audrey May*

Executive Director of Children and Families Service

25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date

*Stewart Hunter*

Convener of Children and Families Services Committee

26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date

*Georgia Cruickshank*

Labour Group Spokesperson

26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date

*Fraser Macpherson*

Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson

27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date

*Derek Scott*

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Member

30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date

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