

## ITEM No ...4...

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2019

**REPORT ON:** EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ENTITLEMENT TO 1140 HOURS

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

**REPORT NO:** 192-2019

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is to provide Committee with updated information following the previous Committee report of 14 May 2018 (Article IV of the minute of this committee refers) regarding the planned expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours by 2020.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- note the content of the updated progress report;
- remit to the Executive Director of Children and Families to bring a further report on the progress of the implementation in 12 months' time.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Scottish Ministers and COSLA agreed a multi-year revenue and capital funding package. Dundee's share of the total capital allocation of £476.1m is £10.71m. This is included in the 2019-24 Capital Plan. The Revenue funding allocated amounts to £16.931m by 2021-22.

3.2 The actual costs for the completed Ardler Nursery and Coldside Extension projects are recorded in Appendix 1. The Council will seek to manage the programme of remaining projects outlined in Appendix 1 on the basis of the allowances within the Capital Plan, with tenders being submitted to City Development Committee for approval at the appropriate time.

3.3 The overall projected capital costs for the 1140 Hours Childcare Entitlement is £13.0m with the Capital Plan allowance being £10.71m. The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed that the balance will require a review of the overall programme to identify if costs can be brought down and a review of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 elements of the Capital Plan to identify if additional resources can be made available.

## **4 MAIN TEXT**

### **4.1 National Context**

On 18 December 2018, the Scottish Government published the ELC National Standard. Any provider wishing to deliver funded ELC must meet this Standard from August 2020.

The Scottish Government commissioned Scotland Excel to deliver a suite of guidance notes to support implementation of Funding Follows the Child. The documents are:

- Guidance on assessing the Business Sustainability criteria in the National Standard;
- Guidance on setting sustainable rates for funded providers for 2020-21 and beyond;
- and

- Guidance on commissioning ELC services that meet the National Standard (the 'Transition Options' guidance).

#### 4.2 PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF 1140 HOURS

To prepare for full implementation by August 2020, 1140 hrs of funded ELC provision has been made available to eligible children attending Quarry View Nursery; Frances Wright Nursery; Law Nursery; Woodlea Nursery and Ardler Nursery.

Positive feedback so far indicates that:

- Children have coped well with the increase in hours and have settled quickly and easily.
- Staff report that there are more opportunities to develop and extend learning across the day, relationships with children are positive and developed quickly as children are in for longer periods of time. Staff have more time to observe children over a longer period of time.
- The pace of day is more relaxed as no other families are arriving after lunch. Planning is more streamlined as children's interests are easily identified and extended.
- Parents have been willing to come back throughout the day to attend family learning opportunities.
- By accessing the additional services, families have continued to work or attend College/University.

##### **Local Authority Nurseries**

Between August and October 2019, ten additional nurseries will be delivering 1140 hours of funded ELC. They are Menzieshill Nursery; Jessie Porter Nursery; Fintry Nursery; Ballumbie Nursery; Mill of Mains Nursery; St Andrews Nursery; St Ninians Nursery; Longhaugh Nursery; Hill View Nursery and Caird View Nursery.

The total number of children who could benefit from 1140 hours from August 2019 is 1289 children aged 3-5yrs (53% of eligible population) and 205 children aged 2 year (45%) of the eligible population. Families have been offered either a term time or full year model with the opportunity to purchase hours in addition to their 1140 hours entitlement in term time nurseries.

Existing admissions guidance has been reviewed and updated to support the allocation of places. To date, this has been effective in helping to prioritise returning children and those resident in the local area.

##### **Partner Provider Nurseries**

To support Partner Providers' business sustainability during the transition to 2020, the hourly rate has increased to £4 from August 2018 and will increase to £4.50 in August 2019.

We will liaise with Partner Providers on the working arrangements for the Funding Follows the Child approach as detailed in the Scotland Excel guidance, prior to full implementation from August 2020.

A comprehensive programme of professional development opportunities will be offered during Aug 2019 to June 2020, delivered in flexible ways to support the working arrangements of the Private Sector.

#### 4.3 WORKFORCE

A high quality, diverse and well trained professional workforce is key to delivering the expansion.

A comprehensive programme of professional development activity for staff in all ELC settings has been positively evaluated and is being revised/ updated to include more flexible delivery models.

To facilitate growth of the workforce and capacity building, Modern Apprentices and work placements for young people through Future Skills College will continue.

#### **4.3.1 Future Skills College Students 18/19**

During 2018/19, seven Future Skills College students had placements within Dundee City Council nurseries. Four are on track to become Modern Apprentice Early Years Educators in 2019-20.

We are currently recruiting through the secondary schools for a new cohort of Future Skills College students to start in August 19.

#### **4.3.2 Modern Apprentices 18/19**

Seven Modern Apprentice Early Years Educators are in year one. They will move into year two of their modern apprenticeship in August 2019 and are on track to complete their MA Early Years Educators in 2019-20.

Four year two Modern Apprentice Early Years Educators have now successfully completed their SVQ 3 and will be eligible to apply for forthcoming posts.

We are currently recruiting for 14 Modern Apprentice Early Years Educators to start in August 19.

Recruitment to a number of permanent posts is currently underway and includes:

3 Early Years Centre Managers  
6 Senior Early Years Practitioners  
50 FTE Early Years Educators  
16 FTE Early Years Support Assistants  
9 Supernumerary Nursery Teachers

All staff, included Partner Providers, will be offered the opportunity to access additional qualifications and a comprehensive staff development programme.

#### **4.4 INFRASTRUCTURE**

The committee will note that the projects for the Coldside Extension and Ardler Nursery are complete and now in operation. The remaining projects are on programme with projected completion dates and projected outturn capital costs detailed in Appendix 1.

In February 2019, plans for Balmerino Nursery were shared and positively received by the East End Local Community Planning Partnership. The Community were keen to ensure adequate parking was made available for staff and families which has been incorporated into the overall design.

#### **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 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

Paul Clancy  
Executive Director

April 2019

## Capital Projects

<b>1140 hours nursery projects</b>	<b>Start on site</b>	<b>Completion</b>	<b>Projected Capital costs £m</b>
Coldside/Frances Wright (Extension to the new build)	Oct - 17	Aug - 18	0.5
Strathmartine/Ardler (Extension/Refurbishment)	Jul - 18	Jan - 19	1.2
North East/Former Longhaugh (Refurbishment)	Feb -19	Oct-19	0.9
Lochee/Former Menzieshill (Refurbishment)	May -19	Oct-19	1.0
Strathmartine/Former Jessie Porter (Refurbishment)	May -19	Oct-19	1.0
Lochee/Woodlea (Extension/Refurbishment)	Jun -19	Jan-20	0.7
East End/Balmerino (New Build)	Sept -19	Aug-20	3.1
Coldside/ Former Frances Wright (New Build)	May -20	Aug-21	3.2
Project to be determined (see note)			1.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>13.0</b>

## Note

This project will be determined once a review of uptake has taken place in localities along with the latest capacity estimates from partner providers.

