

ITEM No ...2.....

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT ON: EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ENTITLEMENT TO 600 HOURS:
PARENTAL SURVEY REPORT

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 300-2016

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report is to inform Committee of the outcome of the recent Parental Survey regarding the future delivery of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Local Authorities have a duty to consult with local people every two years about how they should make Early Learning and Childcare available and publish plans on how it intends to make Early Learning and Childcare available. Dundee City Council's second parental survey regarding Early Learning and Childcare was carried out by the Children and Families Service during April 2016.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- note the content of the report;
- instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families and Head of Human Resources to continue to take forward the planning for this provision; and
- bring an updated report to Committee in due course.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are financial implications associated with this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Progress Towards flexible models August 2016 onwards - Dundee Consultation

Parental Survey

In gathering information to help to determine future service provision, a survey was available for all parents and carers of children under 5 living within Dundee City to complete during April 2016. Families were asked to indicate which type of setting they would prefer to take up their child's free entitlement, choose between three delivery options and to give other comments or suggestions as to how the 600 hours should be delivered. The survey was advertised via the press, Facebook and Twitter. A link to the survey was issued to early years and childcare services, made available online through the Council website and through a paper version available at local authority nurseries.

Main Findings

- 375 parents and carers completed the survey
- The majority of respondents reside in DD4 post code area (31.33%), followed by DD2 (30.92%). The least responses came from DD1 postcode area (5.62%)
- The majority of respondents (40.56%) work full time and have shared responsibility for their children with someone they live with (76.71%)

- 76.02% of parents and carers completing the survey chose a Local Authority settings as their preferred setting in which to take up their free entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and childcare, 21.99% chose a private nursery, 3.90% chose other and 7.09% gave no answer.
- 48.58 % of parents and carers completing the survey chose Option 1 as their preferred option where each free nursery session would remain as morning or afternoon of 3 hours 10 minutes during term time
- 31.21% of parents and carers completing the survey chose Option 2 i.e. 2 full day sessions during term time and 45.05% chose option 3 i.e. 2 sessions of 6 hours and one session of 3 hours per week during term time as their second preference.
- Of those choosing other preference, comments included:
- Full time 5 days a week
- A choice of full days/ extended hours with lunch provision
- Full days rather than a few hours each day.
- 38.30% said they would be prepared to pay for Extended Hours Lunch Time. 37.59% would be prepared to pay for Extended Afternoon Hours (3.25-5.25) and 32.98% Extended Morning Hours.
- 15.25% would pay for a Half Day additional hours during school holidays in Early Years Centres and 35.82% would pay for a Full Day.
- The most important factor when choosing nursery provision is Quality (77.66%), followed by Staff Are Well Qualified (72.34%), Affordable (42.91%), and Helps Me To Stay In Work (41.13%).
- The least important factor when choosing nursery provision is Helps Me To Study (39.72%), followed by Term Time Only (31.21%), Close To Extended Family (19.86%), Full Year (includes chargeable holiday care) (19.50%).

4.2 **Consultation with Nurseries and Partner Providers**

The Early Years Improving Pupil Attainment and Achievement Group has acted as a sounding board for 600 hours implementation and will continue to help to shape and develop services in line with the needs and aspirations of our children, families and communities, and which delivers further flexibility beyond 2016.

4.3 **Early Learning and Childcare Services in Dundee**

Dundee City Council continues to be well placed to deliver high quality, affordable, flexible and accessible early learning and childcare services. In Dundee, these service consists of 8 Stand Alone Nurseries, 5 Early Years Centres, 15 term-time nursery classes and 25 partner providers. These services continue to be responsive to the diverse and changing needs of families and are accessible in terms of eligibility and location, as well as offering flexible approaches to working with children, parents and carers. 100% of places for eligible two year olds are offered in 13 Local Authority Nurseries.

4.4 **Provision of EL&CC for eligible two year olds**

Currently all places for eligible two year olds are offered in Local Authority settings. In preparation for the expansion of EL&CC to 1140 hrs for eligible children aged 2-5 yrs, the Scottish Government are establishing a programme of funded trials to test a variety of delivery models. DCC will be proposing a small trial involving a blended model of EL&CC for a selected group of two year old children who are on the child protection register or at risk of being placed on the register. The model will be based on a split placement between a high quality home based childminding setting and nursery setting. This trial will take account of the parental survey respondents who indicated they would like the EL&CC offer to be available with a childminder.

4.5 **Provision of EL&CC for 3 and 4 year olds in Local Authority Provision**

Where demand exists, extended morning, lunch and afternoon sessions will continue to be offered in Local Authority Stand Alone Nurseries and Early Years Centres and also where possible, flexible compressed patterns of provision e.g. two full days or two and a half days.

Additional places, depending on availability, will also be offered to families during term time and holiday periods. Part time places are also available within term time nursery classes however as a result of the survey, extended places are being trialled in one nursery class.

4.6 Provision of EL&CC for 3 and 4 year olds in Partner Services

Ensuring a consistent standard of service provision across the local authority area, irrespective of whether services are provided by the statutory, private or voluntary sectors, is a key priority for Dundee City Council. Dundee City Council enters into partnership with providers in the private and voluntary sectors, in order to ensure that all three and four year old children have access to a nursery place. As with Stand Alone Nurseries, Private Partner Nurseries are already operating extended day provision in order to accommodate children's entitlement to 600 hours of EL&CC. In order to most effectively support the continuation of provision of high quality provision within the private and voluntary sector, the Children and Families Service will work with the procurement team to develop a tendering process during session 2016-17 with the aim of having a Framework of Partner Providers in place by August 2017.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

MICHAEL WOOD
Executive Director of Children and Families Service

September 2016

