

ITEM No ...6.....

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 26 OCTOBER 2020

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

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 275-2020

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report is to provide Committee with updated information following the previous Committee report, reference is made to Article IV of the Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Families Services Committee of 13 May 2019 (report no 192-2019 refers) of the planned expansion of Early Learning and Childcare.

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 Service 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 of £476.1m. The Council's share with a capital allocation is included in the 2020-25 Capital Plan. The Revenue funding allocated amounts to £16.931m by 2021-22.

3.2 The overall projected capital costs for the 1140 Hours Childcare Entitlement is £12.905m with the Capital Plan 2020-2025 allowance being £11.096m.

3.3 The Council will seek to manage the remaining capital project through programme management within the Capital Plan.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 National and Local Context

The Scottish Government (SG) remain committed to increasing entitlement to free early learning and childcare (ELC) to 1140 hours per year for all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds.

The legal obligation to deliver this has been suspended temporarily, however in Dundee, all eligible children are able to access 1140 hrs as of September 2020.

Local Authorities retain the statutory responsibility for ensuring statutory entitlement is available to all eligible children in their area and as the primary guarantors of quality, are responsible for assessing and monitoring compliance with the National Standard.

Projected demand and capacity from August 2021 is detailed in appendix 1.

4.2 Expansion guiding principles

The following guiding principles exemplify our commitment to children and families

- **Quality** – the expansion of our services will ensure a high-quality experience for all children, which complements other early years' activity to close the attainment gap.
- **Flexibility** –increased hours and various delivery models offered by a range of funded providers, offer parents' choice and flexibility across the city:
 - DCC nursery provision- term time (38 wks)
 - DCC nursery provision- full year (49 wks)
 - Term time and/ or full year provision Early Years Centres
 - Funded Providers- (various models including some term time and some full year)
- **Accessibility** – ensuring that ELC capacity is sufficient, is located as conveniently geographically as possible and delivered in fit for purpose settings.

HIGH QUALITY PROVISION

7 Local Authority early year's settings in Dundee were inspected by the Care Inspectorate between December 2019 and March 2020

- 100% (3 out of 3) rated Very Good for Quality of environment
- 100% (2 out of 2 assessed) rated Very Good on Quality of management and leadership
- 86% (6 out of 7) were rated Very Good for Quality of care and support

4.3 WORKFORCE

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

Recruitment plans for August 21 will begin in December 2020 as follows:

December 2020- Internal notes of interest

Posts advertised – February 2021

March- May 2021- Interviews

Posts include:

Centre Managers

Nursery Teacher - internal

Senior Early Years Practitioners plus seconded posts recruited permanently

Early Years Educators

Early Years Educators (Families)

Early Years Support Assistants

4.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

Of the 9 projects outlined in previous reports, all are complete with the exception of 2 detailed below, which are scheduled for operational use by August 2021:

- Eastern Refurbishment
- Coldside Nursery

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 Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

PAUL CLANCY
Executive Director

LESLEY GIBB
Education Manager (0-5)

October 2020

Appendix 1

Table 1: DCC settings capacity by ward.

	Aug 2021	
	2 yr olds	3-5 yr olds
Coldside	50	340
East End	80	318
Lochee	75	430
Maryfield	20	118
North East	80	370
Strathmartine	55	398
The Ferry	0	172
West End	0	114
DCC	360	2260

Projected Demand

Table 2: TWO YR OLDS Projected demand for DCC places by ward

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Coldside	30	32	34
East End	62	66	69
Lochee	47	50	52
Maryfield	13	14	14
North East	54	58	60
Strathmartine	38	40	42
The Ferry	8	9	9
West End	10	10	10
Cross Boundary	6	6	6
Total	268	285	296

Nb. 80% of eligible two year olds who take up place using a DCC nursery

Table 3: THREE TO FIVE YR OLDS Projected demand for DCC places by ward

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Coldside	221	212	212
East End	272	260	260
Lochee	325	311	310
Maryfield	173	165	165
North East	261	250	250
Strathmartine	344	329	329
The Ferry	195	186	186
West End	155	149	149
Cross Boundary	155	148	148
Total	2,101	2,010	2,009

Nb. 75% of eligible children aged 3-5 yr choose to take up a place in a DCC nursery

