**Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours**

Dundee City Council remains committed to delivering the Early Learning and Childcare (nursery) expansion in all Local Authority Nurseries and Partner Providers. Whilst it is no longer our duty to provide 1140 hours by August 2020, we have worked hard to be in a position to do so as soon as possible so that all eligible children can benefit from high quality Early Learning and Childcare.

In the meantime, we are progressing with our preparations to implement the current ELC recovery guidance to support the reopening of wider ELC services. This guidance along with guidance for Childminders and Out of School Care, prioritises the safety and wellbeing of children, families and staff and will be revised by the Scottish Government when updated scientific advice is available.

**Childminders**

Childminders were able to reopen from Wednesday 3 June 2020 if they wished to do so. For further information on childminders offering services in Dundee, please contact our local Childcare and Family Information Service, e-mail cis@dundeecity.gov.uk

Or visit [www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot/) website Childminders: [https://bit.ly/2O8ahcT](https://bit.ly/2O8ahcT%20)

**Childcare – private and third sector providers**

An indicative date of 15 July has been announced for the reopening of childcare services, subject to the Scottish Government criteria for moving into phase 3. The re-opening of many childcare providers will increase childcare options for those who need it. Families wishing to access these services should contact their preferred provider directly. Please note, some providers may remain closed at this time.

Please note that as of 15th July when all ELC settings can re-open, we will no longer be accepting new online applications for critical childcare in ELC.

For further information on childcare services in Dundee, please contact our local Childcare and Family Information Service, e-mail [cis@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:cis@dundeecity.gov.uk) or visit the Dundee area of [www.families.scot](http://www.families.scot) - <https://bit.ly/2O7EmcF>

**Out of School Care Services**

Out of school care services can also reopen from Wednesday 15 July 2020 if they wish to do so and Scotland has entered Phase 3 of the routemap. Families wishing to access these services should contact their preferred provider directly. Please note, some providers may choose to remain closed at this time.

For further information on Out of School Care services in Dundee, please contact our local Childcare and Family Information Service, e-mail [cis@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:cis@dundeecity.gov.uk) or visit www.families.scot website Out of School Care: <https://bit.ly/31VVw5b>

**Local Authority Nurseries**

In accordance with the ELC recovery guidance of the 15th June, all eligible children who have applied for a funded ELC place in a Local Authority nursery place have been offered an initial placement from 12th August 2020 onwards. Families will have received this offer directly from their child’s nursery. In light of the announcement from Deputy First Minister John Swinney regarding the re-opening of schools and nurseries on Thursday 30th July, local authority nurseries will continue to follow settling in procedures for young children and will finalise any changes to nursery placements as soon as possible.

In preparation for reopening on the 12th August nurseries are now starting to return after the summer holidays. Individual nurseries will contact parents directly, as soon as possible, with updated information on the exact times children will be attending nursery.

Please be assured that as soon as is safe to do so children will be offered up to 1140 hours in a Local Authority nursery.

Should you have any questions, please contact earlyyears@dundeecity.gov.uk

**Private and third sector providers working in partnership with the Council**

ELC providers working in partnership with the Local Authority to deliver funded hours are also implementing the government advice for re-opening of childcare services.

From 11th August, funded places may be available at the following providers

List of ELC providers working in partnership with DCC - <https://bit.ly/3fp4gV6>

Please contact your preferred provider for more details of the placements available as this will vary across all providers. Families who have already applied, will hear directly from their child’s nursery. As with Local Authority Nurseries, as soon as providers assess that it is safe to do so, children will be offered up to 1140 hours.