

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Report to: People Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 14 March 2019**

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**Subject: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Clackmannanshire Council  
Delivery Plan 2017**

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**Report by: Chief Education Officer**

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### **1.0 Purpose**

This paper provides an update on the progress of work that has taken place to deliver Clackmannanshire's ELC Expansion Plan 2017.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the People Committee notes the progress that has been made relating to the expansion of the ELC provision to 1140 hours for all 3-4 year olds and comment on current status.

### **3.0 Background**

#### **3.1 Progress of ELC Expansion Plan**

##### **3.1.1 Clackmannan Nursery Class (NC)**

Building work is about to start at Clackmannan NC to increase the floor space. The work is scheduled to be completed by October 2019, this will be a term time nursery.

##### **3.1.2 Menstrie Nursery**

The building of this stand alone nursery has started and the nursery will provide 100 places. As it will open 8am to 6pm all year round it will be able to provide families with choices in how they access their 1140 hours. The nursery is due to open in October 2019 and is on target to open on this date.

##### **3.1.3 Craigbank NC**

Work is underway within the school on a 48 place nursery class due to open October 2019, this will be a term time nursery. This increase in spaces will enable Sauchie Nursery to extend provision, allowing more children to access 1140 hours and lunch across the year between 8am and 6pm.

##### **3.1.4 Tullibody South Campus Nursery**

The new nursery will provide 140 places and it will open 8am to 6pm all year round. It provides families with choices re how they access their 1140 hours. The nursery is due to open in August 2019 and is on target.

A new Head of Centre is currently being recruited to lead the new nursery and it is hope they will start after Easter.

As the nursery will no longer be managed by Abercromby PS due to the increased size and opening hours a new name is being consulted on. Ideas from children staff and wider stakeholders are being sought through a range of activities and there will be a vote to choose the most appealing.

The additional places being provided at Tullibody South will enable children at St Serfs NC and Banchory NC to take up 1140 hours with a hot lunch. Both these nurseries are term time only.

As there are no catchment areas for nursery, families have the flexibility to take up their placement in any nursery.

### **3.1.5 Coalsnaughton NC**

Last year the nursery offered all children aged 3-5years 1140hrs over term time. This year they will include eligible 2 year olds and provide a hot lunch. The increased hours are now fully implemented in this nursery.

### **3.1.6 Sauchie Nursery**

Now able to offer some families who are working or living in particular circumstances 1140 hours across the year with a hot lunch. This will be increased as additional spaces become available across the area.

### **3.1.7 Extending kitchens**

Work is being undertaken across the estate to ensure that there are facilities to offer all children a hot lunch by 2020.

### **3.1.8 Muckhart PS**

Consideration is being given to developing an outdoor nursery at Muckhart PS. Early Years staff and the Headteacher are researching the different models and considering how this might be applied. The aim of this looking outward exercise is to extend choice for the parents and children of Clackmannanshire.

### **3.1.9 Next Phase**

In 2020 when all the building works are complete, all remaining nursery classes will deliver 1140 hours.

## **3.2 Workforce Expansion**

To deliver 1140 hours additional staff are being recruited. The third intake of Trainees/Modern Apprentices is being planned. A number of Early Years staff are being upskilled by undertaking assessors training and delivery the underpinning knowledge to students.

## **3.3 Expansion of School Meal Provision**

Catering and Education services continue to meet with the NHS Dietician to ensure that the nutritional value of the food being offered meets the required nutritional value and appeals to younger children.

### **3.4 Partner Nursery and Childminder Provision of Children**

- 3.4.1 The contract for partner nurseries is due to be renewed by 31 July 2019. The ELC team are working with Scotland Excel and the Council's procurement team to ensure the new ELC standards and Funding Follows the Child requirements are being met along with procurement standards. There are currently five private nurseries operating within the authority and four have been in partnership for many years.
- 3.4.2 The new contract will also include childminders who have not been in contract before. Trials have been taking place however with a few children accessing their ELC hours with childminders and this will inform future planning.
- 3.4.3 Clackmannanshire's website informs parents' and carers' that children can use entitled hours where there is availability, with a local childminder who is in partnership and states the childminding provider's details. The Council is currently working in partnership with twelve childminders across the authority area.
- 3.4.4 The 'provider neutral' Funding Follows the Child approach is being introduced alongside the national roll-out of the expanded entitlement in 2020. The approach will be underpinned by a National Standard that all providers delivering the funded hours regardless of whether they are in the public, private or third sector, or childminders will have to meet.
- 3.4.5 It gives choice to parents' and carers' hands, enabling them to access their child's funded entitlement from any provider that meets the new National Standard, has a place available and is willing to enter into a contract with their local authority. This approach increases the number of partners the authority will require to work with and therefore more central staff are required to support partners and ensure the quality of providers is high. Revenue budget is available through the Expansion plan funding.
- 3.4.6 Under a 'provider neutral' approach, it is essential that provision is financially sustainable in order to ensure that providers across all sectors are willing and able to deliver the funded hours. In 2018 the rate paid to partners increased to £5.00 per hour for children aged 3 to 5 years old. The rate will continue to be monitored and increased to ensure sustainability.

### **4.0 Implications**

The approved Expansion Plan continues to be developed and reviewed in recognition of the relevant statutory guidance that has been issued in relation to the early years learning and childcare duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

### **5.0 Risk**

The key risks associated with this project are:

- Delivery of infrastructure expansion projects on time. All of the building projects have been programmed and budgeted for. At this stage there is no slippage.

- Ensuring there is sufficient financial resources available; revenue funding only confirmed for 18-19.
- Ensuring that new staff are recruited on time. All additional graduates have been recruited within the time frame and the trainee programme ensures that new Educators are trained locally.

## 6.0 Equalities

Where it is possible to do so, the deprivation rankings will be used as a basis to prioritise ELC expansion plans. This demonstrates a clear commitment to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes in a targeted manner.

## 7.0 Financial Implications

Development and Finance Services been involved in the compilation and preparation of the technical and financial information required to deliver this project.

## 8.0 Sustainability Implications

There are no impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change or sustainable development arising directly from this report. These matters are considered as part of the planning, design development and implementation of each individual project involved in the development of the ELC estate.

## 9.0 Resource Implications

Scottish Government has provided additional revenue and capital funding to respond to the necessity to deliver additional capacity across the estate as a result of requirements related to the children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## 10.0 Exempt Reports

Is the report exempt?                      NO

## 11.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all  
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish  
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

### (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Not applicable.

## 12.0 Equalities Impact

Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

N/A

## 13.0 Legality

It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes.

## 14.0 Appendices

None

## 15.0 Background Papers

Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Clackmannanshire Council  
Delivery Plan2017

<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/802/5758.pdf>

[A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland - 2017–18 Action Plan](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Planning Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland – Next Steps - Analysis Report](#)

[A Blueprint for 2020: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Consultation](#)

[The Skills Investment Plan Prospectus](#)

[Additional Graduate Commitment](#)

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