



## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE EXPANSION DELIVERY ANALYSIS – May 2021**

### **Introduction**

Expansion in early learning and childcare is a near doubling of the ELC entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds, from 600 to 1140 hours from August 2021. This has been planned and phased in over time at Council ELC and funded providers. Working in partnership with colleagues in Facilities Management, Asset Management, Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Building Standards and Care Inspectorate we have put in place a plan to repurpose our school assets, ensure quality and drive improvement and, recruit the skilled workforce that we need. The statutory offer of 1140 hours was delayed from August 2020 until August 2021 due to the pandemic; this has allowed time for building projects and recruitment to complete across Scotland.

Our WDC plan for expansion was accepted by the Scottish Government in January 2018. Progress was monitored by the Early Years Expansion Board and updates provided for Education Committee. The project has reported progress through data reports to the Scottish Government at very regular intervals. The progress report published by the Scottish Government on the 8 April 2021 provides progress delivery report up to and including end of February 2021. The report provides a summary of progress made across all local authorities:

[https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/24632/ELC-Delivery-Progress-Report-March-2021.pdf](https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/24632/ELC-Delivery-Progress-Report-March-2021.pdf)

### **Funding Follows the Child**

Funding Follows the Child is the policy that our plan is based on which is 'provider neutral'; underpinned by the National Standard Criteria, which all providers who wish to deliver the funded entitlement will have to meet from the full statutory roll-out of 1140 hours of funded ELC entitlement by August 2021. West Dunbartonshire has phased in our Funding Follows the Child offer of 1140 hours; all 3 and 4 year olds have the entitlement to 1140 hours as well as eligible 2 years olds who will also have access to 1140 hours.

## Key Messages Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Delivery Progress

### 1140 Hours:

Data returned by local authorities indicated that 114,222 children were accessing funded ELC at the end of February 2021 of these, 98,474 children (86%) were accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours, and 74,096 children (65%) were accessing 1140 hours funded ELC. In WDC 1702 children were accessing 1140 hours and 203 children were accessing 600 hours. In WDC that equates to 86% of children accessing 1140 hours and 14% accessing 600 hours in February 2021.

In April this had increased to 89% of children at 1140 hours and 11% of children at 600 hours. In WDC the final three building projects provided 174 additional places outstanding for 1140 hours. This represents 6.6 % of the 1140 places that we required to put in place at that time. As these projects completed on time, the Care inspectorate provided the appropriate registration which ensured completion of the 1140 hours project. The figures include funded local authority and private providers.

Comparison	WDC	Scotland
<b>February 2021</b> % children accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours (1140 hours)	86%	86%
<b>March 2021</b> % children accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours (1140 hours)	89%	?
<b>April 2021</b> % children accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours (1140 hours)	93.37%	?
<b>May 2021</b> % children accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours (1140 hours)	100%	

### Funded Providers

Funded providers in the private and voluntary sectors and childminders provide 31% of all funded provision in Scotland. 68% of children who access most of their hours with funded providers are accessing 1140 hours, while in local authority settings across Scotland this figure is 64%. In WDC 100% of children are now accessing

1140 hours at local authority ELC and 100% of children at our funded partner providers.

This is an increase compared to August 2020, when 56% of children in local authority settings were accessing 1140 hours. This indicates that expansion activities in Scotland during this period have been primarily advanced in local authority settings. This is not representative of WDC as private funded providers have been at 100% funding offer of 1140 hours from August 2019 as they had the capacity and infrastructure to do so. This early offer of 1140 hours, benefitted approximately one quarter of eligible children in WDC. The eleven funded partner providers have places for just over 500 eligible children. This was also supportive of the families who are mainly working parents.

Comparison	WDC	Scotland
% accessing 1140 hours using funded providers	100%	68 %

### **Workforce:**

Local authority ELC workforce across Scotland was reported to have increased by 6,948 FTE since academic year 2016/17, including an increase of 505 FTE since August 2020. In WDC we required 447 staff to deliver the expanded hours. We have phased our increased workforce requirements over time as new ELC have opened to deliver 1140 hours. The expanded workforce recruitment programme included central staff, facilities workers, ELC practitioners, teachers, EELs and ELC leaders. By February 2021, WDC had recruited 433 staff. The final staff required in our plan are being recruited. The table on page 5 illustrates WDC progress over time to April 2021 and what we require for August. This recruitment is underway. See table 1 on page 4

### **Capital Projects Programme**

At January 2021, there were 917 projects in the capital projects programme across Scotland, 64% of those projects were complete by February 2021. It is forecast that of the capital projects required to support the delivery of 1140 from August, 94% will be complete by August 2021. For the 6% of projects in Scotland that are providing additional space required for August, but which will be completed after August, 89% have a stated contingency plan to ensure that there is sufficient additional capacity to meet forecast demand for 1140 hours from August 2021. There is no requirement for a contingency plan to provide 1140 hours for our eligible children as the WDC building projects are complete. Our plan had one new build, refurbishments and actions required to meet Care Inspectorate Standards. Almost all of our legacy ELC required some work to meet the expected standard e.g. kitchens, decoration, flooring, toilets etc. The most ambitious part of the capital plan was using our existing school and ELC assets to create the environments that we required for 1140 hours, within the timescales set. See table 2 on page 5.

Appendix 1  
**TABLE ONE**

<b>Workforce (FTE)</b>	<b>Aug-20</b>	<b>Feb-21</b>	<b>Apr-21</b>	<b>Forecast Aug-21</b>	<b>Required increase from Apr-21 to Aug-21</b>	<b>Forecast Apr-22</b>	<b>Required increase from Apr-21 to Apr-22</b>
<b>Staff in post</b>							
Managers (settings)	41.9	45.9	46.5	47.5	1.0	47.5	1.0
Teachers	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	0.0	16.4	0.0
Senior practitioners / graduates	5.6	7.6	8.0	9.0	1.0	9.0	1.0
Additional graduates (EEL)	8.0	9.6	9.6	11.0	1.4	11.0	1.4
Practitioners	217.2	247.7	252.2	258.7	6.5	258.7	6.5
Apprentices	11.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0
C2 care workers / support staff (SSSC registered)	31.4	38.5	32.3	32.3	0.0	32.3	0.0
Admin / auxiliary staff (non-SSSC registered)	21.9	25.9	26.0	27.4	1.4	27.4	1.4
Others	0.0	13.1	17.0	20.1	3.1	18.9	1.9
<b>Staff in post - Central costs</b>							
Managers (central)	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	1.4	0.0
Quality assurance - teachers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Quality assurance - other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Improvement support - teachers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Improvement support - others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Early Years Management Team	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
Central Admin	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.9	0.0
Others	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>362.3</b>	<b>419.1</b>	<b>422.4</b>	<b>436.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>435.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>

**TABLE TWO**

Project ELC	New ELC	Refurbishment of School or ELC	Legacy ELC Compliance Actions	New Build / School Campus
Andrew B Cameron ELCC	√	√		
Auchnacraig ELCC		√		
Balloch ELC				Aug 2018
Bellsmyre				Aug 2017
Braehead Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Brucehill ELCC		√	√	
Carleith Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Clydebank ELCC			√	
Dalmonach ELCC		√		√
Dalmuir ELCC			√	
Dalreoch Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Ferryfield ELCC	√	√		
Gartocharn Primary School ELCC			√	
Gavinburn Primary School ELCC		√	√	
Kilbowie Primary School ELCC			√	
Kilpatrick ELCC				
Ladyton ELCC			√	
Lennox Bonhill		√		
Lennox ELCC Faifley			√	
Levenvale Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Linnvale Primary School ELCC			√	
Our Lady of Loretto Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Riverside ELCC			√	Oct 2021
St. Eunan's Primary School ELCC			√	
St. Mary's Primary School ELCC Alexandria	√	√		
St. Mary's Primary School ELCC Duntocher			√	
St. Ronan's Primary School ELCC	√	√		
Whitcrook ELCC			√	
Whitcrook Primary School ELCC	√	√		

