



Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Delivery Progress Report

September 2021

Introduction

Our 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 continues to report progress through data reports to the Scottish Government at very regular intervals. The latest progress report published by the Scottish Government in October 2021 provides progress delivery report up to and including end of September 2021. The report provides a summary of progress made across all local authorities.

In West Dunbartonshire the statutory offer of 1140 hours has been in place from August 2021 for all eligible 2 year olds and entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds. This expansion of ELC hours has been planned and phased in over time at Council ELC and funded private providers including childminders. Working in partnership with colleagues in Facilities Management, Asset Management, Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Building Standards and Care Inspectorate we have repurposed our school assets to ensure quality, drive improvement and have recruited the skilled workforce and leaders that we need.

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.

Figure 1: Data Analysis – Total Uptake of ELC by 2-5 Year olds

Number of children accessing funded ELC	1680
Number of children accessing 600 hours funded ELC	11
Number of children accessing 1140 funded ELC	1669

Data returned by all local authorities indicated that 90,890 children were accessing funded ELC at the end of August 2021 of these, 88,122 children (97%) were accessing more than the statutory entitlement of 600 hours, and 79,262 children (87%) were accessing 1140 hours funded ELC. In WDC 1680 children were accessing 1140 hours and 11, 2 year old children were accessing 600 hours. In

Appendix 2

WDC that equates to almost 99% of children accessing 1140 hours and less than 1% accessing 600 hours by end of August 2021. It should be noted that of the 11 children accessing 600 hours that this was the parents choice.

Figure 2: Data Analysis – Total Uptake of ELC by 3-5 Year olds

Number of children accessing funded ELC	1514
Number of children accessing 600 hours funded ELC	0
Number of children accessing 1140 funded ELC	1514

Data returned by all local authorities indicated that 84,936 children were accessing funded ELC at the end of August 2021 of these, 82,748 children (97%) were accessing more than 600 hours funded entitlement, and 74,962 children (88%) were accessing 1140 hours funded ELC. In WDC 1680 children were accessing 1140 hours. In WDC 1514 (100%) of children were accessing 1140 hours. It should be noted that one child has a reduction in hours (at the parent's request).

The number of children eligible for funded ELC increases throughout the academic year as more children turn 3-years-old. As such, the number of children accessing funded ELC is necessarily lower in this session (August 2021) than was noted in the last Delivery Progress Report (April 2021).

Figure 3: Provision in Local Authority, Private Partner Provider and Childminder Settings

The proportion of uptake split in WDC by provider types in August 2021.

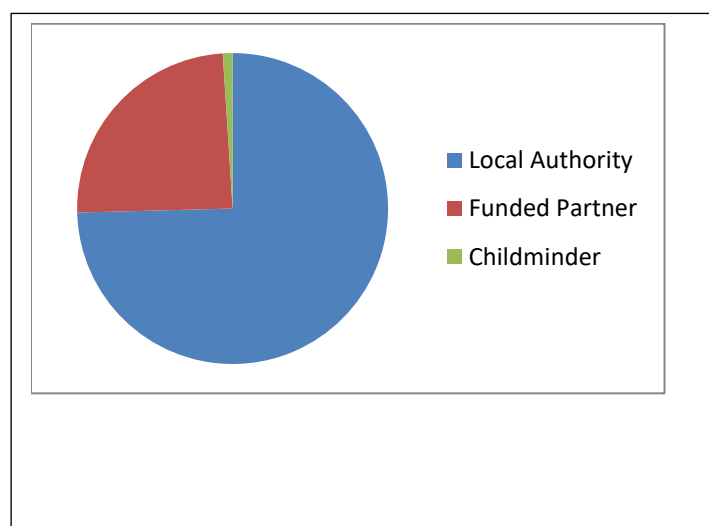


Figure 3, shows that at August 2021 in West Dunbarton, 33% of funded places were taken at a private provider or childminder, 66% of all funded places were with a local authority ELC setting. Childminder funded places continue to remain low at 1%. The placements with childminders are blended placements with an ELC provider.

Figure 4: Workforce

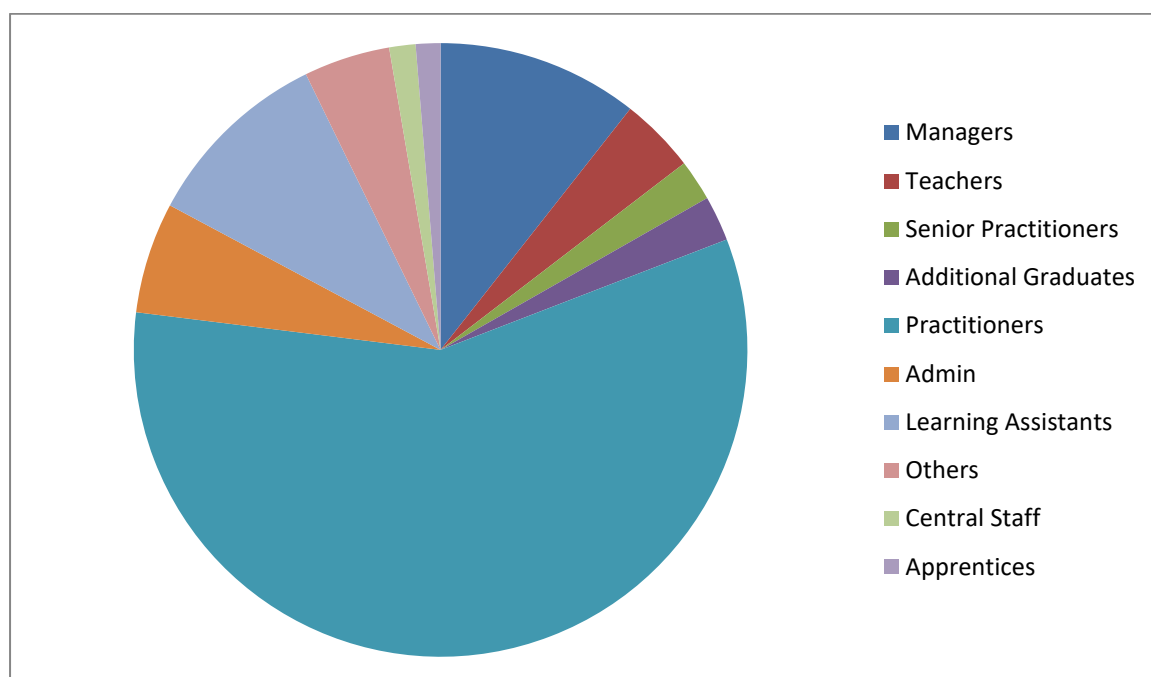
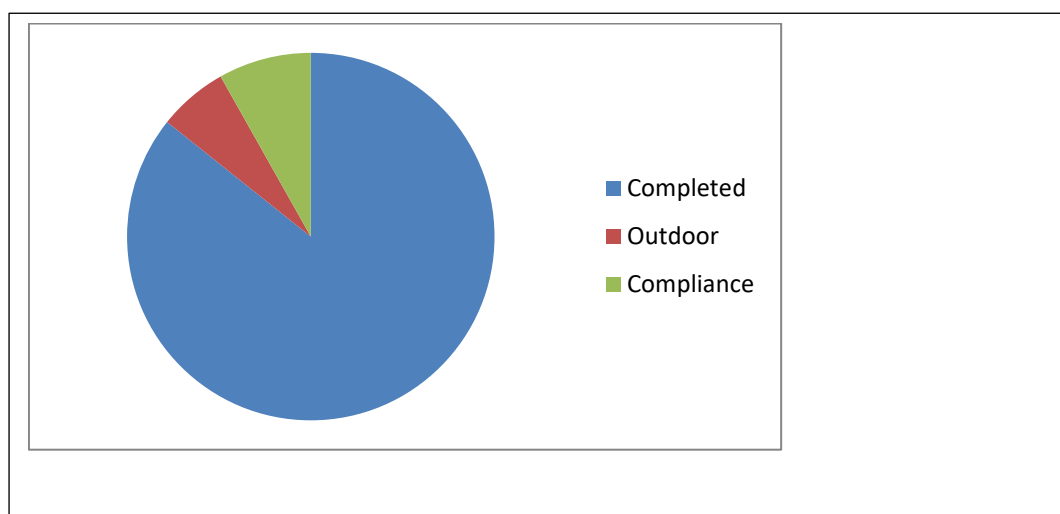


Figure 4 shows the job split types in West Dunbarton. The greatest increase is at ELC practitioner level of which the increase is representative of 267 workers. This is a trend across Scotland with an increase of 593 to the reported figure of 10,597 in April this year. In WDC we required an increase of 447 staff in total 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.

Figure 5: Capital Projects Programme - Infrastructure



Of the completed projects at Figure 5, 10 were new ELC within existing assets within schools, 15 were refurbished ELC, 13 were compliance works that were required and 4 new build ELC within a school campus and Leisure Centre. The projects remaining in West Dunbarton will deliver improved quality and compliance at four ELC and outdoor learning facilities at three locations. In August there were 912 projects in the capital projects programme across Scotland. However, not all capital projects were required to deliver the additional hours.

Conclusions

West Dunbarton has successfully delivered the expansion of funded ELC to secure 1140 hours funded ELC for all eligible children. All parents of three and four year olds have taken the offer of 1140 hours. We continue to work with our partners in health and social work to target and increase the uptake of eligible 2 year old placements.

Our parents feedback exemplifies that the principles of expansion and increased hours has provided; quality, flexibility, choice and affordability. Our focus is on maintaining and achieving quality ELC.

Our workforce recruitment for expansion has been successful, providing jobs and opportunities for local people. Adult returners to education, career changers as well as school leavers have successfully gained employment. The apprenticeship programme continues to provide training on the job, for workers who do not have the relevant entrance qualifications for the HNC in Childhood Practice. New posts have been created providing pathways to a career in ELC. Our ambition for closing the gap by improving education outcomes includes employing more teachers who are choosing ELC as a career with a promoted structure built in.

Appendix 2

Our ELC assets are much improved providing the best that we can for children and families. There are exciting learning spaces which children can learn and grow in. Our assets meet the care inspectorate regulations. We continue to improve our ELC with well thought out plans for improvement in partnership with our Asset and building colleagues.

Our celebration of achievements can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KuOmXicZ4>

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