

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE31 January 2019Report by Director of EducationALLOCATION OF 1140 HOURS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To seek elected member approval of the priority criteria to be used when allocating the roll out of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare places.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. It is recommended that Education Committee approve the priority criteria for allocation of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Scottish Government has set a transformational agenda for Early Learning and Childcare by 2020. 'A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland 2017 – 2018 Action Plan' was published in March 2017 and outlines the national vision for early learning and childcare (ELC) and the key policy principles.

4. The vision is to almost double the entitlement to free ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours per year by 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds and is underpinned by the key principles of quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability.

5. In East Renfrewshire new models of early learning and childcare delivery were introduced in 2014 in response to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act which increased children's entitlement of ELC to 600 hours. The application and allocation process was refreshed and approved by elected members at this time to facilitate the implementation of more flexible models of delivery.

6. Elected members approved the early phasing of 1140 hours at Education Committee in March 2018.

7. As it was anticipated that the increase to our provision will take a few years to establish, and be dependent on Scottish Government funding, only a limited number of children and families will be able to access the 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare earlier through the department's phasing programme.

8. Clear criteria was approved to assess applications and ensure that places are allocated in an equitable and transparent way in the interim period between March 2018 and full implementation. This criteria was designed to support our most vulnerable children and families.

9. From August 2020 all children will be entitled to 1140 hours, however to continue to ensure places are allocated in an equitable way there is still a requirement to have published priority criteria.

## REPORT

10. The Education Department processes all applications for ELC and allocates each child a nursery place for both their ante pre-school and pre-school years by April of each year.

11. With the full implementation of the Scottish Government Expansion to 1140 hours in 2020 the applications received for children who will start nursery in their ante pre-school year in 2019/20 will need to consider the models for delivery of 1140 hours in 2020/21. This will ensure, as far as reasonably practical, that children will experience continuity in their ELC and prevent parents applying twice for their entitlement. Therefore the criteria for allocation, needs to be in place for April 2019.

12. East Renfrewshire Council early years provision is organised into 4 communities and as such our expansion plans to increase provision from 600 hours to 1140 hours are focused around each of these communities. The communities are as follows:

- Barrhead/ Neilston / Uplawmoor
- Busby/ Clarkston/ Eaglesham
- Giffnock/ Thornliebank
- Newton Mearns

13. The new models of delivery are based on degrees of flexibility and choice being available so that parents can choose:

- |    |                        |   |   |
|----|------------------------|---|---|
| a. | Core Provision         | - | 5 sessions of 6 hours per week<br>(school days over the school year)  |
| b. | Extended Day Provision | - | 3 sessions of 10 hours per week<br>(longer days over the school year)   |
| c. | Stretched Provision A  | - | 5 sessions of 4 hours 45 minutes per week<br>(half days over a longer year)   |
|    | Stretched Provision B  | - | 2 sessions of 9 ½ hours and 1 session of 4 hours 45 minutes per week<br>(mix of full days and half days over a longer year) |
| d. | Blended Provision      | - | 15 hours in LA Establishment and 15 hours with another provider working in partnership per week.                            |
| e. | Funded Provider        | - | 1140 hours per year fully funded provision with a private, voluntary and independent provider including childminders.       |

14. It is proposed that from August 2020 nursery classes will offer options a, b and d, with family centres offering c and d, depending on available resources.

15. The following banding system will be used to allocate places equitably to children for their 1140 place for August 2020.

<b>Priority Criteria</b>	
<b>Priority 1</b>	Child Protection, Prevention, Looked After and Additional Support Needs.
<b>Priority 2</b>	Deferred Entry to Primary School. *
<b>Priority 3</b>	Pre-school children within their allocated community as indicated by address.
<b>Priority 4</b>	Ante pre-school children within their allocated community as indicated by address and who have an older sibling attending the same nursery.
<b>Priority 5</b>	a) Pre-school children applying outwith their community (as indicated by address). b) Ante pre-school children applying outwith their community (as indicated by address).
<b>Priority 6</b>	Admission will be given to children resident out with East Renfrewshire whose parents make a request for: a) a pre-school place. b) an ante pre-school place.

*\*the local authority has approved funding for an additional year of early learning and childcare*

16. Elected members should note that the current criteria for the allocation of 600 hours will continue to be implemented to any preschool children applying for a place for school session 2019-2020.

## **CONCLUSION**

17. At the heart of East Renfrewshire ELC expansion activity is quality, which has been recognised locally and nationally. Our expansion plan is founded on the key national principles of quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability.

18. The consistent application of agreed priorities ensures that places are allocated in an equitable and transparent way for all children.

19. To ensure flexibility and accessibility parents will have the opportunity to split their child's entitlement to 1140 hours ELC between local authority settings, childminders and other funded providers.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

20. It is recommended that Education Committee approve the priority criteria for allocation of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare.

Mhairi Shaw  
Director of Education  
January 2019

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Local Government Access to information Act 1985

Background Papers:

1. [A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland 2017 – 2018 Action Plan. \(March 2017\)](#)
2. East Renfrewshire Education Department, Towards 1140 hours of ELC Provision, Education Committee, 29 March 2018
3. East Renfrewshire Education Department, Report on the Progress of Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, Education Committee, 14 June 2018