

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

17 November 2016

Report by Director of Education

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE: ANALYSIS OF HOLIDAY PROVISION  
FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to update members of the outcome of further analysis of Early Learning and Childcare holiday provision.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

2. Elected members are asked to note the contents and approve the next steps as outlined in the paper.

## **Background**

3. The provision and allocation of nursery places is organised in communities, with a family centre at the heart of each community offering 52 week provision and greater flexibility. Communities are aligned as follows:

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

4. In October 2016 Education Committee approved the continuation of the department's approach to increase incrementally flexibility for parents in accessing the additional 30 hours of early learning and childcare. As a result, parents were able to select from the following options when applying for a nursery place:

- no flexibility - 5 sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes per week (core).
- limited flexibility - 5 sessions of 3 hours per week, with the option of using the additional 30 hours during school holiday periods (holiday).  
  
5 sessions of 3 hours per week, with the option of using the additional 30 hours before (1 hour) or after (up to 2 hours) the nursery session (additional).
- greater flexibility - extended day, where sessions would be a minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 8 hours in any day, subject to a maximum of 600 hours funding in any year. Additional hourly charges would be applied thereafter (extended).

5. The Education Department carried out a consultation exercise between January 2016 and March 2016 to ascertain views on how the Council delivers the entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and childcare for every 3 and 4 year old child whose parents wish it. The results of the consultation were shared at Education Committee in October 2016.

6. In October 2016, Education Committee approved the department's plans to consider the level of demand for holiday provision within each community as part of the model for increased flexibility, taking account of current use and parents' views gathered through the consultation.

7. Members will recall that in previous Pre-five and Childcare annual reports the department has highlighted the feasibility of offering holiday provision in all 3 family centres in the community of Barrhead / Neilston.

8. In March 2016, elected members agreed that the department should explore the efficiency of Carlbar Family Centre continuing to provide a 52 week service.

## REPORT

9. The consultation on the Implementation of the Entitlement to 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare gathered views on the uptake of the current holiday provision option.

10. A preferred option of holiday provision was selected by 19.74% of respondees. As shown in Table 1 and 2, this is in stark contrast to the actual allocation of holiday provision which was recorded as 3% in 2015/16 and 2% in 2016/17.

*Table 1*

2015/2016	Pattern of attendance	core		holiday		additional		extended	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Total places 1934	1388	72	53	3	328	17	165	8

*Table 2*

2016/2017	Pattern of attendance	core		holiday		additional		extended	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Total places 1965	1353	69	46	2	327	17	239	12

11. The greatest demand for holiday provision was in Giffnock/Thornliebank where 16% of the respondees selected this option, 14% selected this in Newton Mearns and only 10% in Barrhead/Neilston and Busby/Clarkston/Eaglesham respectively.

12. In the community of Barrhead/Neilston 9 families have selected the option of using the additional 30 hours during school holiday periods (holiday provision).

13. Table 3 below details where these children currently attend.

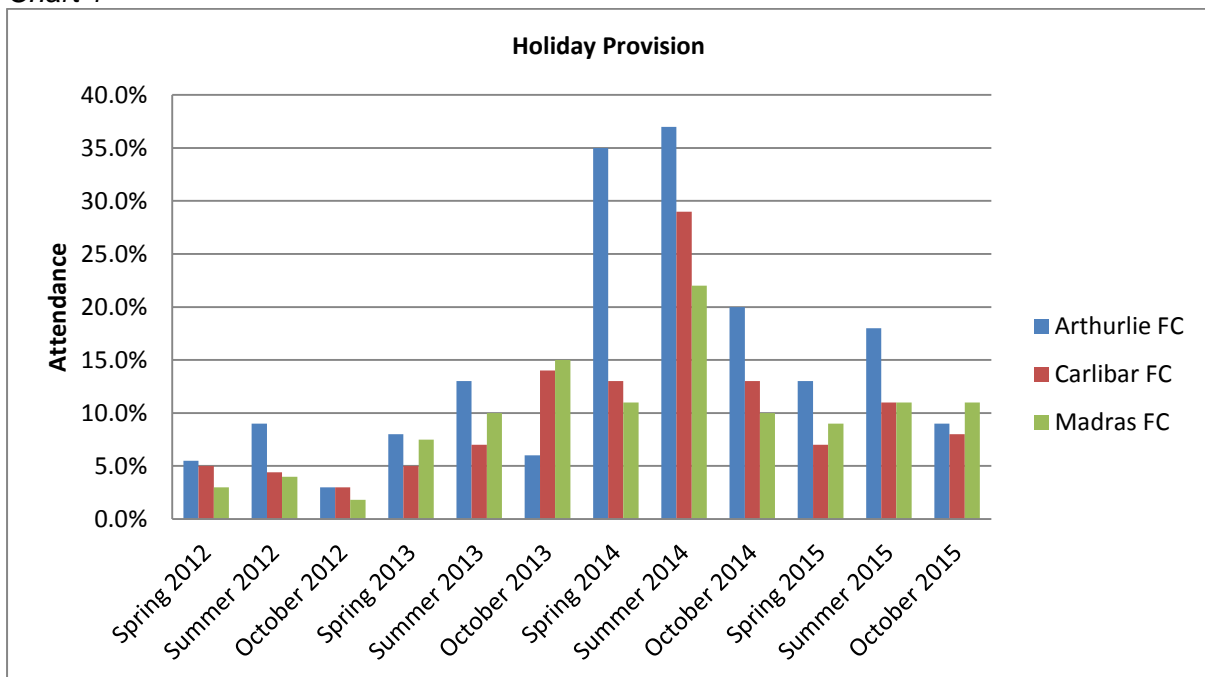
Table 3

Name of Establishment	Arthurlie Family Centre	Carlibar Family Centre	Madras Family Centre
No of Pupils	3	2	4

14. In addition to the option of holiday provision at nursery, all our family centres offer parents the opportunity to purchase additional early learning and childcare sessions during the Spring, Summer and October holidays. The department continues to monitor closely the uptake of these places. Elected members will be aware through the Prefive and Childcare Annual Report that there is a distinct lack of uptake in the communities of Barrhead/Neilston.

15. All of the centres located within the Barrhead/Neilston community currently offer holiday provision, however as shown in Chart 1 the uptake remains low for 3 and 4 year olds. In Barrhead Arthurlie Family Centre continues to have a higher attendance rate during the holiday periods than Carlibar Family Centre.

Chart 1



16. The multi-agency Prefive Resource Group (PRG), a model for allocating additional educational support for children aged 0 – 5 years, also allocates additional funded nursery provision to our most vulnerable children and their families. This accounts for 50% of the figures at Carlibar Family Centre.

17. The department has considered the feasibility of continuing to provide a 52 week service in 3 establishments within the community. Given the figures outlined in this report, it is believed that this is not an efficient use of resources.

## CONSULTATION

18. Consultation took place with parents of children currently attending Carlibar Family Centre and some members of staff. Their needs and the views expressed were considered in this report.

## NEXT STEPS

19. The department proposes to continue to offer holiday provision, additional purchased places and funded places in the communities of Barrhead and Neilston, however given the low numbers it is suggested that only two establishments operate 52 week services in the communities – one in Barrhead and one in Neilston.

20. Given the higher occupancy levels in Arthurlie Family Centre and the planned new building for the community the department proposes that Carlibar returns to a term time facility from session 2018/2019.

21. Parents who have currently purchased holiday provision for their children would have this commitment honoured.

22. Parents wishing to purchase additional holiday time would be able to access this at Arthurlie Family Centre.

## FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

23. A more efficient use of our facilities and staffing allocation during the holiday period would result in a saving of £66,000 for the department.

## RECOMMENDATION

24. Elected members are asked to note the contents and approve the next steps as outlined in the paper.

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Director of Education  
17 November 2016

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### Background Papers

1. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
2. Report to Education Committee: Results of the Consultation on the Implementation of the Entitlement to 600 Hours of Early Learning and Childcare, October 2016.
3. Report to East Renfrewshire Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: Early Years Strategy 2013-18.
4. Report to Education Committee: Prefive and Childcare Annual Report, March 2016.

### Key Words

Holiday Provision