

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE20 November 2014Report by Director of EducationTOWARDS FLEXIBILITY IN EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek approval to introduce from August 2015 some flexibility for parents to access the additional 30 hours within the 600 hours of early learning and childcare which preschool children are entitled to.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Elected members are asked to:
- a) approve the department's plan to increase incrementally flexibility for parents in accessing the additional 30 hours of early learning and childcare; and
 - b) instruct the Director of Education to take appropriate steps to communicate to residents the proposed changes to the procedures associated with applying for and allocating prefive places.

BACKGROUND

3. Members will be aware of the duty placed upon the Council as a result of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, viz. to increase entitlement to early learning and childcare to 600 hours for every 3 and 4 year old and every looked after 2 year old, and of the national expectation to introduce flexibility on how this entitlement is provided.

4. At the October 2013 Education Committee the Director of Education reported the results of a consultation exercise which surveyed parental views on how the Council should deliver the entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and childcare.

5. The Education Committee approved the department's proposals to meet the Council's duty to provide 600 hours to all prescribed preschool children from August 2014 by increasing the current 3 hour sessions by 10 minutes; and from August 2015 to introduce some flexibility for parents to access the 30 hours, which are additional to the current provision of 570 hours, to address parental needs.

6. Draft statutory guidance has been published to accompany the Act. Within this draft guidance the Scottish Government sets out an expectation that provision will be built up through year on year improvements to flexibility and choice. The draft guidance, which indicates that there will be annual incremental increases in funding from the Scottish Government to enable education authorities to increase flexibility and choice on an annual basis, includes estimated increased levels of funding from 2014 – 2019.

7. In August 2014, following a report on a statutory consultation, the Education Committee approved that the Director of Education should work with partners within the Council to establish a new family centre to serve the areas of Busby, Clarkston and Eaglesham from the start of school session 2015 – 2016.

REPORT

Flexibility and Community Approach

8. As noted above, the department carried out a consultation exercise from January to June 2013 to ascertain the views of parents on accessing the additional 30 hours of free early learning and childcare. The department consulted on the identified model for East Renfrewshire which would give parents both choice and flexibility in accessing this additional provision. The model proposed, which was based on current parental demand, included:

- a) those who require additional nursery sessions so that their child attends full time for some or all of the week;
- b) lengthening the duration of a nursery session, before or after by 1 or 2 hours; and
- c) provision of nursery sessions during school holiday periods.

9. It is noted that any proposals will need to be deliverable within the resources made available. Members are asked to note that this is not full, but limited flexibility and there is an expectation from the Scottish Government to move towards parents being able to access their full entitlement to meet individual needs. In considering offering flexibility, the department must have sufficient capacity to deliver.

10. By changing term-time provision to 52-week provision and amending staffing arrangements, it is possible to offer the 30 hours of flexibility through holiday provision and wraparound.

11. What follows is a plan to build capacity and flexibility incrementally on a year by year basis in line with the expectations of the Scottish Government.

12. This is based on degrees of flexibility being available, so that parents can choose:

- no flexibility - 5 sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes per week.
- limited flexibility - 5 sessions of 3 hours per week, with the option of using the additional 30 hours during school holiday periods.
- 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.
- 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 where there is capacity available.

13. All local authority nurseries will offer parents the choice of 5 sessions of 3 hours per week or 5 sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes.

14. Where parents choose 5 sessions of 3 hours per week they will be able to access the additional 30 hours as follows:

- family centres
 - an additional 10 sessions (of 3 hours) during holiday periods; or
 - an additional 10 sessions (of 3 hours) during term time; or
 - lengthening the duration of a nursery session, before or after by 1 or 2 hours.
- nursery classes
 - lengthening the duration of a nursery session before or after by 1 or 2 hours.

15. Braidbar Nursery Class, Calderwood Lodge Nursery Class and Thornliebank Nursery Class will also be able to offer the additional 30 hours as additional sessions (10 of 3 hours) during term time.

16. To offer some flexibility in a cost effective way, and recognising the importance of locality and neighbourhoods, it is proposed that prefive provision and allocation are considered within communities, with a family centre at the heart of each community offering 52 week provision and greater flexibility, depending on a further increase in places and associated resource costs..

Table 1

Barrhead/ Neilston	Busby/ Clarkston	Giffnock/ Thornliebank	Newton Mearns
Arthurlie F.C	Busby F.C. (new)	Glenwood N.S.	Hazeldene N.S
Carlibar F.C	Busby N.C	Braidbar N.C	Isobel Mair F.C
Madras F.C	Carolside N.C	Calderwood Lodge N.C *	Crookfur N.C
	Eaglesham N.C	Giffnock N.C	Mearns N.C
	Netherlee N.C	Thornliebank N.C	

* At present Calderwood Lodge N.C. is shown in its current location and not its potential relocation to Newton Mearns.

Analysis of Provision and Proposals for Each Community

Barrhead / Neilston / Uplawmoor

17. The west of the Council is well served with family centre provision with Arthurlie, Carlibar and Madras family centres all offering 52 week provision. Therefore, there is no need to amend the provision to reflect the proposal. What is noticeable, however, is the lack of uptake of places that are offered during school holiday periods. Depending on the uptake of holiday provision following the introduction of the proposals, the department may wish to consider offering 52 week provision in Arthurlie only in Barrhead and amending what is offered in Carlibar to reflect the school year. We would propose to continue to offer 52 week provision in Madras to serve the residents of Neilston and Uplawmoor.

18. With the exception of school sessions 2011 - 12 and 2012 – 13, all three family centres have been able to offer additional sessions to meet demand. The new community hub / family centre in Auchenback will offer an expanded number of places (120:120) for 3 and 4 year olds from 2015 – 16 and with this we would propose that Arthurlie Family Centre would be the nursery which would offer greater flexibility as and when resources allow.

19. At present the authority has no partner providers in the west of the Council.

Busby / Clarkston / Eaglesham

20. As noted above, work is underway to establish a new family centre in Busby to serve the communities indicated in Table 1. Members will be aware that the centre will be staffed initially to offer 60:60 places for 3 and 4 year olds, with an option to increase this to 90:90 if required and as resources are made available. Should this be realised, the centre would be able to offer greater flexibility as described above.

21. All other local authority nurseries will offer parents the choice of core hours or additional hours, as described in Para. 24 below.

22. Over the past two school years no additional wraparound sessions have been available to parents in this area in local authority nurseries. However, with the additional places in the new family centre, further sessions may become available in each of the other local authority establishments.

23. At present the department continues to work with partner providers within Busby and Clarkston; Happy Days Too (Busby) and Clarkston Playgroup. Parents will continue, therefore, to have the opportunity to seek a commissioned place for 600 hours to meet their preferences and the demand for greater flexibility.

Giffnock / Thornliebank

24. At present, and with the exception of Giffnock Nursery Class, four of the five local authority nurseries in this community are able to offer places to children from out with the area, especially to those from Clarkston and Newton Mearns.

25. Until the number of places in each of the other two areas in the east of the authority is expanded, and we are able to offer some flexibility in Newton Mearns and Busby / Clarkston, preschool places in this area will continue to be offered to those parents who need additional nursery sessions (extended hours).

26. At present there is no family centre provision in this area for preschool children. It is proposed, therefore, to convert Glenwood Nursery School to a family centre, offering nursery provision over 52 weeks of the year, including during school holiday periods.

27. With the establishment of a new family centre in Busby, Glenwood will also be able to offer additional wraparound sessions, as will Thornliebank, Braidbar and Calderwood Lodge nursery classes.

28. Should the proposal to establish a joint faith schools campus be approved following the current statutory education consultation, members should be aware that the nursery provision currently in Calderwood Lodge would transfer with the school.

29. The authority works with two partner providers in this area, viz. Orchard Park Nursery and Enchanted Forest Nursery, each of which will be able to offer parents flexibility in accessing 600 hours of early learning and childcare through a commissioned place.

Newton Mearns

30. As noted previously, there is and continues to be pressure on prefive places in Newton Mearns. This is despite the expansion in the area through new local authority provision in Isobel Mair Family Centre and Crookfur Nursery Class.

31. Members will also be aware of the plans to increase provision further with nursery classes in each of the new denominational and non-denominational primary schools in Newton Mearns. Members will also be aware of the intention to replace the existing Crookfur Nursery Class with one in an adapted St. Cadoc's, as and when space becomes available with the opening of the new joint faith schools campus in August 2017 (subject to consultation and approval).

32. With these proposed new establishments, the Council should be able to meet demand for preschool places as a consequence of ongoing and further planned new residential developments. However, the need for flexibility is not built in to these plans. Therefore, to enable the Council to meet its duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, it is proposed to increase provision in Newton Mearns through a new build 90:90 nursery class in Crookfur Primary School and to extend provision in the planned adaptation of St. Cadoc's Nursery Class by offering 90:90 places as resources allow and subject to consultation and approval. The plan that is set out in paragraph 38 indicates the proposed timeline.

33. Isobel Mair Family Centre will continue to offer 52 week provision for families in the west of Newton Mearns. It is proposed to convert Hazeldene Nursery School to a family centre, offering nursery provision 52 weeks of the year to families living to the east of Newton Mearns.

34. At present no centre in Newton Mearns is able to offer additional wraparound sessions. Parents wishing additional sessions (extended hours) will continue to be offered alternative places in the Giffnock / Thornliebank area.

35. With the establishment of new nursery provision as outlined above, the departmental aim is for most nursery classes from session 2017 – 18 to be able to offer parents the choice of additional sessions, and/or lengthening the duration of sessions by 1 or 2 hours.

36. The Council works in partnership with a number of independent, private and voluntary providers in the Newton Mearns area, which will be able to offer parents flexibility in accessing 600 hours of free early learning and childcare through a commissioned place. These include:

- Belmont School;
- Broom Nursery;
- Elmwood Nursery;
- Happy Days Too (Southfield); and
- Kirktonholme @ Mearnswood

Proposed Timeline

37. The proposed new nursery class at St Cadoc's and new build nursery at Crookfur are closely related and also dependent on the new denominational primary and associated prefive provision.

38. Table 2 provides a best estimate of the projected timescales of the proposals, assuming affordability and necessary consultations:

Table 2

Facility	School Year				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Glenwood N.S. to F.C.	Yes				
Hazeldene N.S. to F.C.	Yes				
Crookfur New Build Nursery		Yes			
Busby/Clarkston New Build F.C.	Yes				
New Denom Pry with Prefive			Yes		
St Cadoc's N.C.					Yes
New Non-denom Pry with Prefive					Yes
Existing Crookfur N.C phased removal			Reduce to 20:20	Maintain at 20:20	Closure-revert to Pry classes

Applying for a Place

39. At present nursery places are allocated on a catchment area basis, roughly similar to catchment areas of non-denominational primary schools. The current priority system is based on those catchment areas. As set out in Para. 16 above, it is proposed to move to a community basis with parents applying for places based on how they wish to access the 600 hours. Parents will continue to be guaranteed a place within their community of local authority nurseries for their pre-school year. In line with Para. 12 above, parents will be able to indicate on application a preference for either:

- Core hours (No Flexibility) 5 sessions of 3 hours and 10 minutes.
- Holiday provision (Limited Flexibility) 5 sessions of 3 hours during term time and an additional 10 sessions during school holiday periods.
- Additional hours (Limited Flexibility) additional time before (1 hour) or after (up to 2 hours) the nursery session will be available up to a maximum of 30 hours in all local authority establishments. Thereafter, charges will apply.
- Extended hours (Greater Flexibility) a minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 8 hours in any one day (over 38 or 52 weeks) per year up to a maximum of 600 hours free; additional hourly charges would apply thereafter. This will only be available in a limited number of establishments across the authority.

40. The table below gives an indication of where the above will be able to be accessed. The timescales associated with the extended hours are based on the anticipated availability of new provision e.g. new places in Newton Mearns releasing places in the Giffnock/Thornliebank area.

Table 3

Community	Establishment	No Flexibility	Holiday Provision	Additional Hours	Extended Hours* (Avail. from School Session)
Barrhead / Neilston	Arthurlie Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓ (15 – 16)
	Carlibar Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	
	Madras Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓ (15 – 16)
Busby / Clarkston	Busby Family Centre (new)	✓	✓	✓	✓ (17 – 18)
	Busby Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Carolside Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Eaglesham Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Netherlee Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
Giffnock / Thornliebank	Glenwood Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓ (15 – 16)
	Braidbar Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	✓ (15 – 16)
	Calderwood Lodge Pr Nursery Class**	✓		✓	✓ (15 – 16)
	Giffnock Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Thornliebank Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	✓ (15 – 16)
Newton Mearns	Hazeldene Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓ (17 – 18)
	Isobel Mair Family Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓ (19 – 20)
	Crookfur Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Mearns Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	
	Calderwood Lodge Pr Nursery Class**	✓		✓	✓ (17 – 18)
	New Denominational Pr Nursery Class (from 17 – 18)	✓		✓	
	New Non-denominational Pr Nursery Class (from 19 – 20)	✓		✓	
	New St. Cadoc's Pr Nursery Class	✓		✓	✓ (19 – 20)

** Calderwood Lodge Primary Nursery Class is shown in its current location until school session 16 – 2017 and in Newton Mearns from 17 – 18. This is dependent on the outcome of the current education statutory consultation.

41. A draft information leaflet is included in Appendix 1. If approved, the Director of Education will take steps to amend the application process and publicise the changes with those who have already applied, new parents and partner agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

42. The Scottish Government has allocated additional capital and revenue to support the implementation of the Children and Young People Act (2014) for the introduction of flexibility in accessing the additional 30 hours of early learning and childcare within the 600 hours. This resource should meet the revenue costs associated with the approach proposed in this paper in addition to the annual budget exercise which takes account of new provision as a consequence of demographic changes etc. The capital required to fund the new provision proposed in this paper has been submitted for consideration through the Council's capital planning process. This could be part funded by the Scottish Government capital allocation.

43. In the longer term, and depending on increasing the places available, there is the likelihood of additional income to the Council through selling additional wraparound sessions.

44. There are no foreseen implications of these proposals which would lead to a change in contractual duties of staff working in local authority nurseries. However, discussions will be arranged with relevant trade union representatives to ensure this is the case and any matters arising from such will be considered in partnership as appropriate. Head teachers will be supported to make any necessary changes to operational staffing arrangements.

CONCLUSIONS

45. Some flexibility in accessing the additional 30 hours of early learning and childcare must be introduced from August 2015.

46. Proposals outlined above will enable the authority to provide limited flexibility for the additional 30 hours by way of school holiday provision or through wraparound (additional hours or / sessions) and to provide greater flexibility through full-day placements, within the context of the existing pressure on places and growth in parts of the authority.

47. Any further increase in flexibility would be dependent on a further increase in places and associated resource costs.

48. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 indicates that local authorities should consult with parents every 2 years to review and agree models of delivery. There may in future be further increased expectations on the extent of flexibility parents wish for their children, which would need to be assessed against available resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

49. Elected members are asked to:

- a) approve the department's plan to increase incrementally flexibility for parents in accessing the additional 30 hours of early learning and childcare; and,
- b) instruct the Director of Education to take appropriate steps to communicate to residents the proposed changes to the procedures associated with applying for and allocating prefive places.

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November 2014

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Background Papers

1. Scottish Government Early Years Taskforce Shared Visions and Priorities, March 2012
2. Report to Education Committee: Results of the Consultation on the Implementation of the Entitlement to 600 Hours of Early Learning and Childcare, October 2013.
3. Report to Education Committee: Prefive provision in Newton Mearns and Busby/Clarkston, November 2013
4. Report to Education Committee: Future nursery provision for children of preschool age in the Busby/Clarkston area for school session 2015/16 and beyond - April 2014

Key Words

This paper relates to the planned incremental increase in flexibility for parents in accessing 600 hours of early learning and childcare for preschool children.

Early Learning and Childcare in East Renfrewshire Council

Provision for 3 and 4 year old children



From August 2015 onwards

Education Dept Logo

ERC LOGO

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to increase the entitlement of all eligible pre-school (4 year olds) and ante pre-school (3 year olds) children to 600 hours of early learning and childcare (formally called pre-school education).

The Act also asks local authorities to provide an appropriate level of flexibility to allow parents some choice when deciding to access services.

East Renfrewshire Council carried out a consultation (June 2013) with parents on their preferences. The vast majority of parents stated 600 hours should be provided in the same way with a majority indicating that all hours should be delivered as core. However, a significant percentage indicated a wish/need for flexibility to meet childcare and family requirements.

What will be available?

East Renfrewshire Council is working towards a model of choice for session 2015 onwards. This model is based on parental views. From August 2015 parents can choose the following 4 options:

1. Core Hours

Parents and carers can apply for 5 sessions, (a session being either a morning or afternoon) at a local authority nursery. Each session will last 3 hours and 10 minutes. This is based on term time (38 weeks per year).

2. Holiday Provision

Parents and carers can apply for 5 sessions, (a session being either a morning or afternoon), at a local authority nursery. Each session will last 3 hours. This allocation is based on 40 weeks per year, with parents and carers having the opportunity to access the additional 30 hours (2 weeks) in terms of additional sessions during school holidays.

3. Additional Hours

Some establishments will be able to offer additional time before (1 hour) or after (up to 2 hours) the nursery session up to a maximum of 30 hours. Parents can apply for a place at a nursery that offers this. Thereafter charges will apply.

4. Extended Hours

A limited number of establishments will be able to offer extended day sessions, either 38 or 52 weeks per year. Parents would be able to access a minimum of 4 hours funding and a maximum of 8 hours funding in any day. A maximum of 600 hours funding could be used in any year. Additional hourly charges would be applied thereafter.

5. Partner Provider

Parents can negotiate with a partner provider term time or extended day/year sessions. The provider will charge at their own hourly rate, which may be higher than the rate funded by East Renfrewshire Council.

East Renfrewshire Council is committed to providing a flexible model of early learning and childcare for all our families; however it is anticipated that such a model shall take a few years to establish. In the forthcoming year we will once again be seeking your views, specifically on the flexible options that would support you and your family. We are also working towards increasing places in both Busby/Clarkston and Newton Mearns to support this approach.

In the meantime every effort will be made to meet your first preference, however, this will be dependent on the number of places available and the priority given to applications.

Which nursery will provide what I need?

To support the model detailed earlier and to work towards each locality offering core hours, holiday provision, additional and extended hours, East Renfrewshire Council has widened its catchment areas for nurseries and organised them into 4 communities based on locality and address. From 2015 onwards the communities will be as follows:

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



Parents will automatically be directed to their community nursery which will provide core hours, however parents have the opportunity to apply for a holiday provision place (40 weeks x 3 hours a day) or they may wish to apply for a place in a nursery that offers additional or extended hours. Places will be allocated according to the published priorities. Places will be allocated to applications banded priorities 1 – 3 first. A ballot may be necessary if the number of applications received exceeds the places available. Likewise a ballot will be held for any available places for ante-preschool children living in the nursery community.

What is the priority system?

Priority 1: Child protection, Prevention, Looked After and Additional Support Needs

Priority 2: Deferred Entry to Primary

Priority 3: Preschool children within their allocated community as indicated by address.

Priority 4: Ante Pre-school children within their allocated community as indicated by address.

- a) Children who have an older sibling attending the same nursery
- b) Children whose parents are accepting 5 sessions in their local authority nursery
- c) Children whose parents are not accepting 5 sessions in their local authority nursery

Priority 5: a) Preschool children applying out with their community (as indicated by address).

b) Ante pre-school children applying out with their community (as indicated by address).

Priority 6: 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

When can my child start?

Your child's eligibility would start in August or at the term following their 3rd birthday.

- Children who are 3 between 1 March and 31 August are eligible for a funded place from the start of the term in August;
- Children who are 3 between 1 September and 31 December are eligible for a funded place from the start of the term in January;
- Children who are 3 between the 1 January and the last day in February are eligible for a funded place from the start of the term in April.

However, many East Renfrewshire Council nurseries will be able to provide a start date nearer your child's 3rd birthday.

How do I apply?

Applications can be accessed online at www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/4791/Apply-for-local-nursery-place. Alternatively a hard copy of the application pack can be requested from the Prefive Administration Team. Application forms should be fully completed and submitted either by email or post to the prefive administration team.

Applications shall be accepted by the Prefive Administration Team once your child has reached two years of age. All applications should be received by the last day in February, with allocations made by April of the same year. Applications received after this date will be treated as late and will not be dealt with until after the April allocations.

Children who already attend a council nursery or access a commissioned place in a partner service and do not wish to move, do not have to re-apply each year. These children are referred to as “returners” for the following year.

Returning children will be automatically allocated a place for the following year. Where a child has been displaced out with their community nursery for their ante-preschool year, parents will be given the option to remain in their placement or move to their community nursery for their preschool year.

Education Department
Prefive Administration Team
211 Main Street
Barrhead
G78 1SY
Telephone: 0141 577 3288
Email: pre.five@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.



What happens next?

Your application will be assessed by the Prefive Administration team against the priority criteria.

Every effort will be made to meet your preference. However, this will be dependent on the number of places available and the priority given to applications. Parents will continue to be guaranteed a place within their community of local authority nurseries for their pre-school year.

If you are offered a place for your child in an East Renfrewshire Council nursery, you will be notified in writing and asked to confirm your acceptance of a place. You will then be invited to attend the nursery with the following documentation:

- Proof of the child's age (birth certificate/passport), and;
- Proof of your current address (council tax, rental/mortgage agreement)

East Renfrewshire Council also works in partnership with private and voluntary providers. You may wish to apply directly to them for a place.

Partnership Providers:

- Belmont Nursery Class (Independent)
- Broom Nursery (Voluntary)
- Clarkston Playgroup (Voluntary)
- Elmwood Nursery (Private)
- Enchanted Forest Nursery (Private)
- Happy Days Too Busby (Private)
- Happy Days Too Southfield (Private)
- Kirtonholme@Mearnswood (Private)
- Orchard Park Nursery (Private)

Where a parent wishes to apply for a place for their child in a partner nursery, they should apply by contacting the nursery direct, prior to 31 August.

Wraparound

All parents can, where available, purchase additional early learning and childcare provision over and above the entitled 600 hours and irrespective of the nursery they attend. Wraparound can be purchased before a morning session, lunchtime and 2 hours after an afternoon session. Children not attending a family centre have the opportunity to purchase a holiday place at the family centre in their community. Parents should apply directly to the early years establishment with their request for additional hours. A contract is agreed, signed and charges applied.

Charges

East Renfrewshire Council has a policy for charging for additional hours (wraparound). This policy is reviewed annually and an hourly rate agreed. At present the hourly rate is £4.60 for wraparound and £11.50 for an additional session. If you purchase the 2 hours after a session this is charged at £9.20.