

8 - Links and other information

Useful links


The Scottish Government's website at www.beta.gov.scot has A Blueprint for 2020: The expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland as a pdf. Just search under early learning. This website also has details of the Quality Action Plan, again just search the www.beta.gov.scot under 'early learning'.

Contact us


We'd love to hear from you if you have any questions or ideas relating to expansion either generally or specific to your provision. Please send questions via the contact details below and we will try to answer them directly and in future newsletters. We plan to issue regular updates via the council website and social media so make sure you're following us!

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MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL Early Learning and Childcare

Practitioner Update

*December 17
Issue 1*

1 - Expansion Background

The Scottish Government is committed to the near doubling of the entitlement to funded early learning and childcare to 1140 hours a year by 2020 for all three and four-year olds and eligible two-year olds. The aim is to provide high quality, flexible early learning and childcare that is accessible and affordable for all families. To meet this aim, we will need to work with our children, parents and carers, staff from across the council, childminders, partnership nurseries and playgroups. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep these partners informed of our progress towards the early learning and childcare expansion in 2020. *This newsletter outlines our plans but these are dependent on Scottish Government funding and its policy priorities.*

Recently, childminders received a separate newsletter about the expansion. In future, childminder updates will be included in this Practitioner Update.



2 -Governance Expansion Working Group

The expansion working group's purpose is to coordinate and drive forward the implementation of the early learning and childcare expansion. It reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board, through the GIRFEC board and associated subgroups, and to elected members.

Feeding into the expansion working group are 5 subgroups which are made up of representatives from across the council and partners in the third sector. A summary of the key tasks of the subgroups is included below

Subgroups: key tasks

Delivery Model

- To determine the sessional and non-sessional attendance patterns (including the number of weeks per year for the latter) for children and staffing arrangements required to support it (lunch cover, holiday cover, provision of lunches etc.).
- To determine the allocation policy for business as usual from 2020 onwards.
- To evaluate existing pilots
- To produce an implementation pack to support settings moving to 1140 hour places.

7 - FAQ's cont'd

How does it start in a setting?

The delivery group is developing an induction pack of documents for new pilot sites to use based on existing pilot sites.

Will childminders be involved in a blended model in the next round of pilots?

The Mayfield Trial is exploring the blended delivery model between childminders, a nursery school and a third sector provider. The learning from this trial will inform how childminders can be part of our delivery plan. Our delivery plan is also dependent on government funding allocations

Careers

We anticipate many career and lifelong learning opportunities across all sectors that provide Early Learning and Childcare. The Scottish Government has also recently launched a national campaign. 'Shape their worlds. Shape your career' which aims to encourage more school leavers into the profession. You can find out more www.childcarecareersscotland.scot

Information about these learning opportunities will be published in future updates, websites and social media.



6 - FAQs

I work in a council nursery, will there be an opportunity for flexible working or chance for me to move to a different setting?

There will be lots of exciting, flexible working opportunities for staff including the opportunity to change settings and working hours.

How will lunch time work?

The Cornbank pilot is looking at policies and practice guidelines around lunch. This will be shared as soon as practical.

Will there be a chance for CDW to become SCDW?

Yes, we are looking at support/training and succession planning. Expansion in future will also present management opportunities, some of which will require degree level qualifications.

How do we find out the results of the pilots?

We will arrange information sharing events & updates from pilots in the newsletters.

When is it going to be in my setting?

We are planning further phasing in of pilot sites as we progress to 2020.

3 - Subgroups: key tasks continued

Communication

- To identify all stakeholders and media and techniques to best communicate with them.
- To support the working group and subgroups in communicating with their relevant stakeholders including publishing regular newsletters.
- To develop and deliver a communications schedule.

Workforce

- To develop a recruitment and training strategy for the expansion of EL&C workforce.
- To facilitate the provision of the increased number of qualified staff required in line with the overall Expansion Delivery Plan.

Spaces

- To determine a design blueprint for council settings and best practice for funded providers.
- To identify and assess existing and potential settings for expansion.
- To deliver additional capacity in these settings in line with governance received via the Working Group.

Spaces Note:

The floor area, number of toilets and other requirements in settings are changing following the publication of the Care Inspectorate's [Space to Grow](#) in August 17. We have started to review council settings to check what their capacity will be under the new requirements and whether there is potential to add capacity. When we receive details of government funding we will have further discussions with settings before finalising plans.



4 - Phased Implementation

The Scottish Government recognise that due to the substantial levels of investment in work force and infrastructure, the transition from 600 hours to 1140 will not happen overnight.

They expect local authorities to co-ordinate a phased approach to the expansion but our approach will be dependent on Government funding and policy priorities.

In the 2017/18 session, we are running a small number of pilots offering the 1140 hours in some settings so that we can learn what our families need and how together we can make the expansion work.

These pilots are:

- Cornbank, 32 full time places.
- Moorfoot, 12 full time places plus one 2 year old (Good Time to be 2).
- Hawthorn Children & Families Centre, 16 full time places.
- Rosewell, 16 full time places.
- Mauricewood, 17 full time places.
- Mount Esk, 24 full time places.
- Mayfield (trial), 13 children, blended model with childminders.

5 - Pilot project news

Mount Esk Nursery head teacher John Dagger and his Bonnyrigg staff members are taking part in a pilot project, which has been running since August 2017, offering the expanded hours to 24 families.

The nursery have made some subtle changes to the learning environment and routines. A new staff lunch rota has been organised and children now take lunches in small family style groups of three or four people at a table. Cosy corners have been created to accommodate any children needing a nap throughout the longer school day and new routines have been implemented to cope with arrivals and departures and tooth brushing.

John adds: "Children lead their learning. You can watch their play develop over the course of the longer day so they learn from their experiences and modify their play to imbed the learning. It's really interesting."

"We're looking now at how to move forwards (towards the 2020 expansion). We might have an outdoor classroom, we're looking at forest schools and how to have more experiences out with the school. Really, how can the extra hours not be a good thing?"

