
Report To:	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	Date:	16 June 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/28/20/LW
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Subject:	Update on Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is to advise the Sub-Committee of an underspend in the 2019 / 2020 Early Learning and Childcare revenue budget and provide an update on the implementation of the expansion plan for session 2020 / 2021.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council was allocated £4,995,549 revenue funding for 2019 / 2020. There is an underspend of £2,042,755 in the budget compared to a £600,000 underspend reported at Period 9. The £600,000 underspend has previously been agreed already to support ELC capital projects. Officers have reviewed the main reasons for the significant movement and are working on the knock on impact into the 2020/21 Budget.
- 2.2 This report provides details of proposed uses for this funding to be carried forward in order to support the implementation of the expansion programme in session 2020 / 21 and to support the provision of critical childcare in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these matters may require Scottish Government agreement.
- 2.3 On Wednesday 1 April 2020 an order revoked the change to the 2014 Children and Young People's Act that requires education authorities to secure 1140 hours of ELC provision for all eligible children from August 2020. This means that there will be no statutory duty for Authorities to provide 1140 hours of early learning and childcare (ELC) from August 2020.
- 2.4 Education Services has considered the implications of this decision on its expansion plan and has concluded that 1140 hours of ELC can still be implemented across Inverclyde.
- 2.5 1140 hours ELC placements will be allocated to all eligible children for session 2020 / 2021; however it is important to note that children will not access their full entitlement until all the COVID-19 restrictions for early learning and childcare settings are lifted.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Sub-Committee:
- Approves the allocation of the 2019 / 2020 underspend as detailed at section 5 of this report subject to agreement by the Scottish Government.
 - Notes that a detailed review of the 2020/21 ELC Revenue Budget is being undertaken and will be reported to the September Education & Communities Committee.
 - Notes the changes to the expansion plan and that further changes may be required in response to Scottish Government guidance on 1140 hours and COVID-19.

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde Council submitted its expansion plan to Scottish Government in March 2018. The plan provided details of current services and the developments required to deliver 1140 hours. Since this time the plan has been subject to change in line with local need and the timeline for infrastructure developments.
- 4.2 On Wednesday 1 April 2020, The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Modification) (No. 2) Revocation Order 2020 was approved by the Scottish Parliament. The order revokes the change to the 2014 Children and Young People's Act that requires education authorities to secure 1140 hours of ELC provision for all eligible children from August 2020, rather than 600 hours. It effectively means that there will be no statutory duty to provide 1140 hours from August 2020.
- 4.3 Education Services has considered the implications of this decision on its expansion plan. Given the progress already made in the implementation of 1140 hours the service has been able to develop contingency plans to ensure that 1140 hours can still be implemented across Inverclyde as of August 2020.
- 4.4 The report provides details of the provision that will be in place for August 2020. It includes an update on each geographical location across Inverclyde in relation to readiness for August 2020. It also provides details on placement allocation, workforce, funded providers and phased reopening of services.

5.0 2019 / 2020 REVENUE BUDGET UNDERSPEND

- 5.1 Inverclyde Council was allocated £4,995,549 revenue funding for 2019 / 2020. £2,042,755 of this budget is underspent in the financial year 2019 / 20. This underspend represented a significant increase from the £600,000 underspend reported to the February Education & Communities Committee.
- 5.2 Officers from Education and Finance have carried out a detailed review of the reasons for this movement in order to improve the accuracy of projections in future. In addition officers will be carrying out a detailed review of the 2020/21 ELC Budget to identify any issues which should be highlighted to Members.
- 5.3 The following table summarises the revenue budget spend for 2019 / 20.

Description	Budget £000	Projection @ P9 £000	19/20 Out turn £000	Variance £000
Salaries	3,631	1,911	1,926	(1705)
Other Costs	351	427	263	(88)
Partner Providers / Childminders	354	741	245	(109)
ELC Resources	318	998	351	33
Lunches	231	208	164	(67)
1140hrs Total:	4,885	4,285	2,949	(1936)
Realising Change Fund :	110	110	4	(106)
Total:	4,995	4,395	2,953	(2042)

5.4 Advice from the Scottish Government is that the Early Learning and Childcare specific grant can also be utilised to support the additional costs associated with COVID-19 pandemic.

5.5 The £2.042m of the 2019 / 20 funding has been carried forward for use in 2020 / 21. The following proposal has been developed to make best use of this funding.

COVID-19 Response	Cost
Payment for meals voucher, food and baby bags for children under 5. (April 2020 – August 2020)	£85,095
Payments for critical childcare with childminders / out of school care providers.	£175,230
Support to Funded Providers to address impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Officers will work with Providers to quantify the impact on business sustainability.	£100,000
Additional hours for term-time staff to provide critical childcare over the summer holidays.	£165,360
ICT resources to support home working and increase Wi-Fi connectivity in Rainbow Family Centre.	£21,000
SUB TOTAL	£546,685

1140 Expansion Programme	Cost
Transfer to school estates previously approved by Education and Communities Committee but subject to SG approval.	£600,000
Cost of outdoor classroom at Glenpark ELC to provide additional capacity in West Greenock	£120,000
Cost of adaptations at Wellpark Children's Centre to provide additional capacity in Greenock Central.	£80,000
Additional transfer to school estates for increased costs in infrastructure developments.	£78,335
Previously committed and delayed due to COVID-19 (Professional learning / qualifications)	£106,000
Previously committed and delayed due to COVID-19 (Equipment and resources for new builds / refurbishments)	£450,000
SUB TOTAL	£1,434,335

Summary	
COVID-19 Response	£546,685
1140 Expansion Programme	£1,434,335
Unallocated	£61,735
TOTAL	£2,042,755

6.0 DELIVERY OF 1140 HOURS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

6.1 Although Scottish Government has removed the legislation for Local Authorities to deliver the increased entitlement to ELC from August 2020 Inverclyde Council is in a position to offer the increased entitlement.

6.2 A number of contingency plans have been developed to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the expansion programme.

7.0 PORT GLASGOW / KILMACOLM

7.1 The provision within this locality is Craigmarloch Nursery Class (Authority resource), Kilmacolm Nursery Class, Newark Nursery School, Rainbow Family Centre, St. Francis' Nursery Class, and St John's Nursery Class.

7.2 An infrastructure contingency was already in place for the new build extension to Rainbow

Family Centre. This was achieved by utilising accommodation within the Centre, registering additional places for outdoor learning and amending the formula to increase the number of shared places.

- 7.3 A contingency plan was required for Craigmarloch Nursery Class. Provision for children with complex additional support needs will be consolidated in Hillend Children's Centre from August 2020 until the refurbishment and development work is complete.
- 7.4 There are 2 new private ELC providers and 11 childminders in the area. Applications for funded provider status are currently being progressed; however it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues in this process.
- 7.5 With these contingencies there is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in Kilmacolm and Port Glasgow as of August 2020. There may be a reduction in the availability of wraparound places and restrictions on parental choice of establishments and patterns of attendance.

8.0 GREENOCK EAST END

- 8.1 The provision within this locality is Blairmore Nursery School, Gibshill Children's Centre, Glenbrae Children's Centre, Hillend Children's Centre, and King's Oak Nursery Class.
- 8.2 Hillend Children's Centre will remain in its decant facility. This enables the service to deliver provision for children with complex additional support until Craigmarloch Nursery Class opens.
- 8.3 Enchanted Forest (Greenock) is the only current funded ELC provider in the locality. This service is already providing 1140 hours of early learning and childcare. There are 24 childminders in the wider Greenock area. Applications for funded provider status for childminders are currently being progressed; it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues with this process.
- 8.4 There is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in the East End of Greenock as of August 2020.

9.0 GREENOCK CENTRAL

- 9.1 The provision within this geographical area is Glenpark Early Learning Centre, Wellpark Children's Centre, Whinhill Nursery Classes.
- 9.2 A contingency was required to increase capacity in Greenock Central and Greenock West. This was achieved by increasing capacity at Glenpark Early Learning Centre and Wellpark Children's Centre.
- 9.3 There are 3 existing funded providers in this locality: Madeira Nursery, Wellington Children's Centre, and West College Scotland Nursery. These services are already providing 1140 hours of early learning and childcare. There are 24 childminders in the wider Greenock area. Applications for funded provider status are currently being progressed; it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues with this process.
- 9.4 There is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in Greenock Central as of August 2020. There may be a slight reduction in the availability of wraparound places and restrictions on parental choice of establishments and patterns of attendance.

10.0 GREENOCK SOUTH WEST

- 10.1 The provision within this locality includes Aileymill Nursery Class, Bluebird Family Centre, Lady Alice Nursery Class, Larkfield Children's Centre, and St Joseph's Nursery Class.
- 10.2 An infrastructure contingency was already in place for Larkfield Children's Centre. This was

achieved by registering capacity within the temporary accommodation on the adjoining school campus.

- 10.3 There are no existing funded providers in this locality. There are 24 childminders in the wider Greenock area. Applications for funded provider status for childminders are currently being progressed; it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues with this process.
- 10.4 There is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in Greenock South West as of August 2020.

11.0 GOUROCK

- 11.1 The local authority provision within this locality consists of Binnie St. Children's Centre and Moorfoot Nursery Class.
- 11.2 A contingency plan was required for the funded provider Wellington Children's Centre who will provide early learning and childcare in Gourrock YAC. The contingency plan is to vary the registration for the Gamble Halls / I:Zone accommodation that Wellington Children's Centre is currently using for out of school care.
- 11.3 There is 1 new funded provider (nursery) in the locality. There are 8 childminders in the Gourrock area. Applications for funded provider status are currently being progressed; it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues with this process.
- 11.4 There is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in Gourrock as of August 2020.

12.0 INVERKIP / WEMYSS BAY

- 12.1 The local authority provision within this locality consists of Inverkip Nursery Class and Wemyss Bay Nursery.
- 12.2 There is one existing funded provider in the locality which is Enchanted Forest Nursery. There are no new funded providers in the locality. There are 9 childminders in the Inverkip / Wemyss Bay area. Applications for funded provider status are currently being progressed; it is not anticipated that there will be any delay / issues with this process.
- 12.3 There is capacity to deliver 1140 hours to all families in Inverkip / Wemyss Bay as of August 2020.

13.0 PLACEMENT ALLOCATIONS

- 13.1 Early Learning and Childcare placements are being allocated as per Inverclyde Council's Admission Policy for Early Learning and Childcare.
- 13.2 All children will be allocated an 1140 hours placement in a local authority establishment or a funded provider including blended approaches with childminders.
- 13.3 As previously advised to the Education and Communities Committee many parents will not receive their preferred pattern of attendance. Some may not receive a placement in their first choice establishment.
- 13.4 Parents will be notified of their child's placement in the week beginning 19th June 2020. This is slightly later than planned but means parents will be receive information of their child's 1140 hours placement and information on the impact of COVID-19 restrictions within the one communication.

14.0 WORKFORCE

- 14.1 A significant recruitment exercise took place in February 2020 to recruit the practitioners and support workers required for implementation of the plan. Safe recruitment checks for these staff are currently underway. These staff will commence employment at the start of the new school term in August 2020.
- 14.2 A minimum number of posts remain vacant. These will be recruited as soon as is practicable. Due to the phased admissions of children to Early Learning and Childcare these vacancies will not impact on the delivery of 1140 hours in August 2020.

15.0 PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY PROVIDERS

- 15.1 The commissioning exercise for funded providers (nurseries and childminders) is currently underway. All applications are being scrutinised to determine which funded providers will receive partnership status to provide early learning and childcare for session 2020 / 2021. It is anticipated that all applicants will be successful.
- 15.2 All Funded Providers (nurseries) in Inverclyde are currently closed as a direct consequence of COVID-19. Providers were already delivering 1140 hours of early learning and childcare in session 2019 / 20 as part of early phasing; therefore this closure will not impact on their delivery plans for August 2020.
- 15.3 A few childminders have remained open to deliver critical childcare to keyworkers. Childminders were also delivering blended approaches in session 2019 / 20 as part of early phasing; therefore this closure will not impact on their delivery plans for August 2020.

16.0 IMPLICATIONS

16.1 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Early Years	Various	20 - 21	2,042,755		Carry Forward 2019 / 20

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Early Years	Various	20 - 21	7.765.000		Report to September E&C Cttee on budget projection

16.2 Legal

There are no Legal implications.

16.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications other than as noted within this report.

16.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

16.5 Repopulation

An early learning and childcare service that delivers on quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability will contribute to repopulation.

17.0 CONSULTATIONS

17.1 None.

18.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None