

**Delivering the expansion to provide 1140 hours
of funded early learning and childcare across
East Dunbartonshire by 2020**



Funded Partner Providers: Journey to 1140 hours

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Introduction

The Scottish Government Blueprint for 2020: “The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland” <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/8937> sets out the challenging agenda in early learning and childcare through near doubling the funded entitlement from 600 to 1140 hours per year from August 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds. The expansion must be high quality, flexible, early learning and childcare that is accessible and affordable for families.

This provides East Dunbartonshire Council and partner providers with an exciting opportunity to invest in the crucial early years of children’s lives, playing a vital role in helping to close the poverty related attainment gap, and having a long-lasting impact on a child’s life. The journey to implementation, however, will not be an easy task and planning will evolve as the Council seeks provision to ensure we deliver quality provision for children, which is flexible, accessible and affordable for parents. This was recognised in the Audit Scotland report for early learning and childcare:

http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2018/nr_180215_early_learning.pdf. Crucial to the successful delivery of 1140 hours will be partner providers, including private and third sector organisations that currently work in partnership with the Council to provide 600 hours of high-quality early learning and childcare, and those who will begin to deliver funded provision, including Childminders.

National Guidance

The Scottish Government website provides information on all aspects of the expansion. The “Early Learning and Childcare Service Model for 2020: Consultation Paper” is particularly useful:

<https://beta.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/consultation-paper/2018/03/early-learning-childcare-service-model-2020-consultation-paper/documents/00533677-pdf/00533677-pdf/govscot:document/?inline=true> and follows the “Delivering the Blueprint for 2020 Action Plan” <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00526782.pdf>

Funding Follows the Child, Provider Neutral and the National Standard

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/early-learning-childcare-service-model-2020-consultation-paper/pages/5/>

The Scottish Government *Funding Follows the Child, provider neutral* approach ensures that funded early learning and childcare is accessible, flexible and affordable, and is delivered in high quality settings that best support the child and family, whether that is a local authority or partner setting. A key aspect is the new National Standard for Funded Early Learning and Childcare Provision (the “**National Standard**”) that will set out clear and consistent criteria that all providers wishing to deliver the funded entitlement will have to meet. Following extensive consultation, it is expected to be published by the end of November 2018.

East Dunbartonshire Council Provision

The Council’s Early Years Strategic Plan for the delivery of the expansion of early learning and childcare is underpinned by the key principles: high quality, accessible, flexible and affordable. A blended model of provision will be available including flexible extended day and year provision within local authority centre or in a private or voluntary provision or at a childminder. More information on the background, consultation work and delivery model information can be found in the first 1140 hours newsletter : <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/early-learning-and-childcare>

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Delivering the National Standard in East Dunbartonshire

The expansion to deliver 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare is an opportunity for parents and funded providers to redefine how childcare is accessed in East Dunbartonshire. The earliest years of life are crucial for every child, and the evidence tells us that high-quality early learning and childcare can help give children the best start in life and contribute to closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

The Council is required to ensure that the National Standard is met by all settings delivering funded early learning and childcare hours, whether in the local authority sector or the private or third sector.

This document sets out some of the ways in which the Council will work with funded providers to meet the requirements of the provider neutral funding follows the child and the National Standard, criteria of which is grouped under the following requirements: Quality; Accessibility; Business Sustainability; Fair Work Practices; Payment Processes; and Food.

This document will form the basis for ongoing discussions with private and voluntary providers over the next two years. The expansion represents a challenge for both local authority and private and voluntary sector providers including childminders. The Council is committed to ongoing support and advice through a programme of meetings, timely newsletters and information bulletins outlining key 1140 hours developments. The Council will also facilitate information sessions with external speakers where possible and link with other neighbouring Councils to ensure that private and voluntary groups and childminders have the necessary information to plan for the expansion.



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Quality	
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<p>Ensuring Quality: A key focus of the proposed quality criteria are Care Inspectorate inspection gradings; however as these will take place only once every three years (depending on Care Inspectorate) the gradings are supplemented with other measures that can be objectively assessed by local authorities on a more regular basis, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to work within the parameters of the local authority's model of delivery; • Attending local provider network meetings or equivalent; • A commitment to ongoing constructive communication with the local authority, including compliance with local authority quality monitoring arrangements <p>Funded providers who drop below the required quality criteria will be given a fair 'service improvement period' in which to address this before their funded provider status is removed.</p>	<p>Ensuring Quality: The Council will continue to provide support and advice to Private and Voluntary Providers; the journey to 1140hours will include enhanced support, linked to the guiding principles of the National Standard, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Inspectorate gradings of Good or better on all four themes • Funded Providers business meetings planned for academic year, including enhanced level of meetings in lead up to 1140 hours, including guest speakers identified by partner providers, in line with your business plans and risks identified • Advice and support through Central Team, including Service Manager, Early Years and Early Years Support Officers; Educational Psychology, Quality Improvement Officer and Early Level Support Teachers. • Development and implementation of a Quality Standard Kite Mark for Early Years in EDC, in conjunction with private and voluntary providers • Creation and support of local networks for both private and third sector providers, enabling peer support and networking; including support from East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA).
<p>Staffing: All children will have access to staff with the right level of skills, within a setting with the right resource to support them with any additional support needs</p> <p><i>For providers this means: staff across all settings will receive the appropriate level of support to deliver a high quality ELC experience for children</i></p>	<p>Staffing: The Council will continue to invest in and provide opportunities for staff in private and voluntary centres including childminders to increase their knowledge and skills, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to a comprehensive calendar of high quality career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities, including literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, and outdoor learning • Invitation to participate in Early Years ASPIRE Leadership and Management course; followed by access to ASPIRE+ modules specifically around Wellbeing at Work; Mentally Healthy Workplace; Coaching; Discipline and Grievance; and Time Management. • The Scottish Government has an ongoing advertising campaign for both career change and career beginners in ELC. The Council is working with Scottish Government to bring a 'roadshow' to East Dunbartonshire and will welcome funded partner input in this.

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Accessibility

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<p>Settings: A choice of settings where parents/carers can access their child's funded ELC entitlement and choice in the pattern of how they access this provision</p> <p>Additional Support Needs: As the Funding Follows the Child approach offers more flexibility and increased choice for families, it is vital to ensure that provision remains accessible for all children. ELC provision must be delivered in a way that ensures equality of access for, and accounts for the varying needs of, all children. These needs can vary depending on a number of factors, including whether a child is disabled or has additional support needs (ASN); is from an ethnic minority background; where English is the Second or Other Language; where parents request ELC through the medium of Gaelic; or lives in a deprived area.</p>	<p>Delivery model: The Council intends to deliver extended day, extended year and blended model. Children will receive their funded place from the term following their third birthday, or second birthday if they are an eligible child. See recent newsletter for pilot phasing. <i>It is important to be clear that funding follows the child means that it is the families' choice where the child attends.</i> This is an important factor to consider in planning of capacity for both local authority and private and third sector funded providers. The local authority must ensure that there is sufficient capacity available to meet demand, however ultimately parents will decide which provision they want to use.</p> <p>Settings: Planning of local authority provision has been based on partner providers continuing to play a very important part in the delivery model. It is anticipated that partner providers will increase the number of hours provided and that partner capacity will increase. The Council is responsible for delivering the expansion so has to have plans in place to implement this. The planning projections include local authority centres and partner providers. The Council has identified a number of new build and extension projects in each locality to increase local authority capacity, and new build work has already completed in Bishopbriggs, namely the new builds in Auchinairn and Cleddens. The Council intends to establish three new build settings, one in Milngavie (approx. 88 places), one in Bearsden (approx. 88 places) and another in the Lenzie/Kirkintilloch area (approx. 96 places). The final capacity for these centres has still to be confirmed. In addition, the Council has identified projects to extend existing nurseries in line with the legislative requirement to be able to provide places as per parental demand. The Council is aware there will be a lag between the implementation of 1140 hours and full uptake. Therefore, while it is important that the Council has planned capacity to accommodate the future level of demand, capacity will increase in line with parental demand and uptake of places.</p> <p>Blended model: The Council welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with local Childminders to deliver the entitlement to 1140hours, and will base the local delivery model on the long-established, Daycare Childminding Service model that provides high quality, nurturing early learning and childcare. Pilots will inform the expansion of the blended model, informed by the uptake by and feedback from parents and carers. The Council will continue to provide advice and support to Childminders wishing to deliver the funded entitlement.</p> <p>The full details of the Delivery model have to be confirmed by Scottish Government but it is anticipated that some providers will not be able to offer the full 1140 hours. These providers could continue to provide a shorter session but would require to maintain the quality standard. Parents could then use their funding split across other provision including a childminder. There would require to be the sharing of information in relation to the child's development between the settings but this would be agreed with the parents.</p> <p>Support for children with additional support needs within a private and voluntary centre or a childminder would continue as currently with advice provided by the Early Level Support Teachers and by the Educational Psychological Service.</p>

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Business Stability

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<p>Settings delivering the funded entitlement must ensure that they are able to demonstrate – when required – that their business model continues to be financially viable through the provision of annually audited accounts and forward looking financial forecasts/budgets. A Business Continuity Plan must also be in place before payments of funds for ELC can be made;</p> <p>Childminders wishing to deliver the funded entitlement will be expected to have a contingency plan in place, detailing arrangement for the children in their care should they stop providing the services, e.g. if the service was temporarily unavailable due to illness or the service was closed permanently.</p>	<p>Business continuity is a very important part of ensuring a stable, high quality setting for children. East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA) can offer comprehensive support to the third sector in many areas of business planning. Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and other Childminding organisations can provide comprehensive advice and support in delivering the blended model and the Council will work closely with SCMA.</p>
<p>Sustainable funding rate: set at a local level for providers that reflects the cost of delivery in a setting and allows for delivery of national priorities including payment of the ‘real’ living wage to all childcare workers delivering the funded entitlement.</p> <p><i>Through the Service Models Working Group, and by working with providers, we will develop a set of principles, supported by guidance, to support local authorities and providers to establish affordable and sustainable rates for delivery of the funded hours. This will be published in Autumn 2018 as part of a suite of operating guidance and supporting material for providers and local authorities.</i></p>	<p>Sustainable funding rate: For 2019/20 the Council intends to set the rate at £5.31 per child, per funded hour. This is in advance of the requirement to deliver 1140 hours and will support centres to plan for the expansion. For 2020/21 and onwards, the Council will set a rate informed by the Scottish Government operating guidance. The rate is based on delivering the key characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports delivery of a high quality experience for all children regardless of setting; • Accurately reflects the cost of provision, and the delivery of national policy objectives, regardless of setting; • Generates investment in the setting – staff, resources and physical environment; and • Enables payment of the ‘real’ living wage for those delivering the funded entitlement
<p>Fair payment practices meaning receiving payments for delivering these hours from local authorities as early as is practically possible</p>	<p>The Council will work with providers to review the payment methodology.</p>

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Fair Work Practices

Scottish Government	East Dunbartonshire Council
Funded providers who agree to deliver the funded ELC entitlement will agree to pay the 'real' living wage to all childcare workers delivering the funded entitlement.	See 'sustainable funding rate' above

Payment Processes

Scottish Government	East Dunbartonshire Council
<p>Funding to deliver the funded ELC entitlement continues to be channelled through local authorities – it will not go directly to providers or to families</p> <p>Parents and carers can expect to access their child's statutory hours are free at the point of access: Settings delivering the funded entitlement must ensure that access to the statutory hours are free at the point of access to the child and no top-up fees are charged in relation to the statutory hours. The setting must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settings will not charge families in respect of the statutory funded hours, or require the parent/carer to pay in advance and receive a refund later.</i> • <i>Parents are not asked to make any upfront payment, or any other payment, in respect of the statutory hours, thus ensuring funded hours are free at the point of access</i> • <i>No top-up fees are charged to parents relating to the statutory hours</i> • <i>Additional charges to parents relating to the statutory yours should be limited to for example, snacks, costs of outings or extracurricular activities such as music classes.</i> <p>The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Early Learning and Childcare, Statutory Guidance states:</p> <p>"Under section 33(1) of the 2000 Act, the entitlement to mandatory early learning and childcare should be provided without the payment of fees, including where this is delivered through partner providers under a section 35 arrangement.</p>	<p>The Council will continue to process and allocate places and funding for ELC provision. The Council does not intend to 'cap' numbers of children accessing funded providers.</p> <p>It is a legislative requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 that entitled hours are free at the point of access.</p> <p>In order to support all funded providers to meet this criteria the Local Authority will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comply with the legislation which prevents local authorities from charging parents for pre-school education which they provide under the statutory duty</i> • <i>Extend this legal obligation to funded providers through partnership agreements, to ensure funded hours are free at the point of access to the child</i>

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Food

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<p>The sustainable rate for delivery of the funded hours, providers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide each child with a free meal during their sessions, as appropriate. This can be either breakfast, lunch or an early evening meal. This can either be prepared by the funded provider, delivered by the local authority or purchased by an external provider (directly by the funded provider) Provide each child with milk and/or a snack during their ELC session <p>All meals and snacks must meet the most up-to-date nutritional guidance provided for ELC (currently included in 'Setting the Table'.</p>	<p>The Council intends to set the rate for a meal at £3 per funded child per day.</p> <p>Funded providers are responsible for ensuring the most up-to-date nutritional guidance is met. Setting the Table http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/177298/nhs-setting-the-table.pdf provides all the information required by settings to make informed decisions on meals and snacks, in line with their delivery model.</p>

Other

Scottish Government	East Dunbartonshire Council
<p>Process for becoming a Funded Provider: Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring provision of ELC in their local area, including utilising services from private and third sector providers. Local Authorities in Scotland have a statutory duty to deliver all of their services, including ELC, under Best Value as set out by the Local Government Scotland Act 2003.</p> <p>There is a commitment to simplifying the process for, and reducing the burden on, providers who wish to deliver the funded entitlement and all providers who wish to deliver the funded entitlement and all providers will face the same National Standard for becoming, and continuing to be, a funded partner.</p>	<p>The Council is aware that the Scottish Government has commissioned Scotland Excel to review process of becoming a funded provider and make recommendations for the expansion. The Council intend to consider these recommendations and aim to simplify the process in line with national guidance. However, it will be important to ensure that the process is rigorous and adequately manages risk.</p>