

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2016

AMENDMENTS TO EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ENROLMENT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report sets out proposals to amend the current arrangements for application and enrolment in pre-school provision.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the revised start dates for pre-school provision as set out in Part 5 of this report.
- (ii) Approves the annual amendment of the dates in line with the school year.
- (iii) Agree that all two year olds, eligible under the current criteria, follow the revised start dates listed below.
- (iv) Agree that where a two year old is deemed vulnerable or is subject to a Child Protection measures, they will be admitted to settings as soon as their application is processed.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens
- Individuals and families are involved in decisions which affect them
- Individuals are involved in their communities

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to report number 7/15 that sets out the revised arrangements for admission to pre-school education provision. Evaluation of these procedures and evaluations on the access to placements has led to a review of the admission dates.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Angus Council currently offers four intakes per year to early learning and childcare provision for all three and four year olds. Eligible two year olds who are deemed vulnerable are admitted to settings as soon as their application is processed.

4.2 Angus Council will inform applicants of the success of the application within one month of the application deadline.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 In accordance with The Children and Young People's Act (Scotland) 2014 all children are eligible to start nursery in the term after their third birthday. In order to best meet this criteria, it is proposed that the admission dates can be altered annually to ensure children born on or before the first day of each school term are enrolled to start within that term.
- 5.2 In practice all children who are born on or before the first school day of a term will be eligible to start nursery on the first day of term. Admission dates will align with the start of each term. The exception to this will be the intake for August 2016 where the criterion for eligibility is already in the public domain.

Application and admission dates for an Early Learning and Childcare Places

Children born between	Date child is eligible to start nursery	Deadline date for application	Date parents will be notified of their place	Date parents are required to accept place by
1 April 2013 and 31 August 2013	16 August 2016	22 April 2016	27 May 2016	10 June 2016
1 September 2013 and 17 October 2013	17 October 2016	26 August 2016	16 September 2016	30 September 2016
18 October 2013 and 5 January 2014	5 January 2017	28 October 2016	18 November 2016	2 December 2016
6 January 2014 and 18 April 2014	18 April 2017	27 January 2017	24 February 2017	10 March 2017
18 April 2014 and 16 August 2014	16 August 2017	21 April 2017	26 May 2017	9 June 2017

These dates are subject to change on an annual basis in line with school term dates. Where a parent misses the deadline date their application will be held over till the next admission date.

5.3 Eligible two year olds

In order to ensure continuity, 2 year olds in a funded place will be eligible to the ongoing funding for their place from the date of their 3rd birthday.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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