

**ANGUS COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2017**

THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to Angus Council's response to Scottish Government commitment to the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours by 2020.

1. BACKGROUND

The Scottish Government commissioned Blueprint for Expansion to 1140 hours Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). The purpose of this Blueprint is to improve opportunities for our youngest citizens and close the attainment gap by almost doubling ELC from the current 600 hours. The Blueprint details the baseline information, future models of provision and the delivery plan to ensure there is sufficient capacity within Angus to offer 1140 hours.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION - SCHEDULES

There are two schedules, Report no 200/16, Future Early Learning and Childcare Provision, 17 May 2016 and Report No 188/17 Early Years Strategy 2017 - 2020 13 June 2017 contain key background information related to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate. These can be accessed via the council's internet page.

A delivery plan for Angus is in development and will be submitted to Scottish Government by 29 September 2017. This delivery plan details revenue and capital costs for the planned expansion and contains a clear message that any expansion is subject to adequate government funding. It should be noted that any shortfall in funding will put at risk Angus Council's ability to deliver 1140 hours of funded provision to all eligible two, three and four year olds.

In recognition of the need to deliver an efficient, high quality service, the plan ensures that best use is made of existing assets by:

- making best use of our existing estate
- making best use of what we purchase through partnership working
- creating or building additional capacity including the use of outdoor space where demand exceeds capacity

All developments will be subject to the recommendations of the School Investment Strategy.

Regular reports and information schedules will be submitted to the Children and Learning Committee at key stages of the process of implementation.

The links below relate to the Early Learning and Childcare expansion associated with the relevant schedules previously detailed:

- A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland, A Scottish Government Consultation
https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/creating-positive-futures/expansion-of-early-learning-and-childcare/supporting_documents/451371_Blueprint%202020.pdf

- A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland, ELC Expansion Planning Guidance for Local Authorities
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00515607.pdf>

3. REPORT AUTHOR

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