

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2019

EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME UPDATE

REPORT BY PAULINE STEPHEN, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report provides Committee with an update on progress in the expansion of early learning and childcare (ELC) provision in Angus, from 600 hours to 1140 hours per annum by August 2020.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the current position with regards to progress on the Angus implementation of the national expansion of ELC by August 2020;
- (ii) Notes that further updates, including the results of the grant application scheme and a further annual update, will be the subject of future reports to the Committee.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

The best start in life for children
Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
More opportunities for people to achieve success

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reference is made to Committee Report No 128/18, approved by the Children and Learning Committee on 19 April 2018, which provided committee with details of local plans to implement the Scottish Government's commitment to expand the provision of ELC to 1140 hours per child per year by August 2020.
- 3.2 Reference is made to Committee Report No 335/18, approved by the Children and Learning Committee on 6 November 2018, regarding the opening of a grant application scheme for partner providers of ELC in Angus.
- 3.3 Reference is made to Committee Report No 37/19, approved by the Children and Learning Committee on 29 January 2019, regarding the proposed new admissions criteria and application process for funded ELC places.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The expansion programme is divided into three main workstreams:

Workstream 1 – Capital Expansion

- 4.1.1 The construction of a new, 205-capacity early learning and childcare centre (ELCC) is progressing at Pitskelly Park, Carnoustie. Approval will be sought to award the contract for this construction prior to the summer recess of 2019, with construction scheduled to commence in August 2019 and end in February 2020.
- 4.1.2 A 155-capacity ELCC is also progressing in Forfar, at the former Forfar Academy site on Taylor Street. A design for this building has been provisionally agreed and public consultation

is expected to commence in April 2019. Subject to a planning application and a successful tender, construction is scheduled to commence in December 2019 and end in June 2020.

- 4.1.3 The programme also undertakes to extend or refurbish a total of 18 primary school nurseries. This number has been reduced from the original 22 nurseries as plans are continually reviewed to ensure the most efficient use of the Angus allocation of the Scottish Government grant. Two projects have already been completed in 'phase one' of the capital expansion (Monikie and Southmuir), with a further nine projects progressing to procurement and construction throughout 2019 (Lochside, Southesk, Inverbrothock, Mattocks, Auchterhouse, Northmuir, Inverkeilor, Friockheim and Edzell). The seven remaining projects which constitute 'phase two' of the capital expansion (Rosemount, Birkhill, Andover, Tannadice, Letham, Newtyle and St Margaret's) will progress to design, full costing and procurement later in 2019, for construction in 2020.

Workstream 2 – Workforce Expansion & Development

- 4.1.4 A total of 46 council staff are currently involved in one of three bespoke education and training programmes, with the aim of achieving the appropriate qualification and experience to be able to apply for new posts in 2020. A variety of options for obtaining qualifications has been developed with Dundee and Angus College. Staff will complete the programmes in April 2020 and will thereafter be eligible to apply for recruitment into posts created by the expansion.
- 4.1.5 A number of engagement events have been held with existing early learning and childcare staff across Angus, with proposals being refined on an ongoing basis prior to the finalisation of the workforce plan for August 2020. A formal consultation process will commence in August 2019, prior to any necessary changes to staff terms and conditions. Trade unions are fully involved in the development of this project.
- 4.1.6 A review of the central early years team has taken place, aimed at ensuring the council is equipped to support and ensure quality within the expanded ELC workforce from August 2020. The new structure will be in place by 1 August 2019. Thereafter, a year-long implementation period will take place which will include the refining of proposals for managing quality across all local authority and partner settings, in collaboration with partner providers.

Workstream 3 – Childminder Market Development

- 4.1.7 Successful engagement has taken place with childminders across Angus throughout 2018 and early 2019, with a view to developing processes and relationships. An interim process has been launched in April 2019 whereby parents of eligible two year olds can access up to an additional 540 hours of funded ELC with a childminder of their choosing, subject to an assessment of the childminder's quality and practice by the council.
- 4.1.8 31 childminders have registered their interest in completing the SVQ Level 3 Social Services (Children & Young People). These qualifications will be funded by the council as a means to developing quality in the childminding market prior to their full integration into new delivery models from August 2020.

Additional Projects

- 4.1.9 A grant application scheme opened in November 2018 and closed on 29 March 2019. The scheme aims to support the council's partner providers to develop their own expansion plans, in the form of capital grants. A total of 13 applications were received and an awards panel is to convene on 25 April to award the grants. The results of the scheme will be the subject of a future report to Committee.
- 4.1.10 The new online application for ELC placements was launched on 2 April 2019.
- 4.1.11 Regular engagement with partner providers is taking place, including detailed discussions about proposed delivery models from August 2020. These discussions are important in supporting the council to finalise its own workforce plan, ensuring that a sufficient variety of provision is available in each Angus locality. The programme has received very positive feedback at local and national level for its approach to working in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors.

4.1.12 A major procurement is proposed, with the aim of bringing all funded ELC into one comprehensive framework agreement by August 2020, including private and voluntary providers and childminders. All partner providers, and prospective providers, will be involved in the development of the new model. Collaborative development of sustainable rates and quality assurance mechanisms will be at the centre of this project. Detailed proposals will be the subject of a future procurement authority report to Committee.

5. PROPOSALS

There are no additional proposals.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The multi-year funding package allocated to Angus includes funding for all of the capital and revenue costs of the expansion, therefore there is no expected impact on council budgets.

6.2 An update on financial activity within the programme in financial year 2018/19 is attached as Appendix 1 and 2.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Victoria Smith, Service Leader, Schools and Learning

EMAIL DETAILS: people@angus.gov.uk

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – EYEP Financial Position April 2019 – Revenue

Appendix 2 – EYEP Financial Position April 2019 - Capital

Early Years Expansion Programme
Revenue Expenditure

Full Early Years Expenditure		
Revenue	2017/18	2018/19
Funding:-	£	£
Scottish Government	450,000	1,325,000
Angus Council	6,381,000	6,163,000
Total Funding	6,831,000	7,488,000
Projected Costs:-		
On-going	6,741,000	7,484,000
Total Costs	6,741,000	7,484,000
Variance	90,000	4,000

Expansion Funding only		
Revenue	2017/18	2018/19
Funding:-	£	£
Scottish Government	450,000	1,325,000
Carry Forward from 17/18	0	450,000
Angus Council	0	0
Total Funding	450,000	1,775,000
Actual / Projected Costs:-		
One-off CFCR	-	800,000
On-going:-		
Employee costs	-	500,000
Snack provision	-	60,000
Total Costs	-	1,360,000
Variance	450,000	415,000
		Carry forward to 19/20

Capital Expenditure

Expansion Funding					
Capital	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Funding:-	£	£	£	£	£
Scottish Government (£)	640,000	2,700,000	3,200,000	2,200,000	8,740,000

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Actual Expenditure (£)	280,000	157,000	-	-	437,000
Projected Expenditure (£)	280,000	395,000	6,815,000	2,200,000	9,690,000
Transfer from Revenue (£)	(150,000)	(800,000)	-	-	(950,000)
Total Expenditure (£)	130,000	(405,000)	6,815,000	2,200,000	8,740,000
Total Funding (£)	640,000	3,210,000	6,815,000	2,200,000	8,740,000
Funding carried forward (£)	510,000	3,615,000	0	0	0

Projects Summary	Updated Estimate Cost
Phase 1 – Large Projects	£
Carnoustie Early Learning Centre	3,500,000
Forfar Early Learning Centre	2,500,000
Lochside PS – Extension for School and Playgroup	400,000
Northmuir PS - Extension	240,000
Southesk PS – Refurbishment of Existing Space	216,000
Phase 2 – Large Projects	
Birkhill PS - Extension	540,000
Letham PS - Extension	300,000
Grant Scheme	500,000
Minor Works	1,494,000
Projected Spend (includes Revenue transfers)	9,690,000