

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 5 November 2019

## The National Early Learning and Childcare Partnership Summit 2019

**1 BACKGROUND**

Providers from all parts of the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) sector are vital in the delivery of the expanded funded entitlement of up to 1140 hrs of ELC by August 2020. At this time, Funding Follows the Child will place choice in parents' and carers' hands allowing them to access their child's funded entitlement from any setting in the public, private or third sector, who meets the National Standard, has a place available and is willing to enter into a contract with their local authority. To aid effective partnership working across Scotland, an ELC Partnership Forum was established in November 2018 to provide an environment where concerns could be aired and the sharing of good practice in this area could be facilitated.

The Scottish Government's [ELC Providers: Delivery Support Plan](#), published in December 2018, highlighted that to build on the work of the ELC Partnership Forum the Scottish Government would work with COSLA to host a Partnership Summit. Accordingly, this summit was held on 12 September 2019 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

**2 CURRENT POSITION**

The focus of the Summit was to bring together local authorities and providers in order to showcase good practice in partnership working, the implementation of the 'provider neutral' Funding Follows the Child approach, and reinforce the focus on high quality, which is central to the ELC expansion and Funding Follows the Child. Angus Council Early Years team were asked to participate in the delivery of the day and deliver a seminar sharing the approaches to partnership working within Angus.

The audience for the summit comprised of local authorities, funded providers, representative bodies including Early Years Scotland, National Day Nurseries Association and Scottish Childminding Association, Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Scotland Excel, COSLA and Scottish Government.

The Service Leader (Early Years and Early Intervention), an Early Years Manager and the Manager of private nursery that is currently in partnership with Angus Council were delighted to co-present an input to delegates on the partnership Support for quality ELC provision offered within Angus.

Angus Council's partnership support package for cross sector provision in Early Years was explored. Delegates were informed of the support package offered to all providers which is tailored to the individual needs of the setting and situation. They were informed of the networks that have been established to ensure collegiate learning and continuous development and improvement. For the 1140 expansion, attendees were also informed of the various grants that have been made available to providers to reinforce the sustainability and growth of private and voluntary settings, ensuring opportunities for parental choice across sector provision within Angus.

The input was received very warmly and feedback, from delegates on the day and on social media following the seminar, has commended the approach taken by Angus Council and our continuous commitment to genuine and meaningful partnership working.

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