

ELC Expansion Programme Update (March 2019)

1. PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE

Head of Delivery Assurance

Simon Mair will take up post as Head of Delivery Assurance for the ELC Programme on Tuesday 16 April and we will confirm contact details for Simon in the next Programme Update. Simon is currently School Improvement and Planning Manager at East Dunbartonshire Council. In his new role, Simon will work in partnership with local authorities to provide assurance to the Joint Delivery Board on progress towards delivering the expanded entitlement across Scotland from August 2020.

Joint Delivery Board

The Joint Delivery Board for the expansion is due to meet again on 25 June at the new Wallyford Primary School when they will consider updated local authority progress data and discuss the Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare (SSELC). More information on the Board can be viewed at <https://www.gov.scot/groups/early-learning-and-childcare-joint-delivery-board/>.

*Contacts: JDB secretariat: **Sarah Duncan** sarah.duncan@gov.scot*

Progress Reporting

The Improvement Service will be in contact with councils before the end of April with further information regarding the next data collection. Local authorities will have around six weeks to return completed templates.

*Contact: **Heather Adams** 07827 230905 / ELC@improvementservice.org.uk*

Consultation: Children's Services Planning: Provision of Statutory Guidance

The Scottish Government is holding a formal consultation on the continued effectiveness of statutory guidance provided to Community Planning Partnerships in support of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The consultation will run from 25 March to 17 June 2019 and can be accessed on the Scottish Government website, at Citizen Space and via this link - <https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/review-statutory-guidance-part-3/>

*Contact: **Rab Mackay** 01312448055/ C&F.StrategicEngagement@gov.scot*

2. SERVICE MODELS

Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for Funded Providers

[Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for early learning and childcare providers: Principles and practice](#) was published on 18 December, a joint Scottish Government and COSLA publication. We have also published supporting [Operating Guidance](#) and a [Question and Answer](#) document to further support the sector.

We are currently arranging for every ELC setting in Scotland to receive a copy of both the Principles and Practice document and the Operating Guidance. This includes local authority, private and third sector settings. We are working with the Scottish Childminding Association to enable childminder access to these resources. .

In addition, following the events the team held in February, we have prepared the following supporting materials to support implementation of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard:

- Summary of Events, including a summary of discussions, key themes and clarification and a draft proposal for supporting materials;
- Flowcharts explaining the supportive processes in place to ensure settings meet the National Standard; and,
- Legislation, Policy and Guidance Overview, which explains how the National Standard criteria relate to existing resources and the types of evidence that could be used.

Once finalised, these will be made available on the Knowledge Hub and will be sent to all attendees of the events as well as national organisations and local authority colleagues.

In response to further feedback from the events, we have committed to facilitate discussions about admissions policies and cross boundary arrangements to support Funding Follows the Child. More information about these discussions will follow.

We have set up a central enquiry email address at fundingfollowsthechild@gov.scot. We would ask that any enquiries about Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard are directed to this email address. Should you require further support or would like us to visit groups of professionals in a more tailored event, please register your interest by emailing the same address and we will do our best to support this request

Contact: **Laura Hill** 07824 607496 / fundingfollowsthechild@gov.scot

Update on Scotland Excel guidance from Scottish Government and COSLA

Scotland Excel have been developing a suite of guidance notes to support the implementation of Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard:

- Guidance on assessing the Business Sustainability criteria in the National Standard
- Guidance on setting sustainable rates for funded providers for 2020-21 and beyond; and
- Guidance on commissioning ELC services that meet the National Standard (the 'Transition Options' guidance)

Good progress is being made with the guidance, and we are grateful to everyone who has been involved through the consultation, focus groups and drafting stages.

We had originally intended to publish the guidance package at the end of March. However, in order that COSLA Leaders have the opportunity to approve the package at their next meeting in April 2019, the publication date is now expected to be Friday 26 April 2019.

We are aware that this timetable change may be frustrating but given this guidance will have important implications for local authorities as well as private and third sector providers, including childminders, as they develop their plans to meet our shared commitment to delivering 1140 hours in August 2020, it is essential local Elected Members are properly sighted on the guidance before it is published.

We have sent an email notifying Directors of Education of the changes to the timelines for publication and have also shared this information on the Knowledge Hub. We would encourage recipients of the Programme Update to share this message with other interested parties.

Contact: **Laura Hill** 07824 607496 / fundingfollowsthechild@gov.scot

Delivery support package for funded providers

We published the [ELC providers: delivery support plan](#) on 19 December, which includes actions to: support the financial sustainability of providers; strengthen partnership working; support workforce recruitment and training; and improve communications with parents and carers. These are intended to complement actions being undertaken by local authorities to support providers.

We intend for this to be a live document, which will be updated as more support becomes available.

Contact: **Lawrie Anderson** 0131 244 5138 / lawrie.anderson@gov.scot

Support for funded providers

In November 2018 we wrote to local authorities to encourage them to use their share of the £6 million balance of revenue funding to provide immediate support to funded providers. The letter highlighted that this support was to be provided in 2018-19 and that authorities may wish to use this funding to provide training or business support, or to offer grants to providers and that they should consider consulting with providers on the use of the funding.

As set out in the letter we will request an update from local authorities at the end of the financial year on the actions that they have taken to support providers, including information on the hourly rates being offered. We expect to issue this request to local authorities in early April following consideration by the ELC Finance Working Group, and we will publish an update once the information is available.

Contact: **Kirsten Maguire** 0131 244 3115 / kirsten.maguire@gov.scot

ELC Partnership Forum

In order to support and promote genuine partnership between providers and local authorities, the Scottish Government and COSLA have established the ELC Partnership Forum.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Tuesday 23 April in Glasgow, with the Minister for Children and Young People and COSLA Spokesperson on Children and Young People in attendance. This meeting will mark six months since the Forum was established and will offer the opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far.

Any provider can apply to join the membership pool (via the email address below). Attendee numbers for each Forum are limited in order to enable small group discussions. Meetings are taken around the country using Regional Improvement Collaborative areas as a guiding principle and to help maximise local representation, wherever possible. The Forum's membership pool is steadily increasing with 145 members now having joined.

We are planning to facilitate a significant Forum event in the summer to involve all members of the pool, all local authorities and national organisations. More information about this will follow.

All information and supporting arrangements for the Forum's activities are available on the [Knowledge Hub](#). A guide to accessing the Knowledge Hub can be provided on request (again, via the email address below).

Contact: ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot

Childminding Summit

We hosted a childminding summit with the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) on 27 March in Stirling, where we explored the role childminding can play in the expansion of funded ELC. We were delighted to have representatives from 31 local authorities in attendance, along with colleagues from the SCMA, CALA and the Care Inspectorate. We are particularly grateful to all those who shared their own case studies and ran workshops, and to local authority colleagues for travelling across Scotland to take part.

The day emphasised that #childmindingmatters. We enjoyed a fantastic video of childminder-led outdoor learning in the Highlands; learned how East Ayrshire Council are supporting parents and childminders to build lasting partnerships; and heard about the community childminding journey in Glasgow City Council. During the workshop sessions colleagues explored different options for commissioning child-minding services; understanding quality in a childminding context; childminding and the 2 year old offer; and helping parents and carers make informed choices including childminding. The summit also offered a fitting opportunity for us all to thank Maggie Simpson for her invaluable contribution ahead of her very well-deserved retirement.

Resources from the summit will be available soon on the Knowledge Hub.

Contact: **Kyleen Codona** 0131 244 9814 / Kyleen.Codona@gov.scot

3. UPTAKE, ELIGIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Parental communication

Work continues on the dedicated ELC section within Parent Club website to help parents make informed choices. The first updates to the site are now live at <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/how-etc-gives-your-kids-extra-tlc>.

Work also continues with local authorities and partner organisations to consult with parents and test our parental engagement strategy, particularly around messages, mediums and timings. We will be sharing useful documents and messages on Knowledge Hub.

Leaflets for the next phase of the BookBug bags are now complete and will be distributed from this summer onwards. These leaflets provide more detailed information about the 1140 hours entitlement, while making clear the distinction between the current 'phasing' period and the full roll out from August 2020. They will direct parents to their local authority or the Parent Club website for more detailed information.

Our current focus is on developing a 'toolkit' for local authorities, providers and stakeholders to have access to resources and messages that they can share locally. If there are key documents that you would like to see on the Toolkit – please contact Laura or join in the conversation on Knowledge Hub.

We know that parents prefer to hear directly from other parents, so we are always on the lookout for case studies. Please contact Laura if you have anyone in mind.

Contact: **Laura Tooley** 0131 244 0743 / laura.tooley@gov.scot

Duty to consult parents

Some local authority colleagues have sought clarity about the status of the statutory duty to consult parents on the provision of Early Learning and Childcare every two years during the transition to 2020, and to publish plans in response to these consultations. The statutory duty remains in place. Effective local communication and consultation with parents are key to the transition to 1140 hours, and provide important evidence to inform local Equality Impact Assessments and Fairer Scotland Assessments

Local authorities may discharge this duty differently during the transition depending on their approach to phasing – for example they may undertake more focused surveys with parents of children receiving 1140 hours to monitor impact and effectiveness of the offer; while working differently with parents who are not yet part of phasing (or those who are not currently using funded ELC) to prepare for August 2020. However it is important that the core principle of engaging and involving parents in service design and delivery continues to be met.

If you are carrying out your consultation at the moment, we'd be keen to hear about your experience.

Contact: **Katherine Tierney** 0131 244 0789 / Katherine.tierney@gov.scot

Impact Assessments

Work is ongoing on our impact assessments for the expansion programme. If you would like to discuss our Equality Impact Assessment, Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment, or Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment, please contact Fran.

We are running a workshop for our Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment on 24 April to further explore how the ELC expansion programme can meet this duty and how we can further support local authorities in meeting it also. There is a Knowledge Hub group for those public bodies who are subject to the Fairer Scotland Duty to come together and discuss how they are implementing it (<https://khub.net/group/fairer-scotland-duty>)

Contact: **Fran Iwanyckyj** 0131 244 7481 / Francesca.Iwanyckyj@gov.scot

4. QUALITY

National Induction Resource

We're adding the finishing touches to the national induction resource and hoping to publicise to the sector soon, via a flyer to all ELC settings. We hope to have a live link to share in next month's up-date.

Contact: **Luke McPherson** 0131 244 3840 / Luke.McPherson@gov.scot

National Directory of Continued Professional Learning (CPL)

The National Directory of CPL (action 5 from the [Quality Action Plan](#)) is now live on the Care inspectorate Hub.

<https://hub.careinspectorate.com/resources/directory-of-continuous-professional-learning-for-early-learning-and-childcare/>

The directory is searchable by local authority area and theme and will help ELC staff to identify relevant opportunities and to plan their professional learning.

Contact: **Luke McPherson** 0131 244 3840 / Luke.McPherson@gov.scot

Refresh of Building the Ambition

Liz Paterson and Marion Burns, Associate Assessors with Education Scotland, have started the refresh of the national practice guidance 'Building the Ambition' (action 9 from the Quality Action Plan). They have met with representatives of almost all of the Regional Improvement Collaboratives to outline how they plan to enhance the resource. A key change will be to draw in relevant material from 'Pre-Birth to Three' to extend the focus to younger children and to include a stronger focus on supporting children experiencing disadvantage (to, amongst other things, reflect the needs of eligible two year olds).

The intention is to develop the new content in parallel with the development of the modules in the new national online programme of CPL (action 9 from the Quality Action Plan) and to launch the new resource in the Autumn.

Contact: **Liz Levy** 0131 244 2652 / liz.levy@gov.scot

ELC content on the National Improvement Hub

Education Scotland have now built a new dedicated 'landing page' for the ELC sector on the National Improvement Hub, completing action 14 from the Quality Action Plan. They have also (and will continue to) strengthen content to ensure it provides a more accessible summary of key information, policy, resources, and exemplification relating to early learning and childcare.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/a-summary-of-elc-resources>

Contact: **Liz Levy** 0131 244 2652 / liz.levy@gov.scot

Out to Play; practical guidance for creating outdoor play experiences in early learning and childcare

The Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd, launched Out to Play, a how to guide for ELC practitioners on setting up an outdoor nursery or accessing local greenspace, at Dingwall Primary School nursery on 25 March. We will post a hard copy of Out to Play to all registered early learning and childcare settings and all out of school care settings over the coming weeks. The guidance will also include some tree seeds for planting.

Contact: **Kate Smith** 0131 244 2924 / kate.smith@gov.scot

5. 2 YEAR OLD OFFER

Early Learning and Childcare: national evaluation and policy - Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare Feedback Event and Policy in to Practice: 'Maximising the Offer to Eligible 2s

Thank you to all those who attended the event on Wednesday 20 March. Following presentations from ScotCen on the evaluation initial findings; Pauline Barbour of The Avenue Childcare Services in Kilmarnock and Carol McGregor from East Ayrshire Council, group discussions highlighted good practice and identified areas where further information or guidance would be helpful at a local and national level.

The national project team will build outcomes from these discussions as we develop further opportunities for sharing learning from the project.

Amendments to Eligibility Criteria for the 2 year old entitlement

As mentioned in previous updates (August and September 2018), we are aware there is a current issue with the eligibility criteria linked to receipt of Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit and an income of £6,420 or less. This is due to an increase in the National Living Wage which now means any parent (age 25 or more) receiving Working Tax Credits cannot earn less than £6,841 per year. A letter was sent to local authorities in August 2018 to ask they use their discretion available to them to ensure 2 year olds we would otherwise expect to be entitled continue to be able to access a place.

We are now in the process of drafting an amendment to legislation to increase the income threshold. Our intention with this is to target a similar profile of families up to 2020 as are currently eligible. We would also like to provide consistency as more areas transition to Universal Credit by using the same threshold as for those families in receipt of Universal Credit – of £7,320 per year.

If you would like to provide feedback on this, please let us know **by Friday 12 April**.

Contact: 2 year old offer: **Kerrie Harkness** Kerrie.Harkness@gov.scot

6. WORKFORCE

Recruitment Marketing Campaign

Our recruitment campaign has two main audiences: school leavers and parents/career changers. The key activity for the school leavers audience at the moment, is the roadshow which is visiting schools across the country and engaging with pupils to provide a better understanding of what a career in ELC involves, as well as signposting to training and job opportunities. By the end of March, the school leavers roadshow will have visited every local authority area at least once.

We continue to refine the career changers roadshows (visiting high footfall areas across the country) in line with the feedback we receive and the questions potential recruits are asking. We are grateful for the support of partners at roadshows.

We are always looking for ambassadors from within the sector to help paint a picture of what a career in ELC can offer and to provide real life experiences for potential recruits. If you are able to assist with ambassadors for the roadshow, even if that's for a few hours in a particular day, please contact Nicola Clark-Tonberg at Nicola.Clark-Tonberg@gov.scot or 0131 244 6530.

We have confirmed further dates for the career changers roadshow. These are:

Location	Date	Day	Live times
Asda Renfrewshire (Linwood)	28 March	Thursday	10am - 6pm
Intu Braehead	29 March	Friday	10am - 9pm
Intu Braehead	30 March	Saturday	9am - 6.30pm
Intu Braehead	31 March	Sunday	10am - 6pm
Asda Edinburgh (Leith)	3 April	Wednesday	10am - 6pm
Asda Edinburgh (Jewel)	4 April	Thursday	10am - 6pm
The Gyle	5 April	Friday	9.30am - 8pm
The Gyle	6 April	Saturday	9am - 6pm
The Gyle	7 April	Sunday	10am - 6pm
Asda Aberdeen (Bridge of Dee)	11 April	Thursday	10am - 6pm
Union Square	12 April	Friday	9am - 8pm
Union Square	13 April	Saturday	9am - 7pm
Union Square	14 April	Sunday	11am - 6pm
Asda Midlothian (Straiton)	18 April	Thursday	10am - 6pm
Asda Midlothian (Chesser)	19 April	Friday	10am - 6pm
Asda Glasgow (Parkhead)	26 April	Friday	10am - 6pm
Buchanan Galleries	27 April	Saturday	9pm - 7pm
Buchanan Galleries	28 April	Sunday	10am - 6pm
Glasgow Central	29 April	Monday	7am - 7pm
Glasgow Central	30 April	Tuesday	7am - 7pm

The campaign website contains resources which can be used for local recruitment activity. We'd encourage everyone to make use of these resources to ensure a consistent approach across the country. We are very happy to discuss how we can further support local recruitment/marketing efforts. Campaign resources can be found at: <https://childcarecareersscotland.scot/resources/>

Contact: **Scott Sutherland** 0131 244 9890 / scott.sutherland@gov.scot

MyJobScotland website

Scottish Government have agreed with COSLA, that they will open up the myjobscotland recruitment site for private and third sector ELC providers registered with the Care Inspectorate to post jobs on free of charge, to support providers with their recruitment needs in the period leading up to 2020. This service went live on 19 March 2019.

Anyone wishing to advertise vacancies should visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/recruiter

Contact: **Kathryn Chisholm** 0131 244 0274/ kathryn.chisholm@gov.scot

7. EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

Transformation of the ELC Census

The high level requirements for the new ELC management information system are almost finalised ahead of procurement of the developer for this work. SEEMiS are managing this project but the technical work is going to be contracted out.

Due to these system changes, it has been decided that the data trials that were planned for 2019 will not be held. Local authorities have been made aware.

Contacts: **Keira Gore** 0131 244 1690 / keira.gore@gov.scot

ELC Programme

Date Published	Document Link
23/03/2017	A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland - 2017–18 Action Plan
23/03/2017	A Blueprint for 2020: Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Planning Guidance for Local Authorities
23/03/2017	A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland – Next Steps - Analysis Report
15/10/2016	A Blueprint for 2020: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare Consultation

Learning, Attainment and Wellbeing

Date Published	Document Link
22/12/2017	Daily Mile Guidance
31/10/2017	A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland: Quality Action Plan
	Additional Graduate Commitment

Out of School Care / Outdoor Learning

Date Published	Document Link
21/12/2018	Out to Play; practical guidance for creating outdoor play experiences in early learning and childcare

Service Models

Date Published	Document Link
19/12/2018	ELC providers: delivery support plan
18/12/2018	Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for early learning and childcare providers: Principles and practice
18/12/2018	Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: operating guidance
18/12/2018	Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare providers: guidance for local authorities
31/10/2018	Early learning and childcare service model for 2020: consultation analysis
29/03/2018	Early Learning and Childcare Service Model for 2020: Consultation Paper

Trials

Date Published	Document Link
22/05/2018	Early Learning and Childcare Expansion delivery trials: evaluation

Workforce

Date Published	Document Link
03/2017	The Skills Investment Plan Prospectus

2 Year Old Offer

Date Published	Document Link
07/03/2017	Drivers and Barriers to uptake of Early Learning and Childcare amongst 2 year olds

Evaluation and Data Transformation Project

Date Published	Document Link
29/06/2013	Early childhood education and care provision: international review of policy, delivery and funding
23/03/2016	Early Learning and Childcare Data Consultation Findings
15/06/2016	Early learning and childcare trials discussion paper: analysis of responses
27/09/2016	Financial review of early learning and childcare in Scotland: the current landscape
27/09/2016	Cost of early learning and childcare provision in partner provider settings
07/03/2017	Drivers and barriers to uptake of Early Learning and Childcare amongst 2 year olds
19/06/2017	Evaluability assessment of the expansion of early learning and childcare (NHS Health Scotland)
19/06/2017	Provision of early learning and childcare and parents outcomes - an evidence brief (NHS Health Scotland)
03/08/2017	Recommendations for Early Learning and Childcare Data report
28/09/2017	Early Learning and Childcare Data Transformation Project - May 2017 Data Trial
31/10/2017	Rapid evidence review: childcare quality and children's outcomes
22/12/2017	Changes in early learning and childcare use and outcomes at age 5: compared two Growing up in Scotland cohorts
22/12/2017	The expansion of Early Learning and Childcare: evaluation report 2017
22/05/2018	Evaluation of the Early Learning and Childcare delivery trials
07/08/2018	Parents' views and use of early learning and childcare: report
27/11/2018	Early Learning and Childcare Data Transformation Project - June 2018 Data Trial

Infrastructure

Date Published	Document Link
30/06/2017	Space to Grow design guidance

Related SG Policies

Date Published	Document Link
04/09/2018	Programme for Government 2018
06/06/2018	Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Act 2017 – Guidance
29/03/2018	Every Child, Every Chance: The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22
16/11/2017	Education Governance Review
22/08/2017	Report of the Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates
	Pupil Equity Fund