

From: viewpark.nursery@tesco.net
Sent: 11 October 2017 09:21
To: First Minister
Subject: childcare funding in Scotland

Dear Ms Sturgeon

Please find an email sent to Our MSP and Local Councillor's

As you may already know, Partner nurseries with NLC have been invited to apply to tender for 3-5 yr old funded places to cover 2018-20.

We need to complete this process by 27th October and I am looking for your support in the following

1. An urgent agreement from NLC to 'halt' the tender process, until they have engaged in a process of discussion and negotiation. (Our existing tender is in place till June 2018 so there is no need for NLC to rush us)
2. An increase in the current hourly rate being offered.
3. A response from NLC on how much they are providing their own nursery centres per child per hour when we are only being offered ?3.55 per hour 2018/19 and ?3.65 2019/20 .

I would also urge you to come along to our next meeting of NLC NDNA partner providers which will be held on Thursday 19th October at 9.30am, Maxim Office Park in Maxim office Park (Maxim Marketing suite, 1st Floor Maxim 3). Your support in this matter and attendance at this meeting would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]
Owner /Principal

Annex B - 2017/0037643

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:05:37 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: North Lanarkshire Funding for Private Nurseries

Dear Nicola,

As you may be aware Private Nurseries within the North Lanarkshire area (NLC) have been invited to tender for three to five year old child funded places from 2018 until 2020. This invitation was issued by NLC on Thursday October 5th 2017.

Private Nurseries have been asked to complete the tender documentation by 27th October 2017. I respectfully ask for your support with the following:

1 An agreement from NLC to pause the tender process until they have engaged in a course of discussion and negotiation with Private Nursery Providers. The existing tender is in place until June 2018 therefore there is no requirement or reason for NLC to pursue this matter in the required timescale

2 NLC to make Private Nursery owners aware of the amount per child per hour they reimburse NLC Nursery centres. Private nurseries are being offered £3.55 per hour 2018/2019 and £3.65 per hour 2019/2020.

3 An increase in the current hourly rate being offered to Private Partner Nurseries must be addressed.

I would appreciate if you could find the time to attend the next meeting of NLC National Day Nursery Association Partner Providers which will be held on Thursday 19th October at 9:30am at Maxim Marketing Suite, located on 1stFloor of Maxim 3, Eurocentral

Your assistance and support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Managing Director/Owner
Tiny Tots Academy Ltd
94 South Biggar Road
Airdrie

Annex C - 2017/0039687

From: noreply@parliament.scot [mailto:noreply@parliament.scot]
Sent: 11 October 2017 12:27
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website

name:

[REDACTED]

address:

[REDACTED]

email:

lochview.nursery@sky.com

telephone:

[REDACTED]

message:

Dear MSP/Councillor,

As you may already know, Partner nurseries with NLC have been invited to apply to tender for 3-5 yr old funded places to cover 2018-20.

We need to complete this process by 27th October and I am looking for your support in the following

1. An urgent agreement from NLC to ?halt? the tender process, until they have engaged in a process of discussion and negotiation. (Our existing tender is in place till June 2018 so there is no need for NLC to rush us)
2. An increase in the current hourly rate being offered as moving forward to the 1140 hours would put immense financial pressure on all partner nurseries.
3. A response from NLC on how much they are providing their own nursery centres per child per hour when we are only being offered ?3.55 per hour 2018/19 and ?3.65 2019/20 . Why should there be a difference in costs per child whether they are at a council or partnership nursery? We understand that the money was top sliced and the council provided us with development officers, training etc. however this is no longer the case.

After having had discussions with NLC about the 1140 hours in 2020, we were urged to prepare and be ready to accommodate children for the extra hours, we purchased the Moorpark Gospel Hall in Chryston to convert into an additional nursery and Out of School Care facility as our nursery in Gartcosh is full to capacity at present. The new nursery is expected to open in January 2018, however, NLC are now tendering for a new 2 year framework period 2018/2020 and have informed us that in no circumstances will any additional applications for partnership be considered during this period, thus we feel that we are being penalised for our advanced preparations. We are extremely anxious about this and how it will affect the sustainability of the new nursery over this period.

The current tendering process is published on the Public Contracts Scotland Portal which is currently open for questions and answers prior to the tender deadline it is stipulated that answers to all questions will be given within 48 hours, however we

Annex C - 2017/0039687

have submitted the following questions on the 5th October 2017 which have not yet been answered. We would therefore seek your assistance finding out why?

Pending Questions

Below is a list of questions you have submitted which have not yet been answered. If the matter is urgent please contact the buyer.

Submitted

Question Details

05/10/2017 12:01

Question

Can you please clarify if the proposed hourly rate has been arrived at through a methodically calculated approach and that the Authority can demonstrate this, and that they are confident it is fair and sustainable for private partners to provide the required services at a rate which is approx 40% below the current rate charged by partners privately.

05/10/2017 17:07

Question

As a result of having had many meetings and discussions with LA and gov't ministers regarding plans for providing increased capacity to prepare for the expansion to 1140 hrs, we are in the process of developing an additional setting which will open January 2018. will this new setting be able apply to be included in the 2018/19 Framework to enable a smooth transition towards the full roll out in 2020. hopefully we would not be penalised for forward planning and preparation to the benefit of the expansion programme

I would also urge you to come along to our next meeting of NLC NDNA partner providers which will be held on Thursday 19th October at 9.30am, Maxim Office Park in Maxim office Park (Maxim Marketing suite, 1stFloor Maxim 3). Your support in this matter and attendance at this meeting would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Nursery Proprietors

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 December 2017 17:45
To: Minister for Childcare and Early Years
Subject: Concern over allocation of money towards the Government's free childcare scheme.

Dear Mrs Todd

I understand in December's budget announcement from the Scottish Government it was agreed that between 2018 and 2019, £243 million will be allocated towards expanding the Government's free childcare scheme.

This is no doubt good news for all in childcare, but could I ask how much is allocated for non for profit/voluntary organisations please and how it is distributed via local councils. I ask this because it appears that local authorities are stone walling the money for council run nurseries and identifying them for pilot schemes etc, leaving non for profit groups with no extra resources to allow them to adopt this new measure with ease in 2020, meaning some children will have better opportunities than others at a time when their education is at its earliest and most vulnerable stages.

Since the original announcement of the 2020 scheme and all the money invested, very little seems to have filtered down to non council nurseries and this seems very unfair, particularly since the SNP policy is to allow parental choice between private, council, non for profit and child care schemes.

I have tried to discuss this with my own MSP Linda Fabiani without much success, hence my email to you. I have a lot of concerns which I could share with you if you are interested.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
KIWI PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP CHAIRMAN
EAST KILBRIDE
[REDACTED]



Mr Keith Brown
Secretary of the Economy
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

5 April 2018

Dear Mr Keith Brown,

Concern for Mulberry Bush Montessori business viability in relation to roll out of 1140 hours on the basis of proposed hourly funding by Stirling Council of £4.50

I am a National Day Nurseries Association member & private partnership provider within Stirling Council & write to you as a business owner & employer in Killearn & as NDNA representative on a private partnership group invited by Stirling Council & convened for the purposes of rolling out the Scottish Government's intention for 1140 hours by 2020 in the Stirling Council area.

I have owned & run Mulberry Bush Montessori, Forest School & Nature Kindergarten, in rural Killearn in west Stirlingshire since 1993 & employ 18 local people on a full time basis serving 82 local families. I have been in Partnership with Stirling Council since the conception of partnership in the mid 1990's & have enjoyed consistent "excellent" & "very good" grades in Care Inspectorate & HMIE reports since our founding.

I am concerned about the suggested hourly rate of £4.50 to be funded by Stirling Council for providing 1140 "free hours" which threatens to put me as a small local employer out of business. This is clearly in conflict with the Scottish Government ELC objectives and the Scottish Government Economic Policy.

I am aware of Scotland's Economic Strategy March 2018 & the government's wish for "a strong, vibrant & diverse economy... essential to our prosperity..."

In this document it sets out an overarching framework on the Scottish Government's aim for a "more productive, cohesive & fairer Scotland." It positions clearly the belief that "a One Scotland approach is needed to deliver on our ambitions...recognising that all can & should make a contribution towards that growth - as well as the private sector." It goes on to discuss the importance of "communities" & "investment in Scotland's infrastructure to help Scottish businesses to grow, innovate & create good quality opportunities."

Currently as a Private Partner nursery I am paid £3.88 per hour by Stirling Council for the 600 free hours provided, which is considerably lower than the rate paid to council run nurseries & is insufficient to be able to sustain my businesses into 2020 as the 1140 "free hours" policy is rolled out. Based on my running costs & 2017 accounts, and taking into consideration adjustments for 2018 costs I have calculated that I would require a minimum basic hourly rate of approximately £6.98 to cover costs.

I am enthusiastic to remain in partnership with Stirling Council with healthier terms & conditions, and I am confident that we can save the council money if the hourly rate awarded to us is augmented from the proposed £4.50 to a basic rate of £6.98, which will still be lower than the overall equivalent rate per eligible child paid to council run nurseries. This funding gap between private run and council run nurseries was discussed in detail at the Partner's Workstream Meeting of 19th December 2017, and again at recent meetings of the 1140 hours Private Partner's Workstream Group. In short the funding from the Scottish Government for delivering the current 600 "free hours" is not coming through to the private sector partnership providers, and if the 1140 hours are rolled out as proposed by Stirling Council, my business will become unsustainable.

I am proud of the very high quality, diversity & service to our local children & families & I will not put my businesses at risk as a result of persisted supplementary underfunding of the 1140 free hours proposed. I welcome the repositioning of Stirling Council to further invest in Mulberry Bush Montessori more equally for the sake of equity for our working parents & families & our services. It is my objective & aspiration to attain equivalent local authority funding for my centres for the sake of fair-mindedness & even-handedness.

In support of my position I have enclosed my business percentage cost calculations, which demonstrate the minimum hourly rate, which we would each require to merely cover the costs of providing the free hours. I have also provided Stirling Council

Annex E - 2018/0013149

with my business forecasted accounts for 2019, which stipulate the need for £6.98 per hour on the basis of paying staff who work with 3 & 4 year olds the Scottish Living Wage.

In the current Scottish Government consultation document, *Blueprint for 2020 The Expansion of Early Learning & Childcare in Scotland* it cites a Service Model for delivering funded early learning & childcare that is; "provider neutral"; ensures financial sustainable provision"; "local authorities will set a rate locally that is paid to funded providers to deliver the ELC entitlement which is sustainable & reflects national policy priorities."

I hope that this letter & the attached percentage calculations illustrate unambiguously my financial business predicament and my aspiration that with your help I can realise an acceptable way forward with Stirling Council to meet the Scottish Government ELC & Economic objectives that is mutually beneficial to us both for the sake of our families & services.

I have a further meeting convened on the 16th April 2018 with Stirling Council where I intend to further discuss the intended hourly rate & it is my intention to continue to keep Scottish Government informed of my progress or otherwise.

I also own & run Mulberry Bush Montessori, Yorkhill in Glasgow where I employ 36 full time staff basis serving 125 families. I am a partner provider with Glasgow City Council & face comparable issues in this setting should they advance with the same stipulations & fiscal proposal to the roll out of 1140 hours as we anticipate hearing from them at a meeting on the 26th April 2018.

I thank you for your attention on this matter.

With best bright wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mulberry Bush Montessori
12 Balfron Road
Killearn G63 9NJ
By Glasgow



From: playbarn nursery <playbarn@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 18 September 2018 21:06
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: Collaboration in closing the attainment gap - Reality

Dear Mr Swinney

I read with great interest your article where you say the government is committed to making a difference to each and every child, I have to tell you my reality in regards to this.

I have been owner/manager of Playbarn Nursery since beginning of 2003 opening a second setting in 2014. I have invested my life into making a difference to the very families you speak of, we have went the extra mile supporting children and their families in times of hardship. We value inclusion and we hold grades of 6's in both settings (EXCELLENT).

The 1140 that is being introduced across the country at the moment starting last year with 9 in my local authority and another 5 for 2018/19. ALL of which are LA settings no one has consulted us up until last week as to our capacity, there is no collaboration with partner providers and LA's. I am losing children as the 'free' 30 hours is not available in private settings they are moving to LA nurseries. In England nurseries are closing at an alarming rate. Partner providers cannot deliver a quality educational programme at the rate paid by the local authority, currently it costs my business '1800 per child that we have funded with us. Increasing the hours without increasing the payment to reflect the amazing practice is contradictory. When my LA is recruiting MA's for approx '8.50 per hour and my staff fully qualified and experienced receive the same and less how is that fair it is not equal. The Blueprint states all in early years should be paid the Scottish living wage but how? I would love to know what business model you are working in setting wage rates for MA's. Never mind that I am losing staff to LA on a regular basis because they offer higher wages better holidays and an overall better package. I just cannot compete, I am training staff and they leave as soon as they are qualified how is this fair, we were told the LA would not recruit from Partner Providers that is not what has happened.

What about capital funding in the blueprint it is for Partner Providers to increase capacity etc but it is being used for LA developing premises and also building not looking to see available provision locally. This is disruptive to children, staff moving is detrimental to the children and the their families and to their development especially their emotional and social development, it is also not what the Scottish Government state is the aim behind bridging the gap.

I look forward to hearing your response

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]