

202100202565: INDEX OF ENCLOSURES

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Enclosure 1 - Email: Directors Group Meeting Request for Slides – 02 April 2021

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 April 2021 15:32
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Directors Group meeting request for slides

Hi [redacted],

I've attached my presentation.

Also copying links to films of our work with Active Inquiry which I spoke about during the presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BR2K5seeS0&feature=youtu.be>
Active inquiry – children/ parent workshops 2019

[TBA Promo long 20200304 2 - YouTube](#)
Active Inquiry – The Balancing Act – Forum theatre

And links to our [Draft Framework](#) and consultation and our recent [Progress Report](#).

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 March 2021 16:07
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Directors Group meeting request for slides

Hi [redacted] are you able to send me your slides from today and I can issue to the group.

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]

Strategy & GIRFEC Hub | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government | 2B South Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [redacted - S38(1)(b)] | [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

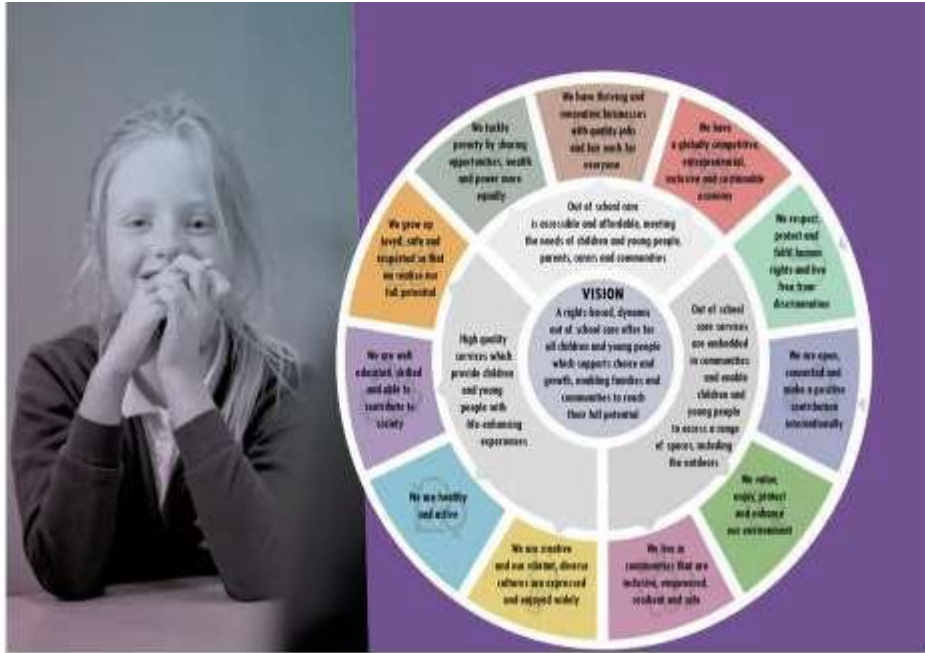
Please note my working days are Tuesday – Thursday and I am currently working remotely from home

Enclosure 1(a) - Email: Directors Group Meeting Request for Slides – 02 April 2021 – Attachment

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]



A rights based offer for all children and young people which supports growth, enabling families and communities to reach their full potential



We also created our own visual representation of the national performance framework outcomes and how our policy vision and primary outcomes link to national outcomes. This helped us broaden out our themes

OSC is accessible and affordable meeting the needs of children and young people, parents and carers and communities

OSC services are embedded in communities and enable children and young people to access a range of spaces including the outdoors

High quality services which provide children with life-enhancing experiences

We've also been working with children, listening to their thoughts about what they like to do before, after school and in the holidays.

As a team we were keen to think about a different approach to engagement and connected with Leith based arts and theatre company, Active Inquiry. Now [REDACTED] will tell you a bit more about what Active Inquiry do in a minute but basically they enable grassroots communities to engage with the arts and democratic process, allowing them to influence change where possible with the ultimate aim of building a more just society

Communicating through theatre enabled the children we were engaging with to find different ways other than verbal to explore and present ideas. Using a fictional scenario meant children were not only consulted but had ownership of the process and this absolutely encouraged ideas to flow

[REDACTED] character was Mr Wilson from the Government on our fictional island and he'd decided to ban school holidays – the children were asked to form a council and to argue why holidays were important and what they liked doing in their holidays. Mr Wilson came in for quite a bit of stick during these sessions and the children were absolutely engaged in the process!

Active Inquiry also participated in some of our sessions with parents, particularly with those from more disadvantaged communities and this is the basis for their performance this afternoon.

Affordability

- o High quality childcare is expensive to provide – without subsidy it's unaffordable for most people
- o Many low income families cannot afford school age childcare and there is a vicious cycle of no job = no childcare and vice versa
- o The childcare element of Universal credit is difficult to access due to requirement for upfront payments/ complex benefit landscape
- o Regulatory requirements (including narrow qualification requirements) mean that services find sustainability challenging and are often only available in relatively affluent areas
- o Many rural and remote areas have no school age provision as lack of critical mass means services are unsustainable
- o Provision for disabled children and children with ASN is more expensive to deliver which results in lack of provision for these groups

Accessibility

- o There is a lack of school age childcare provision in rural areas
- o There is a lack of school age childcare provision for disabled children and children with ASN
- o There is a lack of school age childcare provision in areas of deprivation
- o There is inequality of opportunity for children living in poverty and also disabled children or children with complex ASN. These children and young people miss out on experiences and play opportunities due to lack of suitable provision

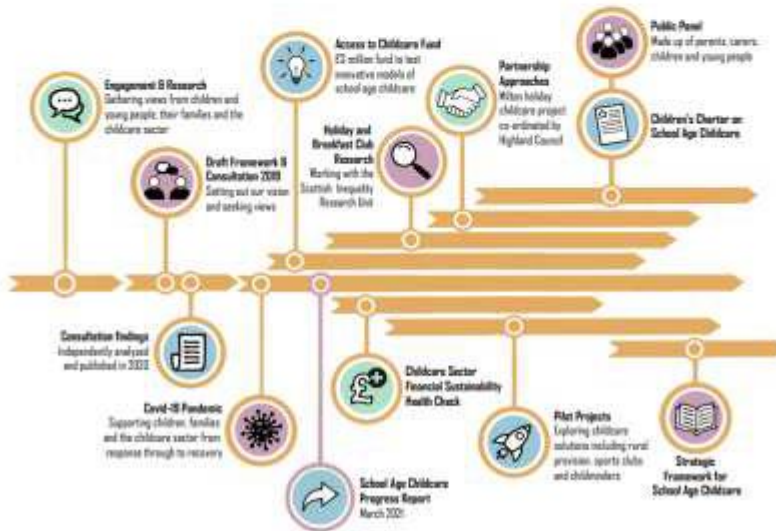
Flexibility

- o In order to secure or increase employment, parents need flexible childcare solutions that fit with work demands (low income families often work in 3 sectors which require irregular working patterns – retail, hospitality and social care)
- o Parents and carers need reliable childcare provision across the year, before and after school and in the holidays
- o Regulatory requirements for services make flexibility challenging in terms of premises/location and activities
- o Unregulated children's activities provide 'childcare' for many families but they are often not reliable or long-term enough for employment commitments
- o There is a lack of partnership working between providers, schools and unregulated activities which results in fragmented provision and opportunities



We present this progress report which:

- Provides an update on the outcomes of our consultation at the end of 2019.
- Highlights insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for children, parents and carers and childcare providers.
- Confirms our vision and aims for the future of school age childcare in Scotland.
- Outlines our commitment to test the changes needed to deliver our vision including progress to date on our Access to Childcare Fund projects.
- Sets out our policy focus and approach for developing our strategic framework for school age childcare and activities.



Enclosure 2 - Email: Early Learning Achievements 2016 2021

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 March 2021 12:42

To: [redacted - S36(1)(b)[redacted - S38(1)(b)] [redacted - S38(1)(b)] [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Early Learning Achievements 2016 2021 (A32501859)

I was hoping to do this on Teams, but the template uses text boxes, which Teams doesn't let you edit.

[Achievements - FMQ style brief - School Age Childcare details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

See link for the SAC achievement one pager. Can you both review please? I've left the budget bit blank – do you think this should include the core resourcing budget of the unit? Need to get this back to BMU by close on Thursday.

Cheers,



From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 March 2021 09:48

To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Early Learning Achievements 2016 2021 (A32501859)

[Redacted information not in scope]

[redacted - S38(1)(b)] (she/her)

ELC: Access and Parental Communication | Early Learning and Childcare Directorate

Scottish Government | GD South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | Mobile: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]

My normal working pattern is flexible, but usually:

Monday: 8am – 2pm

Enclosure 2(a) - Email: Early Learning Achievements 2016 2021 - Attachment

School Age Childcare

Policy development of School Age Childcare commenced in September 2018. We are committed to developing policy in relation to SAC, make policy connections across government and beyond, and engage actively with the sector.

National Outcome

Grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential

Directorate: Early Learning and Childcare

Division: Childcare: Provision, Practice and Comms

Policy area: School Age Childcare

What have we achieved to date? (succinct and impactful, to span over the last five years)

- Publication of **Draft Framework for Out of School Care in Scotland** and **public consultation** in 2019. The consultation received 1,270 responses through the online citizen space platform and face-to-face consultation events. We used innovative engagement methods, including forum theatre and creative arts workshops, to gather and present views from children and young people and target groups such as lone parent families.
- We opened the **£3m Access to Childcare Fund** in 2022 which is testing new models of school age childcare that will be more accessible, flexible and affordable for low income families. 15 projects have been awarded funding to deliver a range of childcare models, with particular focus on demonstrating impacts for families from the six priority family types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.
- We have published the **School Age Childcare Progress Report** which outlines the development of SAC policy, the impacts of the pandemic on the sector, and sets out the next steps we will take to produce the Strategic Framework for School Age Childcare in Scotland.
- We are supporting a number of pilot projects to test a number of different forms of SAC including: rural island provision; childminding provision, and; organised activities as a way or providing childcare, all of which, it is hoped, can support families sustain or enter employment, training or studying.

Budget Allocated: £3.5m over 2020/21 and 2021/22

Budget Spent: £1.5m rising to £3.5m by the end of FY 2021/22

Commitment timeframe: 2 years

Next Steps

- Continue to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders to shape our strategic framework for SAC, incorporating manifesto commitments.
- Establish a public panel of parents and carers and children and young people to ensure our developing policy meets their needs and produce a children's charter for school age childcare to complement our framework.
- Undertake a financial sustainability health check to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the school age childcare sector taking account of particular challenges for different service types.

- Continue to support our 15 Access to Childcare Fund projects to test the changes required to deliver more accessible and affordable school age childcare for low income families.
- Work in partnership to support rural and sports and activity pilot projects to further test changes.
- Undertake cross-government work to develop and deliver the commitment to provide universal breakfast for primary school age children all year round.

What had we planned to achieve? (Is there anything we set out to do, but did not manage?)

- We had planned to publish the full and final Strategic Framework for School Age Childcare in Scotland by the end of the 2016-2021 parliamentary term. Ministers chose to postpone this publication, given that the sector is still operating under restrictions, with many settings currently closed.

Enclosure 3 - Email: Discretionary Support Fund – Information Request re School Age Childcare

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:51
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Discretionary Support Fund - Information Request re School Age Childcare

Thanks all,

I'll draft a couple of lines essentially saying we don't hold the data.

Thanks again,
[redacted]

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:41
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Discretionary Support Fund - Information Request re School Age Childcare

Thanks [redacted] – I wasn't sure if further details were provided as part of the stats return. Cheers

[redacted - S38(1)(b)] COVID-19 Business Support Team
: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]

Please note that I don't work on Wednesdays and my emails will not be monitored on those days.

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:39
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Discretionary Support Fund - Information Request re School Age Childcare

Hi

To confirm; we don't have that level of detail. @ [redacted] only info we have on it is the fields on the MI data collection

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:35
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Discretionary Support Fund - Information Request re School Age Childcare

Hi [redacted],

Here is a link to details about the discretionary fund - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local authority discretionary fund - information - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus_COVID-19_local_authority_discretionary_fund_information) & [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local authority discretionary fund - information for local authorities - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus_COVID-19_local_authority_discretionary_fund_information_for_local_authorities)

LAs report there spend on it but not sure if it is broken down to the level you are looking for – I have copied in [redacted] as I'm not sure if we are able to advise if payments were made to child care providers.

Happy to discuss further if that would be helpful.

Cheers

[redacted - S38(1)(b)] COVID-19 Business Support Team
[redacted - S38(1)(b)]
Please note that I don't work on Wednesdays and my emails will not be monitored on those days.

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:29
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Discretionary Support Fund - Information Request re School Age Childcare

Hi [redacted] and [redacted],

My colleague [redacted] passed on your details and said you might be able to help in reference to the Discretionary Support Fund for LAs.

I'm trying to find out if Out of School Care settings were supported as part of the DSF. I realise that LAs were administering it and were responsible for eligibility, however I wondered if they were reporting back their spend, or if there would be some way of interrogating data (if there is any) to see payments made to Childcare providers – specifically School Age Childcare providers delivering Out of School Care (i.e. after school clubs and holiday clubs).

Would this be something you are able to help with? I'm pulling together a short brief on financial support that has been available to the sector that also includes reference to the Temporary Support Fund and Temporary Restrictions Fund that School Age Childcare providers were eligible for. Grateful if you could add anything in reference

to the DSF that could support this, even if it's just an overview of the fund and saying we don't centrally hold how the money was spent, by **Friday 9 April** – SAC - Financial Support Information - SOSCN Brief details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk).

Happy to speak as well if that's easier.

Best,

██████████

[redacted - S38(1)(b)] School Aged Childcare | Early Learning & Childcare
Directorate
Scottish Government

Enclosure 3(a) - Email: Discretionary Support Fund – Information Request re School Age Childcare - Attachment

FINANCIAL SUPPORT INFORMATION

This brief outlines the financial support that was available to the School Age Childcare sector from August 2020. The funds detailed here are not exhaustive, and providers may have received additional support from their Local Authorities.

Transitional Support Fund – (allocation £11.8 million)

TSF provided a one-off grant to childcare settings last year to help them to meet the extra costs incurred to comply with public health guidance in response to COVID-19 when the sector reopened from August 2020. The Fund was administered by local authorities.

To be eligible, settings had to be registered with the Care Inspectorate as being a 'day care of children' service and a 'Private' or 'Voluntary or Not For Profit' service (childminders were not eligible due to less restrictive public health guidance in place). Applicants also needed to confirm that their setting would have reopened by Monday 7 September 2020.

Grant amounts varied according to the number of Care Inspectorate registered places in a setting. Grant levels ranged from £1500-£8000

The application form included a question asking applicants how they intended to use the grant, but this question was only included for the purposes of monitoring and was not part of the eligibility criteria.

Temporary Restrictions Fund (allocation £11.4 million over 3 rounds)

TRF is administered by local authorities and provides rolling support through grants to eligible childcare services subject to temporary restrictions on childcare provision to mitigate the reduction in income resulting from operating below capacity while remaining open for vulnerable children and / or those of key workers only.

Grants are awarded on a pro-rata basis and calculated based on the number of weeks open. Grants also vary according to the number of CI registered places in settings.

The funding is available for each period of restrictions and grants are available in arrears covering the preceding four week period, as follows:

- **Round 1** covered the period from 4 – 29 January and closed to applications on 1 March. Eligibility same as TSF, plus childminding services registered to care for more than 12 children. Providers also needed to confirm each of the weeks within the restrictions period that they were open to deliver childcare to vulnerable and key worker children.
- **Round 2** opened to applications on 5 March and covers the period 1-26 February. Eligibility as above, plus this round will also provide a small additional

grant payment, using earlier unspent funds, to all eligible settings - including those that have been closed.

- **Round 3** – dedicated support to School Age Childcare sector in response to continued restrictions unique to this part of the sector and to recognise some of the unique challenges facing SAC. Eligibility as above, plus this round will also provide a restart grant payment to all eligible SAC settings - including those that have been closed.

Future Sustainability

In April/May we will undertake an in-depth review of the childcare sector to help us better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector longer term. It is important to understand how the sector will operate post-recovery and the legacy that the pandemic may have on uptake and choice of childcare. This will help us shape policy going forward and where appropriate channel support, financial or otherwise.

Discretionary Support Fund

Winter Support Package

Enclosure 4 - Email: Winter Support Package – Support for School Age Childcare Providers

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:43
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Winter Support Package - Support for School Age Childcare providers

Hi [redacted],

I'm alright, hope you are too!

Given it's £15m I'm assuming this is in relation to the 'supporting people to manage COVID restrictions / guidance' funding, which was led on by shielding colleagues and later increased to £30m. As I understand it only a small number of LAs reported spend by end January, as it was quite difficult to pin down across services.

On that basis I don't think we could say with any certainty that funding went to school age childcare providers, as LAs didn't report that level of detail, but [redacted] may be able to advise.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted - S38(1)(b)] | Interim Child Poverty Lead | Social Justice Strategy | Social Justice and Regeneration Division | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay 4 – c/o Atlantic Quay 5, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU | Tel: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]

Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22 – www.gov.scot/EveryChild

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:40
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Winter Support Package - Support for School Age Childcare providers

Hi [redacted],

Hope you are well.

Can keep this short – I was wondering if we know if the Winter Support Package, specifically the extra £15 million, was used to support low incomes families with school age childcare?

I'm trying to piece together any funding that providers may have received over the past few months and thought I'd ask. Did LAs report on this spend?

Thanks,



[redacted - S38(1)(b)]

School Aged Childcare | Early Learning & Childcare Directorate
Scottish Government

Enclosure 5 - Email: Financial Support Query – 30 March 2021

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 March 2021 14:04
To: info@soscn.org
Subject: Financial Support Query

Hi [redacted],

Redacted (section 38(1)(b))

I wanted to pick up a query that [redacted] had passed on to me. She said you had mentioned you were looking to put together a note on the details of support that have been available for the a four nations SAC group. I'll do a bit of digging and get you something by close on Thursday, but wanted to outline what I had in mind and you can let me know if there are any gaps you want covered:

- Transitional Support Fund
- Temporary Restrictions Fund
- Winter Support Package (administered by LAs)

I'll set out the eligibility criteria and the amounts/brackets for the first two. SAC services that received support via the Winter Support Package may be a bit trickier, as I'm unsure of the level of reporting that was required here. I'll pick up with Social Justice colleagues that administered the fund to see where I can get to.

Let me know if there's anything else or any particulars you want me to pick up. I'll dive into this tomorrow.

Thanks,

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]

School Aged Childcare | Early Learning & Childcare Directorate
Scottish Government

Enclosure 6 - Email: Out of School Care Services - 02 April 2021

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 April 2021 14:30
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: OSCS

[Redacted information out of scope]

We should have a think about the outdoor spaces project idea when we're forward planning , particularly the potential for school age childcare spaces. You'll remember - gave a presentation at the Ate fund network meeting on outdoors recently.
Also picking up on the inside/ outside project work with - might be useful.

Thanks,

1111

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@scottishfuturestrust.org.uk>
Sent: 05 March 2020 21:00
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]@wardell-armstrong.com
Subject: OSCS

Hel**lca**lllll

I hope this finds you well.

[Redacted information out of scope]

I also wanted to introduce you to [redacted - S38(1)(b)] who you may remember worked on the inside/outside learning spaces work with A&DS.

- has built some great project based learning from ELC outdoor work which could help OSCS thinking.

<https://www.ads.org.uk/inside-outside-learning-spaces/>

D

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]
Associate Director - Place
Mobile: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]
Main: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]
Address: 11-15 Thistle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1DF

Enclosure 7 - Email: Core Briefs and Template Doc – 31 March 2021

From: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 March 2021 17:58
To: [redacted - S38(1)(b)] <[redacted - S38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: Core Briefs and Template doc

Hi [redacted],

I've had a go at sorting out the Core Briefs (one for SAC and one for Informal Childcare) and our template response document for responding to MiCases.

The SAC brief is full of track changes, so I think it would be good to accept changes where you're happy with them to tidy it up a bit. There's still a bit of work/things to clarify in a couple of places so we can leave comments where needed.

SAC - Core Brief - April 2021 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

[Redacted information not in scope]

[Redacted information not in scope]

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted - S38(1)(b)]

(she/her)

School Aged Childcare | Early Learning and Childcare Directorate
Scottish Government

**Enclosure 7(a) - Email: Core Briefs and Template Doc – 31 March 2021 –
Attachment: Core Brief**

School Age Childcare Core Lines (currently includes informal childcare core lines)

Last updated: 25/03/2021

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1. TOP LINES

- We know that school age childcare services play a vital role in enabling parents and carers to access work, addressing economic and social exclusion, and providing improved outcomes for children.
- We remain committed to developing a strategic framework for school aged childcare.
- On 19 March 2021, we published a School Age Childcare Progress Report. The report captures what has been learned from our public consultation and sets out the steps we are taking to move closer to our vision for school age childcare in Scotland.
- We have created a new Access to Childcare Fund, worth £3 million across 2020-22, to test new models of school age childcare that will be accessible and affordable for low income families.

2. HOT ISSUES

ISSUE 19 March: Targeted financial support announced for school age childcare providers.

- The Scottish Government has made £22 million in dedicated support available to private and third sector day care of children settings, including out of school care providers, since the start of the pandemic.
- Most recently, this funding includes the Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF) which made grants available in each 4 week period, from January - March 2021.
- All day care of children's services, including school age childcare providers and childminders registered as caring for 12 or more children at a time, can apply for the Additional Support Grant in round 2 of the fund. This additional support is available irrespective of whether childcare providers were able to open in February or not and settings that have remained closed throughout the restriction period are also eligible for that additional payment.
- Round 3 of the TRF will provide targeted financial support to the school age childcare sector, recognising the impacts of restrictions on these settings in particular. All open school age childcare providers will be able to access a support grant for each week in which they are open in March. Grants will vary between £144 and £2,800 depending on their capacity and how many weeks the setting was open.
- In addition, all registered settings, whether open or closed, will be able to claim a restart grant of between £750 and £2,000 based on their capacity, to support reopening following the end of restrictions.
- Full details are available on [this website](#).

ISSUE 2 March: Regulated Out of School Care providers are able to reopen from 15th March.

- All primary school age children have been able to return to regulated childcare settings since 15 March.
- The decision to reopen regulated childcare settings was based on very careful consideration of the risks and benefits by experts on the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Sub-group on Education and Children's Issues.

- We have worked with providers, local authorities and staff representatives to refresh the operating guidance for the childcare sector, including [school age childcare](#). This guidance applies to regulated breakfast and after school care providers.
- Breakfast club and after school club providers who are not regulated by the Care Inspectorate, can open in line with [guidance for organised activities for children](#).

ISSUE 2 March: Clarity was issued on informal care support for parents of babies under 1 year old, to highlight that this is allowed to go ahead under the informal care of vulnerable or isolated adults exemption.

ISSUE 22 Feb: All children below school age returned to ELC. No change at this point to school age childcare, which will remain open only to key worker and vulnerable children. Childminding settings (caring for fewer than 12 children) open to all. Level 4 guidance on informal childcare continues to apply.

- At present, only children of key workers and vulnerable children can access school age childcare settings (other than childminding services). When community transmission levels allows, this will be extended to a wider range of children, as part of a phased re-opening of education.
- On Tuesday 2 March the First Minister confirmed that, following a continued suppression of the coronavirus figures, regulated school age childcare settings can re-open to all primary school children from 15 March alongside the return of P4-7 children as part of the phase 2 return. The plans are conditional on continued progress on suppressing coronavirus (COVID-19).

January 2021 restrictions and keyworker childcare

- On 22nd December, the First Minister announced that all childcare would close from 26th December to all but key worker and vulnerable children.
- Nurseries have been able to reopen since 22nd February.
- All primary school age children have been able to return to regulated childcare settings since 15 March.
- The guidance for informal childcare in level 4 is unchanged, and is available on [Parent Club](#). This includes guidance on the use of nannies and babysitters.
- These exceptional arrangements are intended to ensure sufficient time to reduce community transmission and to assess the implications of the new variant of the virus.
- There is no universally free at the point of access critical childcare for key worker families and vulnerable children as was the case in March to August 2020.
- Further key worker lines are available on eRDM
- [Redacted information not in scope]
- **Key contacts:** [redacted - S38(1)(b)], [COVID Safer Workplaces mailbox](#)

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE AND SAFE OPERATING

3.1 Critical childcare March – Aug 2020

- Children of key workers and vulnerable children were able to access childcare throughout the lockdown period. This included children who usually access a free meal within their childcare setting.
- On the assumption that schools and childcare settings continue to remain open, we have agreed with Local Government colleagues that local authorities are no longer required to provide critical childcare.
- We are so grateful for the national effort to care for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children during the closure of schools and childcare settings. Without it, Scotland could not have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in the way we did.

3.2 Reopening of school age childcare settings

- All primary school age children have been able to return to regulated childcare settings since 15 March.
- The decision to reopen regulated childcare settings was based on very careful consideration of the risks and benefits by experts on the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Sub-group on Education and Children's Issues.
- We have worked with providers, local authorities and staff representatives to refresh the operating guidance for the childcare sector, including school age childcare. This guidance applies to regulated breakfast and after school care providers.
- Breakfast club and after school club providers who are not regulated by the Care Inspectorate, can open in line with guidance for organised activities for children.

3.2.1 School age childcare guidance

Current position

- School Aged Childcare guidance was updated on 19 February 2021 to reflect the latest evidence and advice across that applies across the childcare sector. The guidance can be found [here](#).
- The guidance states that adults in SAC settings should wear a face covering wherever it is not possible to maintain a 2m distance from other adults and / or school-age children.

[Redacted information not in scope]

3.2.2 Breakfast clubs

- Breakfast clubs are able to open, subject to following relevant guidance published by the Scottish Government.
- Breakfast clubs form an important part of the day for many children and families, addressing issues of food insecurity but also providing important accessible childcare options for many working parents at the start of the day.
- We have worked with providers, local authorities and staff representatives to refresh the operating guidance for the childcare sector, including [school age childcare](#). This guidance applies to regulated breakfast and after school care providers.

- Breakfast club and after school club providers who are not regulated by the Care Inspectorate, can open in line with [guidance for organised activities for children](#).

3.2.3 Organised Children's Services

[Redacted information not in scope]

4. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SUPPORT

Information is available on gov.scot

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support to childcare sector - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Lines for correspondence: [Correspondence - Template - Financial support lines OSC - March 2021 details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Temporary Restrictions Fund

- The Scottish Government has made £22 million in dedicated support available to private and third sector day care of children settings, including out of school care providers, since the start of the pandemic.
- Most recently, this funding includes the Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF) which made grants available in each 4 week period, from January - March 2021.
- All day care of children's services, including school age childcare providers and childminders registered as caring for 12 or more children at a time, can apply for the Additional Support Grant in round 2 of the fund. This additional support is available irrespective of whether childcare providers were able to open in February or not and settings that have remained closed throughout the restriction period are also eligible for that additional payment.
- Round 3 of the TRF will provide targeted financial support to the school age childcare sector, recognising the impacts of restrictions on these settings in particular. All open school age childcare providers will be able to access a support grant for each week in which they are open in March. Grants will vary between £144 and £2,800 depending on their capacity and how many weeks the setting was open.
- In addition, all registered settings, whether open or closed, will be able to claim a restart grant of between £750 and £2,000 based on their capacity, to support reopening following the end of restrictions.
- Full details are available on [this website](#).

Contact: [redacted - S38(1)(b)]

5. SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

5.1 School Age Childcare Background

- We know that school age childcare services play a vital role in enabling parents and carers to access work, addressing economic and social exclusion, and providing improved outcomes for children.

- Evidence points to the importance school age childcare for the whole family. Children can benefit from improved outcomes through opportunities for play and learning, and access to childcare can support parents to work, train or study.
- For parents to be able to take advantage of work, training or study opportunities, childcare needs to be affordable, accessible and flexible to meet their needs.
- These opportunities for parents can lead to increased earnings, which in turn helps to reduce levels of child poverty.
- We know that some families face barriers to accessing school age childcare.

School Age Childcare policy development 2019-2020

- In August 2019 we published a draft strategic framework on out of school care for public consultation.
- The draft framework was produced with collaboration from key stakeholders and we engaged with parents, children and professionals working in the sector.
- We want future policy on school age childcare to be shaped by those who need it most, which is why we spoke to people with lived experience of poverty to better understand the barriers they face in accessing childcare.
- We received 1,270 responses to the consultation, giving us rich understanding of the needs and preferences of children and families in terms of school-age childcare.
- The responses have been independently analysed and [findings were published](#) in November 2020.
- The information gathered through the online consultation and events will inform future policy development and the new strategic framework.
- We were due to publish our strategic framework by the end of March 2021. However, recognizing the challenges which the Covid-19 pandemic has presented for both children and families and providers of school age childcare, we have decided to delay the publication of the full framework.
- We feel that it is best to support the sector through the current period and to take the time to fully understand the impacts of the pandemic and how this influences our final strategic framework.
- We will publish a progress report which reiterates our commitment to school age childcare. This will highlight the key themes in our draft framework consultation response, the wider policy landscape, and will detail the actions we are taking.

5.2 School Age Childcare Progress Report 2021

- On 19 March 2021, we published a [School Age Childcare Progress Report](#). The report captures what has been learned from our [public consultation](#) and sets out the steps we are taking to move closer to our vision for school age childcare in Scotland.
- The report also provides an insight into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, families, and the childcare sector.
- Within the report, we have committed to continuing to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a strategic framework for school age childcare, establishing a public panel to inform policy development, undertaking a financial sustainability health check of the sector, and supporting pilot projects to test the changes needed to deliver accessible, affordable and flexible school age childcare for families in Scotland.

5.3 Access to Childcare Fund

- We have created a new Access to Childcare Fund, worth £3 million across 2020-22 to test new models of school age childcare that will be accessible and affordable for low income families.
- The fund aims to support projects to deliver a range of activities, childcare, food and family support for children, including those from the six priority family types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.
- Projects will explore new models of school age childcare, including holiday provision, flexible delivery, specialist services for children with additional support needs, and increasing access to families most likely to be living in poverty.
- Grants will be provided to establish and test new models of delivery of out of school care in order to make services more accessible and affordable for low income families.
- Organisations funded through this route will be able to access ongoing support and mentoring to ensure the success of the project and the sharing of ongoing learning with government and others delivering school-age child care.
- The evaluation of these projects will help to shape our final strategic framework on out of school care.
- The Fund is administered by Children in Scotland, an organisation with a wealth of expertise in supporting the children's sector in Scotland.
- Though it was originally due to open in April 2020, the fund was paused due to lockdown restrictions and opened for applications in July 2020.
- The access to childcare fund launched for applications on 6 July 2020, the closing date of 27 July 2020.
- Successful applicants were informed in early September and we expect project delivery to begin imminently.
- 15 organisations have been funded in this phase. [See link for news release produced by Children in Scotland.](#) The full list of organisations funded can be seen below:
 - Action for Children
 - Clyde Gateway
 - Flexible Childcare Services Scotland (2 locations)
 - Fuse Youth Café Shettleson
 - Hame fae Hame Shetland
 - Hope Amplified
 - The Indigo Childcare Group
 - Inverclyde Council
 - Muirhouse Millennium Centre
 - St Mirin's Out of School Club
 - SHIP Perth
 - Stepping Stones for Families
 - supERkids
 - The Wee Childcare Company
- We will maximise opportunities to align the Access to Childcare fund with the £12 million Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) to support parents to enter employment or training, or to increase in-work progression.

5.4 Pilot Projects

- As set out in the School Age Childcare Progress Report, we are funding three childcare pilot projects to test different approaches to providing school age childcare.
- The **Scottish Childminding Association** will receive just under £250,000 as part of the Access to Childcare Fund to develop their Community Childminding model to deliver childminding placements that will support parents and carers to transition towards employment.
- **Ayr United Football Academy** will use £70,000 to set up an after school and holiday sports club for children at three local primaries and a secondary school.
- **The Mull and Iona Community Trust** will receive £180,000 to develop and deliver school age childcare services on Mull. The project will explore ways to provide childcare with the flexibility required in island communities.

5.5 SAC and Food provision

- It is important that we explore ways to combine childcare and food provision at breakfast and during school holidays, as we understand both to be drivers in tackling child poverty.
- Evidence points to the importance of school age childcare for the whole family. Children can benefit from improved outcomes through opportunities for play and learning, and access to childcare can support parents to work, train or study.
- However, we know that some families face barriers to accessing school age childcare.
- To test new models of school age childcare that will be flexible, accessible and affordable for low income families, we have created a new Access to Childcare Fund, worth £3 million across 2020-22.
- The 15 funded projects will explore new models of school age childcare, including holiday provision, food support, flexible delivery, specialist services for children with additional support needs, and increasing access to families from the six priority types identified in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.
- The evaluation of these projects will help to shape our policy approach to school age childcare, including holiday provision.

5.6 SAC and Women in Work

- Women are more likely to have caring responsibilities which can limit their ability to maintain or take on employment in usual times, but in the context of the pandemic, has a heightened impact.
- Evidence suggests that with school and nursery closures during the pandemic, childcare has fallen more on women than men. This further limitation on women's labour market participation may have longer term implications for pay and for future career development. Adverse impacts will also be more severe for lone parents in particular (women account for majority of lone parents)

[Redacted information not in scope]

6. USEFUL DOCUMENTS/LINKS

[Redacted information not in scope]

7. Timeline of lockdown events (late 2020 to spring 2021):

[Redacted information not in scope]