

Early Learning and Childcare Expansion in Aberdeen

Update for Termly Parent Council Newsletter – April 2017

Background

The Scottish Government will expand the offer of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to 1140 hours per annum for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds, whose parents want such a service, by 2020.

The four guiding principles of the Government's expansion plans are:

- Quality
- Flexibility
- Affordability
- Accessibility

In order to deliver the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare by 2020, it is very important that we gather information from parents, carers and potential future parents regarding how best services can be provided and delivered in Aberdeen. We have a statutory duty, under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, to consult with parents and carers on a regular basis.

The Early Years Team carried out a two-step approach to engaging and consulting with parents and carers on the Scottish Government's programme to increase Early Learning and Childcare entitlement to 1140 hours from 2020. The initial consultation was carried out between September and October 2016.

Firstly, a series of 12 consultation events were held in each of the Associated School Groups (ASGs) to share information with parents and carers and to seek views directly from parents in small focus groups. Secondly, a Survey Monkey questionnaire was launched widely during the same period to gather as many views as possible from across the city.

Outcomes of Consultation

The report from the initial consultation has been added to the Current Consultations page on the Aberdeen City Council website by clicking on the link below:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/consultations/current_consultations/cst_CurrentConsultation.asp

Next Stages / Plans for Further Consultation

- Specifically, the next round of engagement will be undertaken in the Community Planning Partnership priority areas of: Northfield, Tillydrone/Woodside/Seaton and Torry. This will commence between May and June 2017 and will be in conjunction with Locality Teams.
- City wide questionnaires will be used again. Responses from the initial consultation will inform the questions asked in the next round of engagement and consultation.

- Further focus group discussions will take place.
- We will ensure that any future Survey Monkey type questionnaires are accessible and representative of geographic population and SIMD areas.
- We will also engage and consult with children.

Parent Councils will be fully informed and consulted as we work towards implementing and phasing in this expansion programme in Aberdeen between now and 2020.

For further information please contact:

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