

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE21 January 2021Report by Director of EducationRESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENTITLEMENT TO 1140 HOURS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform members of the results of the consultation on the implementation of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare in East Renfrewshire and the proposals for taking this forward from August 2021 and beyond.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. Elected members are asked to note the department's proposals to further increase flexibility for parents to address parental and family needs.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Scottish Government set a transformational agenda for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) by 2020 which was published in March 2017. The vision was to almost double the entitlement to free ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours per year by 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds and is underpinned by the key principles of quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability.

4. In September 2017 Education Committee approved East Renfrewshire's expansion plan including the 1140 hours models of delivery for early learning and childcare. The Council has a reputation for providing high quality early learning and childcare, which is flexible, affordable and accessible to all families in their local community. Families have valued such over the years and our expansion plan built upon these principles.

5. The Scottish Government announced on Tuesday 31 March 2020 that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic they had taken the decision to remove the statutory duty on education authorities to make 1140 hours of early learning and childcare (ELC) available to each eligible child from August 2020.

6. The Education Department considered the implications of this decision, in particular the delay to our planned infrastructure programme, the impact on our 'grow our own' workforce completing their necessary qualifications and the likelihood that families were planning both their childcare and financial needs on the basis of 1140 hours early learning and childcare being available from August 2020.

7. In June 2020, Education Committee approved the department's proposal to continue to progress with plans to deliver 1140 hours of early learning and childcare for all eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old children from August 2020 albeit in a more limited way given the impact of COVID-19 on plans.

8. East Renfrewshire's models for delivering 1140 hours (from August 2020) are as follows:

- |                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| a. Core Provision            | - | 5 sessions of 6 hours per week<br>(school days over the school year)  |
| b. Extended Day Provision    | - | 3 sessions of 10 hours per week<br>(longer days over the school year)   |
| c. Stretched Provision A     | - | 5 sessions of 4 hours 45 minutes per week<br>(half days over a longer year)   |
| Stretched Provision B        | - | 2 sessions of 9 ½ hours and 1 session of 4<br>hours 45 minutes per week<br>(mix of full days and half days over a longer<br>year)   |
| d. Blended Provision         | - | 15 hours in LA Establishment and 15 hours<br>with another provider working in partnership<br>with ERC per week  |
| e. Funded Provider Provision | - | 30 hours per week fully funded provision with a<br>funded provider working in partnership with<br>ERC, including private, voluntary and<br>independent (PVI) sector providers and<br>childminders |

9. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out a requirement for local authorities to consult on early learning and childcare every 2 years and to build year on year, more flexible models of early learning and childcare provision through reconfiguration of services.

10. East Renfrewshire undertook its consultation from 26 October to 22 November 2020.

11. The Scottish Government has recently confirmed its commitment to every eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old child receiving 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare, with a new implementation date of August 2021.

12. The results of our consultation will help inform the statute offer to parents from August 2021.

## REPORT

### *Summary*

13. The following key points were noted from the consultation:

- 389 parents responded to the consultation;

- 80% of parents stated a high level of overall satisfaction with their current offer of 1140 hours of ELC;
- the introduction of 1140 hours suited work and family life, relieving financial pressures and reducing the amount of time grandparents were being asked to provide childcare;
- lowest levels of satisfaction were linked to lack of capacity and opportunity to purchase additional hours;
- respondents indicated that the setting was more important than the model with a few having no preference;
- an increase in the number of families wishing to access Core hours (similar to school hours);
- further flexibility requested in family centres;
- some children not accessing full 1140 hours offer;
- satisfaction was highest in the Busby / Clarkston / Eaglesham community (94%), and lowest in the Giffnock / Thornliebank community (64%). Most respondents in the Newton Mearns community (82%) and the Barrhead / Neilston community (75%) also responded positively.

### *Analysis and Learning*

14. Within the consultation, parents were asked whether the setting i.e. the location, or the model i.e. the pattern of days and hours was most important to them. The majority (56%) indicated that the setting was more important than the model with a few having no preference. This reflects the overall satisfaction in each community described above. Further comments related to the preference for a particular setting included:

- *I wanted my child to go to the nursery class at my children's school*
- *I wanted the nursery closest to my home*

15. A community based approach to allocating ELC places has been in place since 2014, with the department organising places within 4 community areas - Barrhead/Neilston/Uplawmoor; Busby/Clarkston/Eaglesham; Giffnock/Thornliebank; and Newton Mearns.

16. All nurseries are non-denominational and places are allocated according to our published list of priorities and are available to anyone residing within the community. Having a sibling in a primary school with a nursery class does not give higher priority for a place in that nursery class as this would discriminate against those families living in the community whose children do not and will not attend that particular school.

17. Across East Renfrewshire almost all families accessing Core hours in a nursery class gave a positive response in the consultation, this was higher than any other model. 37% of all applications for 3 year olds due for session 2020/21 requested Core as their first choice of model. This was often paired with desire to attend a particular nursery class, however the consultation showed that families accessing family centres due to their geographical location would have preferred the Core hours model too.

18. Postcode analysis and specific comments showed that this was a particular concern for families living in Neilston and Uplawmoor who prioritised Madras Family Centre on the basis of location. Similarly families using Our Lady of the Missions Primary and St Joseph's Primary who had prioritised Glenwood Family Centre or Cart Mill Family Centre respectively indicated that their child would not benefit from their full entitlement as they only intended to use ELC during term time and would not make use of the setting during

school holiday periods. This was also reported by ELC Head Teachers during focus groups.

19. In the consultation undertaken by the department in 2017, 47% of the 418 respondents indicated that full days would be their preferred model. This correlates well with the proportion of applications received for session 2020/21 requesting either Extended Hours, Stretched B or Private and Voluntary provision (as described in paragraph 8) where parents typically access full days. In contrast, only 33% of respondents in 2017 indicated a preference for term time models, however in the recent consultation this increased to 55% and term time models were the first choice of provision for 58% of 3 year olds for session 2020/21.

20. A report on the full findings of the consultation exercise is included in Appendix 1.

### **Local Authority Provision for School Session 2021/22 and beyond**

#### *Capacity*

21. The delay to the infrastructure programme, caused by Covid-19, had significant impact on our ability to deliver 1140 hours of early learning and childcare as planned in August 2020.

22. As noted above East Renfrewshire's early years provision is organised into 4 communities and each of these communities offers the agreed delivery models providing a degree of choice and flexibility for families within their community.

#### *Two Year Olds*

23. Table 1 below details the capacity for two year olds, the figures show the maximum number able to attend at any one time according to Care Inspectorate Registration.

*Table 1*

<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Arthurlie Family Centre (2 year old provision)	35
Cart Mill Family Centre (2 year old provision)	20
Glen Family Centre (0-3 provision)	50
Isobel Mair Family Centre (0-3 provision)*	20
Madras Family Centre (2 year old provision)	15
McCready Family Centre (0-3 provision)	47

*\* Isobel Mair Family Centre provision is for children with Additional Support Needs.*

24. To maximise efficiency, staffing budgets for each setting are determined according to the number of children who have been allocated a place.

#### *Three and Four Year Olds*

25. Each community will see their capacity increased up to August 2021 as the new nursery classes are opened at Cross Arthurlie, Busby and Eaglesham Primary Schools. In addition the new facilities at Crookfur, Glenwood and Overlee Family Centres, along with adaptations to Carolside Nursery Class provide more places which will also enhance the accessibility and flexibility on offer to parents and families resident in these communities.

26. Detailed in table 2 below is the registered capacity for 3 and 4 year olds in each local authority nursery at August 2020 and the proposed increases to capacity for August 2021. The delivery models determine how these places are used.

27. As noted above, we maximise efficiency by determining staffing budgets for each setting according to the number of children who have been allocated a place.

Table 2

Establishment	Capacity from August 2020	Capacity from August 2021
Arthurlie Family Centre	120	120
Busby Nursery Class**	100	120
Braidbar Nursery Class	60	60
Calderwood Lodge Nursery Class	100	100
Carlibar Family Centre	90	90
Carolside Nursery Class**	80	96
Cart Mill Family Centre	90	90
Crookfur Family Centre**	-	120
Cross Arthurlie Nursery Class**	-	40
Eaglesham Nursery Class**	56	120
Giffnock Nursery Class	30	30
Glenwood Family Centre**	80	180
Hazeldene Family Centre	100	96
Isobel Mair Family Centre*	24	24
Madras Family Centre	80	80
Maidenhill Nursery Class	120	120
Mearns Nursery Class	60	60
Netherlee Nursery Class	100	100
Overlee Family Centre	-	120
St Cadoc's Nursery Class	60	60
Thornliebank Nursery Class	40	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>1746</b>

\* Isobel Mair Family Centre is provision for children with Additional Support Needs.

\*\*New/extended settings due to be operational early in 2021.

28. To meet demand for 1140 hours of entitled Early Learning and Childcare, the Council needs an average of 2300 preschool places for 3 and 4 year old children in any one year; there is therefore a need to work in partnership with funded providers (childminders and private and voluntary nurseries). This means that the department needs to commission places from funded providers for East Renfrewshire children. This year we commissioned 225 places with East Renfrewshire funded providers which were used by a maximum of 351 East Renfrewshire families. We also funded an additional 178 cross boundary placements to other authorities.

29. As detailed in table 3 below, all 14 private and voluntary nurseries within East Renfrewshire were successful in securing a 2 year partnership to deliver 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare from August 2020 to June 2022.

Table 3

Provider	Status	2020 – 2022 Successful(✓) Unsuccessful(x)
Belmont Nursery Class	Independent	✓
Broom Nursery	Voluntary	✓
Clarkston Nursery	Voluntary	✓
Elmwood Nursery	Private	✓
Enchanted Forest Nursery	Private	✓
Greenbank Woodland Play	Private	✓
Happy Days Too (Busby)	Private	✓
Happy Days Too (SF)	Private	✓
Innocence Nursery	Private	✓
Kirkhillgait Nursery	Private	✓
Kirktonholme	Private	✓
Orchardpark Nursery (Thornliebank)	Private	✓
Orchardpark Nursery (Newton Mearns)	Private	✓
Railway Cottage	Private	✓

30. In addition to the nurseries listed above, 20 childminders have also secured partnership to deliver funded early learning and childcare. At present 11 of these childminders are providing funded placements for children.

### **Models of Delivery for School Session 2021/22 and beyond**

31. The Education Department will continue to provide the models as outlined in paragraph 8 in all communities from August 2021.

32. Nursery classes will continue to offer Core and Extended Provision over the school year.

33. Family centres will continue to offer Stretched A and Stretched B models over 48 weeks of the year, however in response to demand we will introduce Core Provision to family centre models.

34. Although Core Provision is our least efficient model, this move will increase flexibility and choice for families, giving greater access to the most popular model and reduce the oversubscription of nursery classes as the exclusive providers of term time models.

35. The increase to capacity within our ELC estate will also allow us to reintroduce greater flexibility for parents through the purchase of additional hours in response to demand.

36. As our new facilities become established we will begin to offer this flexibility, whilst being mindful of the ongoing Public Health guidance regarding social distancing and “bubbles” and the increase in number of places being used as part of our least efficient model (Core Provision).

37. An online system is available to support the purchase of additional hours providing a manageable way for parents to buy any available additional hours.

## **Application and Allocation of 1140 Places for August 2021**

38. Applications for all ELC places will be online from January 2021. This process will enable parents to complete and submit their application digitally and provide a more efficient and secure process for all. Applications for local authority settings will close on 28 February 2021 and Private and Voluntary Nurseries and Childminders must submit all applications for funding by 30 April 2021.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS**

39. Elected members will recall the anticipated and annual shortfall in Scottish Government funding from 2021/22 (i.e. the first full financial year of delivering 1140 hours as initially planned). Since then the department has utilised the flexibility associated with this funding to maximise the amounts carried forward each year as well as continuing to lobby the Scottish Government and COSLA to review the distribution methodology. Whilst we await the outcome of the national review, we will continue to seek to manage the costs of expansion closely through the annual budget setting exercise.

40. It is noted financial year 2022/23 will now be the first full year of operations under 1140 hours models offering more flexibility and choice enabled with the new nurseries and family centres; and so it will be from this year onwards that the anticipated shortfall in funding would have greatest impact unless a more favourable allocation of funding is made as a consequence of a revised distribution methodology under the national review.

41. As noted in paragraph 8, models of early learning and childcare are required to evolve and respond to the needs of families under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 following consultation every 2 years.

42. To respond to parental demand and slightly amend the models in family centres to include Core Provision will impact on efficiency in terms of the number of children per available place. However given that the net impact on staffing budgets will be minimal and that capacity has now been increased, the department will be able to introduce this model at least for the foreseeable future.

43. The department had anticipated a significant reduction in income from the purchase of additional hours from August 2020 when setting the budget for 2020/21 given less demand/capacity. We do however expect to incrementally introduce greater flexibility to purchase additional hours next session. This will be on a managed basis as new facilities become established, within available staffing resources and depending on the resulting availability of hours following the allocation of entitled places.

## **CONCLUSION**

44. The statutory duty for provision of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare for all eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds will be introduced from August 2021.

45. East Renfrewshire has offered 1140 hours of ELC since August 2020.

46. The early introduction of 1140 hours along with the results of the statutory consultation has confirmed that our models of delivery are appropriate and responsive to family needs. However the weighting of models needs to be rebalanced to ensure we provide choice to families to access 1140 hours of high quality early learning and childcare that is accessible, flexible and affordable.

47. It should be noted that national advice linked to social distancing may impact on operating capacity and attendance patterns for children and families.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

48. Elected members are asked to note the department's proposals to further increase flexibility for parents to address parental and family needs.

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January 2020

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**APPENDIX 1 – DETAILED PARENTAL CONSULTATION ANALYSIS**

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**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT****REPORT ON CONSULTATION ON THE EXPANSION TO 1140 HOURS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE****REPORT BY DIRECTOR****BACKGROUND**

1. On Thursday 11 June 2020, the Education Committee approved the department's proposal to continue to progress with plans to deliver 1140 hours of early learning and childcare for all eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old children from August 2020 albeit in a more limited way given the impact of COVID-19 on plans.
2. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, placed a duty on local authorities to consult on early learning and childcare every 2 years and to build year on year, more flexible models of early learning and childcare provision through reconfiguration of services.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS**

3. The consultation period was from 26 October to 22 November 2020.
4. The online consultation was publicised to parents of children under five by:
  - a) Promoting the consultation through the Council's social media accounts.
  - b) Sending the direct link to the consultation to all Early Learning and Childcare Establishments for use via text message, twitter and websites.
  - c) Featuring the consultation on the Council Intranet home page.
5. Responses were submitted by completing an online form which logged all responses and generated a data report at the end of the consultation period on 22 November 2020.
6. Focus groups were held with head teachers, managers and childminders involved in delivering funded early learning and childcare across East Renfrewshire to explore their perspective on the delivery of 1140 hours.

**NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO THE ONLINE FORM**

7. This section of the report provides information on the number of online responses.
8. In total 389 respondents participated in the consultation. The table below summarises the responses to each question:

Table 1

<b>Question 1</b> - What is your post code?	<b>G78</b> <i>Barrhead/ Neilston</i>	<b>G44 &amp; G76</b> <i>Busby/ Clarkston/ Eaglesham</i>	<b>G46</b> <i>Giffnock/ Thornliebank</i>	<b>G77</b> <i>Newton Mearns</i>	Outwith ERC
	24%	26%	20%	30%	<1%
<b>Question 2</b> - How old are the children you send to or would send to ELC? (465 responses)	Age 0-1	Age 1-2	Age 2-3	Age 3-4	Age 4-5
	3%	6%	12%	53%	26%
<b>Question 3</b> - Do you currently access Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)?	YES		NO		
	92%		8%		
<b>Question 4</b> - Which model of ELC does your child access?	<b>Core hours in a nursery class</b>	<b>Extended days in a nursery class</b>	<b>Stretched A mornings or afternoons in a family centre</b>	<b>Stretched B 2 and a half days in a family centre</b>	
	26%	27%	16%	17%	
	<b>Childminder</b>	<b>Private or Voluntary Nursery</b>	<b>Blended Model</b>	<b>Other</b>	
	0	5%	8%	1%	
<b>Question 5</b> - How well does your child's current allocation meet the early learning and childcare needs of your family?	<i>Not at all well</i> 1                      2                      3                      4                      5 <i>Extremely well</i> 6				
	6%	6%	9%	18%	23%
<b>Question 6</b> - Please tell us more about the rating you gave above...	There were 277 responses to this question, see summary of views below.				
<b>Question 7</b> - When applying for ELC we ask which setting you want i.e. the location, and the model you want i.e. the pattern of days and hours. Which of these is most important to you?	<b>The setting</b>		<b>The model</b>		<b>No preference</b>
	56%		35%		9%
<b>Question 8</b> - Term time provision is available in our nursery classes and follow all school holidays. 48 week provision is available in our family centres which	<b>Term Time</b>		<b>48 weeks</b>		<b>Other</b>
	55%		41%		4%

close over Christmas and on public holidays and in-service days. Which do you prefer?				
<b>Question 9</b> Which of the models best suit your needs?	<b>School days: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b>	<b>Full days: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Half days: 8 a.m. to 12.45p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.</b>	<b>Mixture of full days and half days</b>
	42%	37%	8%	13%
<b>Question 10</b> Would you wish to purchase additional ELC over and above the entitled 1140 hours?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
	53%		47%	
<b>Question 11</b> Are there any comments you wish to add to this survey?	There were 151 responses to this question, see summary of views below.			

### THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: SUMMARY OF VIEWS

9. This section provides a summary of the views within the submissions.

- Question 1 - What is your post code?

Early learning and Childcare provision is organised into four communities based on locality and address.

The greatest proportion of respondents (30%) were from the Newton Mearns community. The smallest proportion (20%) were from the Giffnock/Thornliebank community. Busby/Clarkston/Eaglesham and Barrhead/Neilston were equally well represented with 26% and 24% respectively. Overall the responses were shared proportionately across the communities. There were 3 responses from people who submitted a postcode outwith East Renfrewshire.

- **Question 2** - How old are the children you send to or would send to ELC? (465 responses)  
The majority of respondents had children aged between 3-5 years of age. 66 families had more than one child, therefore the responses given related to 465 children.
- **Question 3** - Do you currently access Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)?

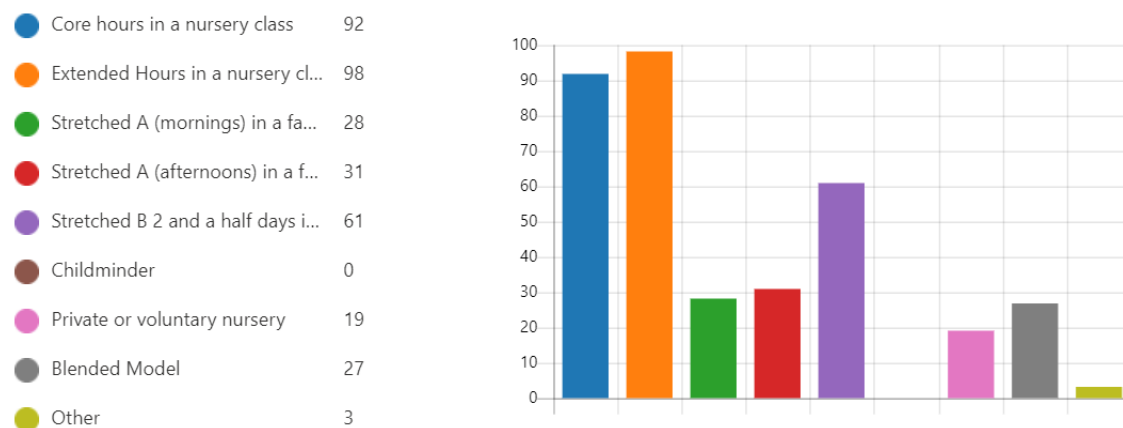
Almost all respondents were currently using ELC. 30 families did not currently use ELC, the majority of whom indicated that they had children under 3 years old.

Questions 4, 5 and 6 were only available to those who answered 'Yes' to Question 3, therefore percentages for these questions relate to the 359 respondents who were accessing ELC.

- **Question 4 - Which model of ELC does your child access?**

The majority of respondents were accessing an ELC model in a nursery class (53%), with less than half (33%) accessing the family centre models. A few respondents were using other funded providers either in full or for a blended model, however no respondent was exclusively accessing a childminder. Table 2 illustrates the breakdown of provision currently being used by families:

Table 2



- **Question 5 - How well does your child's current allocation meet the early learning and childcare needs of your family?**

Respondents were asked to rate their allocation on a 6 point from scale from 1 – Not at all well to 6 – Extremely well. The average rating was 4.6 with 80% of respondents selecting a positive response between 4 and 6.

Satisfaction was highest in the Busby/Clarkston/Eaglesham community (94%), and lowest in the Giffnock/Thornliebank community (64%). Most respondents in the Newton Mearns community (82%) and the Barrhead/Neilston community (75%) also responded positively. Across East Renfrewshire almost all families accessing core hours in a nursery class or a private and voluntary provider gave a positive response. Most families accessing extended hours in a nursery class also responded positively with the majority of those using family centre models or blended provision scoring highly.

The customers who were least satisfied, expressing a score of 1-3 used a variety of models of ELC. The majority of these respondents either accessed Extended hours in a nursery class (28%), Stretched A in a family centre (23%) or Stretched B in a family centre (22%). Of these respondents who gave a score between 1-3, the majority also answered 'Yes' to question 10 expressing a desire to be able to purchase additional hours.

- **Question 6** - Please tell us more about the rating you gave above... (277 responses).

Many of the comments addressed more than one theme. The most common theme was a desire to buy additional hours of ELC which was expressed by 60 respondents, including some who had given a positive score.

Table 3 below summarises the most common themes which demonstrate the benefits of the introduction of 1140 hours for families:

*Table 3*

Theme	Number of comments
The new hours suit my work	32
The new hours suit my family	18
Core hours suit me because I have other children at the school	17
My child is thriving in their ELC setting	15
The provision is of a high quality	14
I got what I asked for	11
My child loves it	11
My private nursery gives me great flexibility	7
Core hours are good for transition to primary school	7
I like having half days	5
I don't need to rely on grandparents so much for childcare	2
The extra hours are helping	1
I'm saving money	1

In addition there were a range of themes which expressed less positive opinions about the introduction of 1140 hours.

*Table 4*

Theme	Number of comments
I would prefer to buy more hours	60
I wanted core hours	29
It would be better if you could have term time models in a family centre*	21
I use less than my entitlement because the hours I've been given don't suit me **	19
Full days from 8am to 6pm are too long	14
I would like more flexibility with drop off and collection times	13
I like the nursery class models but I need 48 weeks	10
I think Stretched A afternoon sessions finish too late	9
It will be better when the new nursery is open	9
I wanted my child to go to the nursery class at my children's school	8
I wanted the nursery closest to my home	5
It would be better if all the children got a hot meal/lunch	3
It would be better if settings opened earlier than 8am	3
I use a private nursery because local authority settings don't provide the full hours I need.	2
8am is too early	2

I lose out on some hours because my childminder is not commissioned	1
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*\*most common in localities with only a family centre or where schools don't have a nursery class, e.g. Neilston and Our Lady of the Missions catchment.*

*\*\*most common from families with Extended Hours in nursery classes*

- **Question 7** - When applying for ELC we ask which setting you want i.e. the location, and the model you want i.e. the pattern of days and hours. Which of these is most important to you?

The majority of respondents stated that the setting was most important to them, this was echoed in the comments at question 6 where families expressed a preference for children to go to the nursery class of their catchment school either because it was local to them, or because they already had children at the school and can be seen in Table 5 below:

Table 5

Provision currently accessed	Total number accessing provision	Preference indicated		
		The Setting	The Model	No preference
Core hours in a nursery class	92	54	29	9
Extended hours in a nursery class	98	60	31	7
Stretched A in a family centre	59	29	18	12
Stretched B in a family centre	61	35	21	5
Blended	27	15	11	1
Private or Voluntary Nursery	21	13	7	1
None	31	12	18	1

- **Question 8** - Term time provision is available in our nursery classes and follow all school holidays. 48 week provision is available in our family centres which close over Christmas and on public holidays and in-service days. Which do you prefer?

The majority of respondents selected term time as their preferred option, there was a high correlation between a preference for term time provision and the prioritisation of 'the setting' in question 7.

- **Question 9** - Which of the models best suit your needs?

The models which are currently only available in nursery classes were selected by most respondents.

'School days: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.' was the most popular option (42%), this was correlated with the following themes highlighted in question 6:

- I wanted core hours
- It would be better if you could have term time models in a family centre
- I use less than my entitlement because the hours I've been given don't suit me
- Full days from 8am to 6pm are too long

The majority of respondents who selected school days as their preference were not currently accessing this model.



'Full days: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.' was the next most popular option (37%), families accessing Stretched B (two and a half days in a family centre) expressed the desire to buy an extra half day to make 3 full days from 8am to 6pm. This was seen as the most attractive option for working families, however the availability of Extended hours only in nursery classes was seen as problematic by 10 respondents at question 6:

- I like the nursery class models but I need 48 weeks

The majority of respondents who selected full days are currently accessing Extended Hours, Stretched B or a Private or Voluntary Nursery where long days are available. The availability of full days from 8am – 6pm was a common reason for choosing a private or voluntary nursery where families also have the option to attend all year and buy extra days.

Less than half of respondents selected the family centre models as their preference with a few choosing either a mixture of full and half days or half days only.

- **Question 10** - Would you wish to purchase additional ELC over and above the entitled 1140 hours?

The majority of respondents expressed a wish to purchase additional hours. Table 6 below shows the correlation between families wishing to purchase additional hours and the provision they currently access in descending order:

Table 6

Provision currently accessed	Proportion wishing to purchase additional hours
Private or Voluntary Nursery	90%
Stretched B in a family centre	74%
Blended	67%
None	60%
Extended hours in a nursery class	48%
Stretched A in a family centre	46%
Core	38%

- **Question 11** - Are there any comments you wish to add to this survey?

Similar to question 6, many of the comments addressed more than one theme. Again most common theme was a desire to buy additional hours of ELC which was expressed by 45 respondents in question 11.

The second most common theme from 31 respondents was of gratitude and appreciation that East Renfrewshire Council was delivering 1140 hours despite the difficulties associated with the pandemic. Respondents were appreciative of the work being carried out in our settings. This theme is exemplified by the following comments:

*"Well done on providing the additional hours in these circumstances. It has made a huge difference to my family."*

*"I just want to thank the teachers for everything they do. As keyworkers they are dealing with the pandemic head on which must be stressful and uncertain. They come to work with energy, enthusiasm and a smile on their face."*

Some of the themes raised at question 6 were further re-iterated in the comments at question 11 and have been grouped together in Table 7 below.

Table 7

	Theme	Number of comments
Delivery models	I would prefer a different model, such as Core hours	20
	There should be holiday cover available for nursery classes	8
	You should be able to get term time in a family centre	7
	I preferred the old models when children went to nursery every day	5
	All primary schools should have nursery classes	4
	Lunch should be included	3
	The new models provide more childcare and not enough learning	2
Application and allocation process	There should be more flexibility to change after the allocation has been made	18
	The allocation process should give priority to siblings at the same school	9
	The allocation process should give priority to working families	4
	Pre-school children should be allocated school days.	3
	I was disappointed by the allocation process	3
	You should be able to apply for less than 1140 hours if that suits you better e.g. if you are a stay at home parent	3
	There should be more places available for children under 3 to buy.	2

## CONCLUSION

The introduction of 1140 hours in August 2020 has helped parents to manage their childcare to meet their work commitments; however there remains a need for greater flexibility. Families would welcome the opportunity to purchase additional hours which has not been possible this session due to the delays to the infrastructure programme and the restrictions in place related to Covid-19 and maintaining 'bubbles' of children.