

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2014

Report by Director of Education

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE
AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND
BEYOND

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report on the results of the consultation exercise on the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School from school session 2015 – 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Education Committee:
- a) adopts the proposal as described in the original consultative document; and,
 - b) instructs the Director of Education to work with colleagues across the Council to plan for a new build family centre with community facilities to be available for occupation in school session 2015 – 2016.

BACKGROUND

3. In November 2013 elected members approved that the department should carry out a formal consultation exercise on the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility in the Auchenback area of Barrhead. A copy of the original consultation document is included as Appendix A of the report on the consultation.

4. The proposals are designed to:
- a. relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School;
 - b. expand the capacity for 0 - 3 in the west of the authority, which if adopted will:
 - i) expand provision of high quality local authority places for children under 3 years on the west of the Council area, enhancing the current provision for working parents and those who may benefit from early intervention;

- ii) meet the Council's duty to provide 600 hours free early learning and childcare to 2 year olds who are, or have been at any time since turning 2, looked after or subject to a kinship care;
- iii) from August 2015 introduce some flexibility for parents to access the extra 30 hours to address parental needs in addition to the current provision of 570 hours.

REPORT

5. A full report on the consultation is included in the Consultation Report on the Consultative Proposal in the appendix to this paper.
6. Statutory consultees who responded to the consultation included parents (2), future parents (2), statutory others (2). One non-statutory respondent views were recorded.
7. Members will note from the report that all who responded to the consultation were in favour of the proposal.

Three respondents commented on what they saw as benefits of the proposals:

- A newer, larger purpose built nursery was needed in the area and would serve to meet the needs of the children;
- The introduction of places for children under 3 years in Auchenback and the wider area of Barrhead would meet demand for childcare to support working parents; and
- Staff and children would be involved in designing the new facility.

8. No respondent expressed concern about the proposals.

9. Education Scotland met with parents and staff and from this produced a report which is provided as Appendix D of the report on the consultation. The department asks elected members to note the summary of Education Scotland's report and in particular that, "*East Renfrewshire Council has set out a positive well-reasoned case for its proposal. The proposal would lead to the construction of a modern, purpose-built early years facility. Children will benefit from more modern facilities including easier access to the outdoors and better information and communications technology. In a new facility, the centre would be able to provide education and care for birth to three aged children. With the increase of space and the opportunity for closer links with external agencies, the centre would be better placed to meet the needs of children and their families in this community.*"

10. It also notes that: "*..... a few parents shared their concerns about the prospect of a community café in the new building and the implications that this may have for security.*"

11. The department will work closely with partners in Property and Technical Services to consider such concerns throughout the design process, and, thereafter with partner agencies in the management of security in the centre.

EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS

12. An equalities impact assessment has been carried out and is provided as Appendix E in the full Consultation Report.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

13. The estimated cost for the associated capital works for a new facility on the site of Auchenback Primary School is £3.4 million. Council has agreed that £431k should be applied from unallocated Early Years Change Fund resources as a contribution to assist in meeting this cost.

14. The Early Year Change Fund associated with the Early Years Strategy for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 totals £1.64 million.

15. The existing Arthurlie Family Centre will be surplus to ongoing operational requirements. The building will then be secured or demolished as deemed necessary by Property and Technical Services. The associated costs will be met from within existing repair and maintenance budgets.

16. Additional staffing to support the expansion of provision to include children under the age of 3 years is estimated to cost £158,000 for a full financial year and is included in the spending plans of the Early Years Strategy and the Early Years Change Fund. Members should note that this is based on all 2 year olds in the Auchenback area attending the family centre for 3 sessions per week. Therefore, this does not reflect the recent announcements by the Scottish Government, included in Stage 3 of the Children and Young People Bill, of the intention to offer 600 hours of early learning and care in a nursery for 15% of 2 year olds from August 2014 and 27% from August 2015. This will have an impact on the building design and, therefore, costs. At the time of writing the report the Council has not been informed of any additional grant from the Scottish Government, which may support this development.

CONSULTATION

17. The paper reports the results of a statutory consultation.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

18. This proposal is subject to The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; there is a three week period, which begins on the date the decision is made, for anyone to make representations to Scottish Ministers requesting the case to be called in.

CONCLUSION

19. It is accepted by all respondees that the proposal will lead to benefits for the children and parents of the Auchenback area of Barrhead.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. It is recommended that the Education Committee:
- a) adopts the proposal as described in the original consultative document; and,
 - b) instructs the Director of Education to work with colleagues across the Council to plan for a new build family centre with community facilities to be available for occupation in school session 2015 – 2016.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
March 2014

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Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

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Appendix

1. Consultation report on the consultative proposal: To Relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a New Facility in the Auchenback Area of Barrhead for School Session 2015/16 and Beyond

Background papers

2. Paper to Education Committee, To Relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a New Facility in the Auchenback Area of Barrhead for School Session 2015/16 and Beyond, November 2013

Key Words

Report on statutory consultation on the Future Nursery Provision for Children of Preschool Age in the Auchenback area of Barrhead for School Session 2015/16 and Beyond.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL:
TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE
AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND
BEYOND**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL: TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND BEYOND

REPORT BY DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

1. On Thursday 14 November 2013, the Education Committee approved the issue of a consultative document on the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School from school session 2015 – 2016. A copy of the original consultative document is attached as Appendix A.
2. The consultative document outlines the current provision for local authority prefive provision in Barrhead and in particular the area of Auchenback. It makes three proposals:
 - a) To relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.
 - b) To expand the provision within the new facility through offering 50 places for children under 3 years.
 - c) To close the existing building used by Arthurlie Family Centre.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

3. The formal consultative document was issued with an accompanying letter explaining the process and inviting views. These were issued to statutory consultees and made publicly available. The information included prior notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal.
4. Written representations on the consultative proposal were sought from all interested parties including the Parent Committee of Arthurlie Family Centre in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010. A meeting for Parent Committee representatives was arranged.
5. In accordance with statutory requirements, parents/carers affected by the proposal, the Parent Committee, members of staff and unions representing staff in the affected school were invited to respond to the proposal. Copies of the consultative document were also sent to members of the Barrhead Community Council, local elected members, local Members of Parliament and the local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents in the area, and current community users of the affected school. Education Scotland was advised of the consultation and a copy of the consultation pack was sent.
6. Copies of the consultative document were sent to parents who had submitted an application for prefive education in Arthurlie Family Centre and notices of the consultation were sent to local GP surgeries inviting them to display such in an

effort to reach parents of children likely to apply for a nursery place within the next 2 years.

7. The Head Teacher of Arthurlie Family Centre was asked to ensure that she included the consultative document on a staff meeting agenda, to advise staff of the consultation period and that they could submit an individual and/or a group response or respond through their union representatives.
8. The Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that the pupil voice is heard on such matters "*in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity*". In this case and given the expected timing of the opening of the new facility, current pupils would not be affected by the relocation of the existing family centre. Given the age and maturity of children currently attending the family centre, the consultation gave opportunity for parents to express their views. The Education Department will, following approval of the proposal, consult with children on the design of the new facility.
9. The consultation period was from Friday 15 November 2013 until Thursday 9 January 2014.
10. The existence of the consultative document was publicised in the press and copies were made available in both the Council Offices, in the affected family centre and in the local library. A dedicated page on the Council's website was established to facilitate information and invite interested parties to respond to the proposal. Responses were invited to be submitted by completing an online form (see Appendix B), by posting a hard copy of the form supplied with the consultative document, or by writing to the Education Department or emailing directly to arthurliefamilycentreconsultation@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
11. Consultees were asked to be clear about who they were, where they lived, why they were interested including their relationship with the affected nursery, (e.g. parent of pupil in Arthurlie Family Centre, member of staff, relative of a pupil, etc.). They were also asked whether or not they agreed with the proposals, offered the opportunity to give reasons for their agreement or otherwise and to make additional comments. Consultees were advised that petitions would be treated as a single response.
12. To provide further background about the consultation proposal and to gather views on the proposals, the Director of Education met with the Parent Committee on Wednesday 27 November 2013. A note of the meeting is included in Appendix C.
13. A public meeting was arranged for Wednesday 4 December 2013. However, no parents or members of the community attended.
14. All responses to the consultation were logged, numbered and acknowledgements sent.
15. Written representations were invited by letter/email and considered up to and including midnight on Thursday 9 January 2014.

THE CONSULTATION: NUMBER OF RESPONSES

16. This section of the report provides information on the number of written responses.
17. Statutory respondees include parents/carers* of all pupils in the affected school, Arthurlie Family Centre Parent Committee, parents of any child(ren) expected to attend the family centre within the next 2 school years, pupils of the school considered to be of suitable age and maturity, staff of Arthurlie Family Centre, trade unions representing staff employed in the school, Barrhead Community Council, local elected members, MPs and MSPs representing residents within the present catchment areas (*where a carer means the responsible adult with whom the affected young person lives).
18. A total of 7 returns and on-line submissions were received in response to the consultation. These 7 responses were acknowledged and recorded.
19. The table below shows the number of written responses providing a breakdown of the number of responses indicating the association with the family centre. Staff and Trade Union Representatives have been categorised as statutory others' and a relative of a current pupil as non-statutory other.

Number of Responses	
Parents	2
Future Parents	2
Statutory Others	2
Non-statutory Other	1
Total	7

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: SUMMARY OF VIEWS

20. This section provides a summary of the views within the written submissions.
21. The proposal asked consultees to indicate whether or not they agreed with
- a) the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchinback Primary School; and,
 - b) the proposal to introduce nursery places for children under 3 years in the Auchinback area.
22. All respondees agreed with both proposals.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED: MAIN POINTS

23. This section details the main points raised at the meeting with the Parent Committee and within the written submissions. All submitted written responses were read by officers to ensure that the main points from respondees are included in this report.
24. Three respondees commented on what they saw as benefits of the proposals:

- A newer, larger purpose built nursery was needed in the area and would serve to meet the needs of the children;
 - The introduction of places for children under 3 years in Auchenback and the wider area of Barrhead would meet demand for childcare to support working parents; and
 - Staff and children would be involved in designing the new facility.
25. No respondent expressed concern about the proposals.

COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED

26. The department welcomes the positive responses from those who participated in the consultation, although it is disappointed in the low participation rate.
27. The ongoing community engagement work in the Auchenback area will serve to ensure parents' and other stakeholder views are gathered throughout the design process and the department will ensure children, staff and parent views are included in that.

ALLEGED OMISSIONS AND INACCURACIES

28. Section (10) (3) of the 2010 Act places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the consultative document, which has been either identified by the Council or raised by stakeholders. This Section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission or, if no action was taken, to state that fact (and why).
29. During the consultation period no such allegations were made by respondents.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND AND RESPONSE OFFERED

30. In line with the requirements of the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by Education Scotland in relation to the proposal.
31. The full report submitted by Education Scotland with regard to the proposal is provided as Appendix D. The department notes that Education Scotland has summarised in their feedback that "East Renfrewshire Council has set out a positive well-reasoned case for its proposal. The proposal would lead to the construction of a modern, purpose-built early years facility. Children will benefit from more modern facilities including easier access to the outdoors and better information and communications technology. In a new facility, the centre would be able to provide education and care for birth to three aged children. With the increase of space and the opportunity for closer links with external agencies, the centre would be better placed to meet the needs of children and their families in this community."
32. It also notes that: "..... a few parents shared their concerns about the prospect of a community café in the new building and the implications that this may have for security."

33. The department will work closely with partners in Property and Technical Services to consider such concerns throughout the design process, and, thereafter with partner agencies in the management of security in the centre.

EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS

34. In making this proposal an equalities impact assessment has been carried out and is provided as Appendix E.

35. The Council is aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty articulated in the Equality Act 2010 scheme which came into force on 6 April 2011. This provision requires that the Council in exercising its functions has regard to the need to:

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

36. The proposal for the relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre and the expansion of places for children under 3 years is in accordance with these provisions.

PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERIAL CALL-IN

37. Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 this proposal is not subject to ministerial call-in. As such the final decision on the proposal will be taken by East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee on 13 March 2014, having due regard to the views of stakeholders expressed through the consultation exercise.

CONCLUSION

38. It is accepted by all respondees that the proposal will lead to benefits for the children, parents and community of Auchenback.

39. The relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre to a new purpose built nursery with additional facilities will enhance the integrated work of partner agencies with children, parents and the wider group of stakeholders.

40. Expanding the provision of nursery places for children under 3 will enhance transitions, support working parents and offer opportunities to meet the Council's prevention and early intervention agendas in line with East Renfrewshire's Early Years and Parenting strategies, as well as addressing the entitlement to 600 hours of early learning and care for looked after 2 year olds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

41. It is recommended that:

- a) the Education Committee adopts the proposal as described in the original consultative document; and,
- b) the Council undertakes to plan for a new build family centre with community facilities to be available for occupation in school session 2015 – 2016.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

**PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN
THE AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND
BEYOND**

14 NOVEMBER 2013

This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Renfrewshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND BEYOND

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

1. To consult on the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.
2. To expand the capacity for 0 - 3 in the west of the authority. This will:
 - i) expand provision of high quality local authority places for children under 3 years on the west of the Council area, enhancing the current provision for working parents and those who may benefit from early intervention;
 - ii) meet the Council's duty to provide 600 hours free early learning and childcare to 2 year olds who are, or have been at any time since turning 2, looked after or subject to a kinship care;
 - iii) from August 2015 introduce some flexibility for parents to access the extra 30 hours to address parental needs in addition to the current provision of 570 hours.
3. To close the existing building used by Arthurlie Family Centre.

INTRODUCTION

4. East Renfrewshire Education Department is committed to *Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All*, and has a well earned reputation for providing an excellent education for preschool children. This is borne out in the reports received on our nursery schools, centres and classes following inspection by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.
5. The Council has a statutory duty to make adequate and efficient provision for preschool education for its area in respect of certain children. These children are defined as 'prescribed' preschool children. A preschool child is prescribed during the period from the school term following their third birthday until the end of the school term before they are first eligible to attend primary school. The Council also has power to provide preschool education for other children who do not fall within this category but are not obliged to do so.
6. The Council has responded to national policies which have led to the expansion of preschool education as appropriate and, in some cases, has done so ahead of statute. For example the provision of 3 hour sessions was in place in East Renfrewshire 14 years before the Scottish Government made such mandatory in August 2010.
7. East Renfrewshire Council very recently approved its Early Years Strategy, which has been devised to address the national and local priorities of prevention and early intervention. East Renfrewshire is planning to test new ways of working in the Auchenback area of Barrhead and plans to work closely with the community to

explore the development of a 'community hub' on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School. This new facility would incorporate Arthurlie Family Centre and allow room to expand support and services for 0 - 5 year olds. It would also provide opportunities for staff from all agencies and partners to come together to forge new ways of working. It is critical that the proposed facility is co-designed with the community of Auchenback and complements and supports existing community facilities and activities as well as providing opportunities for new initiatives. Engagement with the community has already started to gather the views of the people of Auchenback about how they could contribute to securing improved outcomes for the children, young people, families and residents of their area.

8. The capacity in nursery establishments is expressed in terms of availability of places in morning and afternoon sessions, e.g. a nursery with a capacity of 30:30 would be able to allocate 60 places in total.
9. The Auchenback and Springhill areas of Barrhead are currently served by Arthurlie Family Centre.
10. Arthurlie Family Centre provides places for 3 and 4 year old children and currently has a capacity of 110:110. This allows the allocation of preschool and ante-preschool places for 220 children in total.
11. Arthurlie Family Centre is open 50 weeks of the year.
12. This proposal would be to relocate the existing Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School and expand the capacity for 0 - 3 year old children in the Auchenback area.
13. East Renfrewshire Council's Single Outcome Agreement outlines the local outcomes which will be delivered for its residents. This proposal would contribute to SOA 1:
 - All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.
14. East Renfrewshire Council's Early Years Strategy 2013-2018 guides services and community planning partners to:
 - i) making a fundamental shift towards prevention and early intervention; and,
 - ii) creating opportunities to work with the community of Auchenback in a different way.
15. The Council's Parenting Strategy sets out a number of key objectives which this proposal would contribute to:
 - Children and young people in East Renfrewshire grow up in nurturing communities that are vibrant, flourishing and child-centred.
 - Children and young people in East Renfrewshire are raised by parents who are well informed about parenting and make effective use of the wide range of available information, advice and support about parenting available locally.

16. East Renfrewshire Council is committed to delivering Public Service Excellence to realise the following benefits:

- i) Improved outcomes for our residents.
- ii) A clearer focus on customer service.
- iii) Increased efficiency so that our resources are focused on delivering for our residents.

17. This proposal will contribute to the realisation of the above.

PRESENT SITUATION

18. At present Arthurlie Family Centre offers 110:110 places for preschool children. Its catchment area is aligned with the delineated catchment for Springhill and Auchenback Primary School, i.e. in line with the current policy on the allocation of nursery places; parents living in this area are guaranteed a preschool place for their 4 year old child. Its associated primary schools are Springhill and Auchenback Primary and St. Mark's Primary Schools.

19. There is no capacity for children under the age of 3 in the Auchenback area.

20. A significant number of children under the age of 3 from the Auchenback area of Barrhead attend McCready Family Centre.

PROPOSAL

21. To relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.

22. To expand the provision within the new facility through offering 50 places for children under 3 years.

23. To close the existing building used by Arthurlie Family Centre.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

24. The vision and aims of the Education Department, *Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All*, is at the heart of the work that department and school staff undertake as they seek to provide the highest quality education and services to develop the whole individual.

25. The department regards preschool education as crucial to the delivery of a broad general education for all children. The aim of *Curriculum for Excellence* is to enable all children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. The department's vision and values embody these aims, which will be furthered as we continue to implement *Curriculum for Excellence*.

26. The relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility would provide further opportunities for partner agencies (i.e. education, social work and health) to provide integrated services and support and take early action to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes through preventative and proactive strategies. It will enhance the implementation of the Council's Parenting Strategy and the Education Department's roll out of family centred approaches.

27. The introduction of a number of places in Arthurlie Family Centre for 0 - 3 year olds will serve to support further the Council's Early Years Strategy, allowing staff to quickly develop an in-depth understanding of children's and families' needs, adjust their practices and realise effective early intervention. Essentially it will allow staff and the community to test change in the area and the Council and its community planning partners to learn from such and amend / apply strategies to other areas as appropriate and as resources allow.
28. The relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre will allow further development of ways of working which will enable education and partner agencies to deliver on the Getting It Right for Every Child outcomes, improving the health and wellbeing of children and their parents, families and the wider community.
29. Improving the transitions of children from 0 - 5 years and from nursery to primary with the aim of securing continuous and progressive learning experiences for children. This would help to unify children's education and care in the centre of their parents' choice.
30. The transitions of children in the catchment of Arthurlie Family Centre to its associated primary schools would remain at a high standard, and would be unaffected by the proposal.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSAL

31. The estimated cost for the associated capital works for a new facility on the site of Auchenback Primary School is £3.4 million. The building would include accommodation which would allow staff and partners to work with parents while their child was learning and cared for in playrooms.
32. The Early Year Change Fund associated with the Early Years Strategy for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 totals £1.64 million.
33. There will be additional costs associated with securing the existing Arthurlie Family Centre building which will be estimated by Property and Technical Services.
34. Additional staffing to support the expansion of provision to include children under the age of 3 years is estimated to cost £158,000 for a full financial year

CONSULTATION

35. The Council is required to formally consult on a proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre. How this is carried out and who must be consulted is clearly set out in the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 which came into force in April 2010.
36. This report is issued as a formal consultative document and will be made available to all interested parties. A copy of the report is available for inspection at all affected establishments, local libraries and at the Council's Head Office, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG; and at the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY. An electronic version can be accessed at the East Renfrewshire Council website (www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk).

Schools Affected

37. The school affected by the proposal is: Arthurlie Family Centre

Period of Consultation

38. The consultation period will last from Friday 15 November 2013 to midnight on Thursday 9 January 2014.

Interested Parties

39. We will consult with the following:

- parents/carers of all children in the affected family centre
- parent representative groups e.g. family centre parents committee
- parents of any child(ren) expected to attend Arthurlie Family Centre within the next 2 school years
- children attending Arthurlie Family Centre (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- staff (teaching and otherwise) of the affected family centre
- trade unions representing staff employed in the affected family centre
- local elected members representing residents within the present catchment area of the affected family centre
- local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents within the present catchment area of the affected family centre
- Barrhead Community Council
- current community users of the affected family centre
- Education Scotland (HMIE)

40. During the consultation period a public meeting will be held in Arthurlie Family Centre (Roebank Drive, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 2JA) at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 4 December 2013. Elected members and senior officers of East Renfrewshire Council will be present to discuss the proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting.

41. Note on Corrections: If any inaccuracy or omission was discovered in the Proposal Document either by the Education Department, or any person, the department would determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there had been an inaccuracy. The Education Department would then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland would be advised.

Responding to the Consultation

42. East Renfrewshire Council invites all interested parties to make written representation on the proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to complete and return the response form that is attached and is also available on East Renfrewshire Council's website.

43. Written responses regarding the proposal will also be accepted by letter or email. Such responses should be clear about who you are, where you live, why you are interested including your relationship with any of the affected schools (e.g. parent of pupil in an affected school, member of staff at an affected school, relative of a pupil at an affected school etc.) and whether or not you agree with the proposal, or have

any alternative solutions or comments. Petitions will be treated as a single response.

44. Education Scotland is entitled to copies of all responses received. We would therefore advise that your personal information will be supplied to Education Scotland if they request it. Separately other interested parties may also seek sight of the responses received and accordingly you should advise if you wish your personal details withheld in respect of these requests.
45. Please send all written representation on the proposal (via the response proforma, a letter or an email) to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, or by email to arthurliefamilycentreconsultation@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk no later than midnight Thursday 9 January 2014. Responses received after this time will not be considered.
46. At the end of the consultation period Education Scotland will be sent details of the consultation responses including issues raised at the public meeting and other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare and submit a report to the Director of Education within three weeks. In preparing their report Education Scotland may visit the affected schools.
47. The Director of Education will report the results of this consultation exercise, including the report submitted by Education Scotland, to the Education Committee on Thursday 13 March 2014. The consultation results report will be available for public inspection at least 3 weeks before that date. This report will be available for inspection at all reasonable times at Council Offices at Eastwood Park, and Barrhead Main Street, in Arthurlie Family Centre, local libraries and published on the Council's website.
48. The Scottish Government must be informed of the decision to discontinue all the nursery classes in a school. If Scottish Ministers consider that the education authority has failed to comply with regulations, or has not taken proper account of a material consideration relevant to the decision to implement the proposal, then the proposal can be called in with a final decision being made by the Scottish Ministers.
49. Reasonable requests for alternative forms of consultation papers or response documents will be accommodated wherever possible e.g. audio support or language translations. For this support please contact Customer First: telephone 0141 577 3001 or email customerservices@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or write to the address in paragraph 45 above.
50. The final report and the decision taken by the Education Committee will be made available on the Council's website. Printed copies of the report will be made available on request to anyone who has responded to the consultative document.
51. The equality implications of this proposed consultation process have been assessed. If the process is adopted no particular group would be discriminated through the consultation process.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
November 2013

Appendix B

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE
AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND BEYOND**

FORM FOR YOUR RESPONSE

ABOUT YOU

Name:

Address:

Post Code

Tick the box if we should keep your name and address confidential

For Parents/Carers (Carer means the responsible adult with whom the young person lives)

I live in the area

Name(s) of my child(ren):

Name of school attending:

For Others (tick only one box, and complete as appropriate)

I am a pupil at

I am a member of staff at

I am related to a child who attends Arthurlie Family Centre

I provide care to a child who attends Arthurlie Family Centre

I am a parent of a child likely to attend Arthurlie Family Centre in the next 2 – 3 years

I am responding on behalf of a group.

Name of group

Other (*please specify*)

WHAT YOU THINK

	I Agree	I Disagree
The proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.		
The proposal to introduce nursery places for children under 3 years in the Auchenback area.		

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS (*tick only one box*)

- I have no additional comment to make
- My comments are written on below.
- I attach my comments

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW

The reason(s) I have for reaching my decision is/are

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Any other
additional
comment

Signed

Send your reply to East Renfrewshire Council, Education Department, Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 1SY, no later than midnight on **Thursday 9 January 2014.**

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Note of meeting with Parent Committee of Arthurlie Family Centre held in the centre on
Wednesday 27 November 2013

Mrs Shaw introduced herself, Janice Collins, Quality Improvement Officer, and Mary Hart, Senior Admin Manager and thanked the group for coming along. Mrs Shaw indicated that there has been ongoing informal discussion with Gavin Russell, Early Years Programme Manager, regarding the possible co-location of existing services. This local work sits alongside the national focus early years and of working with young children and their parents to allow an early intervention approach. She explained that part of the process is about whether the authority relocates Arthurlie Family Centre to the site of the former Auchenback Primary School. This would be a purpose built nursery that would be open 50 weeks of the year. The provision would also be expanded to have provision for 0 to 3 year olds, initially with two year olds. It was not envisaged at this time that two year olds would have five sessions but probably a minimum of three sessions. This would allow some children to go to one centre for their pre-school experience and would support both early education and childcare arrangements.

It was noted that the new centre would offer accommodation for other services such as health visitors and social work services to work with parents and families. Mrs Shaw advised that the authority is very keen for the community to be involved in the centre. She wanted to give some details of the process and advised that this formal consultation has to be carried out by law when an authority opens, closes or relocates a school or nursery. It was noted that at the Education Committee held two weeks ago it had been agreed to go out to consultation and that apart from this meeting a formal public meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 4 December 2013. Anyone can respond to the consultation, either on line or by returning the proforma that had been issued with the consultation paper. The responses would then be collated and analysed and a report would go back to elected members on Thursday 13 March 2014. A representative from Education Scotland would visit the Family Centre after the consultation was finished to discuss the consultation process and ensure it was conducted properly.

Mrs Shaw advised we are not here to discuss the design of the building just now but that we would want parents and young people to have a strong voice in that process. For example it might be helpful to include cooking facilities for parents and children to have a full nurturing experience. It also might be possible to have a community cafe in the centre. However, a lot will depend on what can be afforded.

Mrs Shaw said that she was happy to listen to the parents' views.

One parent advised that she had twin boys with development issues. They go to Carlibar PSADU for two days a week. She was hoping that a similar facility could be available within the new provision as it is really difficult to be in three places at once since she has an older child. She feels that it would be better for her boys to be in a place where they know the staff and are familiar with everything as they do not cope easily with changes to their routine.

Mrs Shaw said that she understood and the proposals to support two year olds would help to identify any difficulties earlier than if children only started nursery after their third

birthday. Mrs Shaw explained that the PSADU supports children with additional support needs. However, additional staff had been appointed to the PSADU to allow them to work with and offer outreach support to children and staff in other nurseries. This will help them disseminate their skills to other places. This assists in making sure children are included in their local community nurseries and not requiring specialist provision.

The group agreed that it would be important for health visitors to be included in the new facility as this would greatly improve communication. Mrs Shaw advised that they would not be based in the new building but would be able to be accommodated there to allow access to them and for them to work with parents, children and other agency staff.

The group agreed that the proposal to include two year olds was a good idea as it would mean that things would get picked up earlier as well as a focus on developmental milestones. One of the parents indicated that she had experienced post natal depression and if such services were available at the new facility then picking things up earlier would make a difference.

The group advised that it was difficult to contact health visitors and one parent advised that she felt there were insufficient health visitors for the Barrhead area. The group felt that home visits by health visitors are not an efficient use of their time and holding a clinic or being available in the new facility would be more efficient.

Some discussion took place about opportunities for parents to support each other and they were of the view that a cafe in the building would be a very good idea. It would be much better than just saying "hello" when they are dropping off or picking up their children. This would give opportunities for informal meetings and support groups to be set up.

Mrs Shaw advised that the Council would also like to see the facility used by the wider community. The group agreed that there is very little for youngsters aged twelve to fourteen. The group remembered that play schemes organised by parents and community led were very beneficial to the area and gave a sense of community which is lacking in some areas of Auchenback and the group would welcome opportunities to recapture this.

A parent asked if the ARC would compete with the planned new facility. Mrs Shaw advised that she understood there had been initial discussions with representatives of the ARC on the proposal and had early indications were that there was a willingness to work with the Council to ensure the new facility, the family centre, and the ARC would complement each other's work rather than duplicate or compete. More detailed discussions would follow as the proposal for the building design took shape.

Mrs Shaw thanked the group for coming along and encouraged them to urge others to participate in and respond to the consultation.

Consultation proposal by East Renfrewshire Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.

Context

This report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act. The purpose of this report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the council's consultation proposal. Section 2 of this report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process. Section 3 sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal and the views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1. Introduction

1.1 East Renfrewshire Council proposes to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new facility on the site of the former Auchenback Primary School.

1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of Arthurlie Family Centre and the former Auchenback Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the centre; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- . any other likely effects of the proposal;

- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

2. Consultation process

2.1 East Renfrewshire Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 All staff who expressed their views wholeheartedly support the proposal. They believe it will bring enormous benefits to children, families and the wider Auchenback community. They feel appropriately consulted. They are very excited at the prospect of providing education and care in a modern purpose-built early years centre. They correctly report that their existing building lacks appropriate space and is not fit for purpose. They welcome the opportunity to extend their capacity to include provision for children aged birth to three years in the Auchenback area. Currently, Arthurlie Family Centre has no provision for birth to three-year-olds. Staff believe that this new provision will support them in fostering even closer relationships with parents. They also believe that they would be able to support transitions more effectively. Furthermore, staff believe that they will benefit from working closely with staff who are working with the birth to three age group. They welcome the opportunities for professional development and sharing good practice. All staff feel that the additional space in the new centre will allow them to build on their very effective family learning programme. Staff also welcome the opportunity to have a more accessible outdoor area for children to use. They hope this will promote a more 'free flow' approach to outdoor learning. Staff welcome the opportunity to work alongside other professionals who may use the centre. Staff identified that in the new centre having toilets situated within the playrooms would be of great benefit to the children.

2.3 Parents of children currently attending Arthurlie Family Centre are very supportive of the proposal. They appreciate greatly the work that staff do to meet their children's learning needs but believe that the new building with increased space would be much more suitable for younger children. They consider that the current building is no longer fit for purpose. A few parents would welcome the opportunity to have access to birth to three provision for their younger children. A few parents were very enthusiastic that the centre would benefit the whole community, providing easier access to other professional agencies such as health. They believe that a café would provide opportunities for parents to get to know and support each other. However, a few parents shared their concerns about the prospect of a community café in the new building and the implications that this may have for security on the new site.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 Arthurlie Family Centre is a well-established early education and care provision in the Auchenback and Springhill areas of Barrhead. The council sets out a number of educational benefits in its statement. The new facility would enhance the current provision in the area for working parents and those children who may benefit from early intervention. There is currently no provision for birth to three-year-old children in the Auchenback area. Currently, a significant number of children aged birth to three years attend McCreedy Family Centre. It would also enable the council to provide 600 free hours of early learning and childcare places to two-year-olds who are, or have been at any time since turning two, looked after or subject to a kinship care order.

3.2 The relocation would provide increased opportunities for partner agencies to provide integrated services to support early intervention, subsequently reducing inequalities and improving outcomes. Greater flexibility in space and the community focus of the new centre would support this very well.

3.3 The relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre would strengthen the partnership working of education and external agencies to deliver on the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) outcomes. This is supported by the increase in space and closer working with external agencies within the new centre the implementation of the proposal would bring. In taking forward the proposal, the council will need to take account of parents' concerns about potential security risks posed with different members of the community using the facility.

3.4 If the proposal is implemented there would be an improvement in transitions of children from birth to five years and from nursery to primary. Providing continuous education and care for children aged birth to five within the same centre would allow a seamless learning experience for them. It would also provide staff with very good opportunities to build up positive relationships with parents over a number of years. Transitions of children within the catchment of Arthurlie Family Centre would be unaffected by the relocation of the centre. This is already a strong feature of practice and would continue to be a high priority for staff at Arthurlie Family Centre.

4. Summary

The council's proposal to relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to the site of the former Auchenback Primary School offers significant educational benefits to the children of the Auchenback area of Barrhead. East Renfrewshire Council has set out a positive well-reasoned case for its proposal. The proposal would lead to the construction of a modern, purpose-built early years facility. Children will benefit from more modern facilities including easier access to the outdoors and better information and communications technology. In a new facility, the centre would be able to provide education and care for birth to three aged children. With the increase of space and the opportunity for closer links with external agencies, the centre would be better placed to meet the needs of children and their families in this community. This would support the centre's current early intervention approaches and their strong commitment to family learning very well. It would also allow the council to meet the demand for places for birth to three aged children in the Barrhead area, particularly for the vulnerable two's in this area. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to continue to engage and consult with staff, parents and the wider community to ensure that the educational benefits of this proposal are realised in full.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
January 2014**

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE ARTHURLIE FAMILY CENTRE TO A NEW FACILITY IN THE AUCHENBACK AREA OF BARRHEAD FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2015/16 AND BEYOND

Screening

1. What is the proposal?

To relocate Arthurlie Family Centre to a new purpose built nursery with community facilities from 2015 – 2016.

2. What is the aim, objective or purpose of the proposal?

The proposal aims to better accommodate children from the local community and catchment of Arthurlie Family Centre and to offer enhanced opportunity for integration of services to meet the needs of the children, parents, families and the community of Auchenback.

The proposal also aims to expand the provision of places for children aged 0 - 3 in the west of the authority. This will enhance the current provision for working parents and those who may benefit from early intervention; meet the Council's duty to provide 600 hours free early learning and childcare to 2 year olds who are, or have been at any time since turning 2, looked after or subject to a kinship care; and from August 2015 introduce some flexibility for parents to access the extra 30 hours to address parental needs in addition to the current provision of 570 hours.

3. Who implements the proposal?

East Renfrewshire Council Education Department.

4. Who is intended to benefit from the proposal and in what way?

Children and staff of Arthurlie Family Centre will benefit from a purpose built nursery which will meet the needs of users and offer early learning and care in new, modern and larger premises, which will enhance children's learning experiences and lead to improved outcomes.

The introduction of nursery places for children under 3 years will also offer the opportunity for better transitions and would improve continuity and progression in early learning and care for children. This would also offer opportunity for high quality childcare for working parents with children under 3 years.

Residents living in the Auchenback area of Barrhead will benefit from the proposal as it is intended that partner agencies, such as Education, Health and Social Work will be accessible within the new facility to parents, children and families.

The agencies themselves will benefit from enhanced opportunities to work closely to meet the needs of children and families.

Residents of Auchenback would also benefit from the proposal through their involvement in the centre, with and within the community to secure improved outcomes for children and families of Auchenback.

5. Is the proposal applied uniformly throughout East Renfrewshire Council Education Department?

No, the proposal directly affects residents of the Auchenback area of Barrhead.

6. Who are the stakeholders in relation to the proposal (for example, certain groups of staff/students, visitors etc)?

- parents or carers of all pupils in the affected school;
- pupils of Arthurlie Family Centre;
- nursery staff of the affected school;
- trade unions representing staff employed in the affected school;
- local elected members representing residents within the present catchment areas of the affected school;
- local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents within the present catchment areas of the affected school;
- members of East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee

7. What data are available to facilitate the screening of this proposal?

- pupil information including gender, ethnic origin, disability and place of residence
- breakdown of pupil attainment by gender, ethnicity, disability
- nursery applications data / projected required capacity
- accessibility information for the existing centre

8. Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation, uptake or exclusion, by the protected characteristics?

There is no evidence of higher or lower participation by any groups with a protected characteristic.

9. In the context of the preceding sections are there any relevant groups which you believe should be consulted? Please specify and give reasons:

In terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 which came into force in April 2010 the following groups / individuals have been consulted:

- parents or carers of all pupils in the affected school;
- school staff of the affected school;
- trade unions representing staff employed in the affected school;
- local elected members representing residents within the present catchment area of the affected school;
- local Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents within the present catchment area of the affected school;
- members of East Renfrewshire Council's Education Committee;
- Barrhead Community Council; and,
- Education Scotland.

10. What data are required in the future to ensure effective monitoring?

- pupil information including gender, ethnic origin, disability and place of residence
- breakdown of pupil attainment by gender, ethnicity, disability
- accessibility information
- nursery applications data

11. Considering all the information above please indicate areas where a differential impact occurs or has the potential to occur

No areas where a differential impact occurs or has the potential to occur have been identified.

12. Any other comments on proposal

No

13. Potential for differential impact

Low

Assessment

1. Does the proposal impact less favourably on a certain group or groups in comparison with others?

There is no indication of such.

Please give details:

N/A

2. Is there any indication of a higher or lower participation/uptake rate by particular equality groups?

There is no indication of such.

Please give details:

N/A

3. Risk of adverse impact

Low

Overall assessment is that this proposed change would not have an adverse impact on any child in terms of age, gender, religion, race and disability. Every child who attends the nursery, whatever their background/nationality/needs will be given support to participate in the appropriate broad range of educational activities and experiences.

4. Do criteria or requirements in relation to the proposal disadvantage certain groups, either explicitly or inadvertently?

No.

Please give details:

Every pupil in an East Renfrewshire school, regardless of race, gender or disability is given full support to participate in the school curriculum and wider achievement. This is endorsed in the Education Department's vision of *Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All*.

5. Is access to services and benefits reduced or denied for some groups in comparison with other groups?

No.

6. Do particular groups face increased difficulty or indignity as a result of the policy?

No.

7. Are there higher complaints rates or lower satisfaction rates for particular equality groups in connection with the policy, in comparison with other groups?

No.

8. Is there evidence that the proposal fails to respond to the needs of a particular group, in comparison with other groups?

No.

9. If you have identified adverse impact, could this amount to unlawful discrimination?

No.

10. If the policy intends to result in different outcomes for different groups by using positive action to redress disadvantages, is this lawful?

Not applicable.

1. Who has responsibility for carrying out the impact assessment?

Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education

2. Tick areas of equality relevance

	Applicable
Disability	X

3. Risk of adverse impact

Low

4. Data used (including assessment of reliability and validity)

See question 7 of the screening.

5. Assessment of adverse impact

Low

6. Consultation carried out (methods, target groups consulted, etc)

A formal consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 is a legal requirement for this relocation proposal. The Director of Education managed the formal consultation process with statutory consultees and interested parties.

7. Proposed method to reduce or eliminate Adverse Impact (including reasons chosen)

Children with a disability are considered by the council as a higher priority for being allocated a nursery place. Therefore children with a disability will be placed in their catchment nursery, i.e. Arthurlie Family Centre.

Children within the neighbourhood of their residence will be allocated a place in the nursery regardless of race, religion or faith.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for amendments to the policy. Please state who/which group or committee considered the options and took the decision on what action would be taken. If a number of options were considered, summarise these and the reason for selecting one option over any others. If no further action is required as a result of the EQIA, please explain.

No amendments to policy recommended as a result of low potential for differential impact.

9. Timescale for implementation

Should the Education Committee approve the proposal, the relocation of Arthurlie Family Centre would be implemented in school session 2015 - 2016.

10. Methods of publication

As part of the statutory consultation there was wide publication:

- Internet

- Copies in a variety of formats available for reasonable requests, for example in other languages, or in large format.
- Copies given to each child in the family centre for delivery to parents, copies sent to all statutory consultees. Copies provided for each member of staff in the affected school.
- Copies were issued to local GP surgeries and libraries.
- Notices in newspapers.
- A public meeting was arranged to discuss proposal.
- A meeting with the Parent Committee of Arthurlie Family Centre.

Should the proposal be adopted, the Education Department would continue to ensure pupils, parents and staff in the affected school were well informed.

11. Monitoring arrangements

As part of the statutory consultation, copies of all consultation responses were passed to Education Scotland who commented on the proposal.

There would be support from the Quality Improvement Service working with senior staff in Arthurlie Family Centre to ensure that the newly established family and community centre would be managed to ensure that the highest quality provision is provided. The quality of provision in the nursery will be monitored by school staff through regular self-evaluation processes; these will be supported and benchmarked through the involvement of the link Quality Improvement Officer (QIO) and the QIO with a remit for supporting the prefive sector in East Renfrewshire.