



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
30 OCTOBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE EXPANSION – PARTNER
GRANTS**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to Committee on grant funding offered to Early Learning and Childcare partner providers to enable them to prepare for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC).
- 1.2 To request support for additional grant funding for partner providers in Moray to support them in their preparations for the expansion of ELC funded hours from August 2020.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section III D (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) **Grant delegated authority to the Head of Education to authorise payments from indicative grant funding for 2019/20 of £200,000 to funded providers, for infrastructure, training and development, with payments:**
 - a. **being made on a priority basis determined by Head of Education;**
 - b. **subject to an agreed list of conditions, in consultation with Legal Services; and**
 - c. **being reported periodically to the Children and Young People's Services Committee.**
- (ii) **Approve the addition of a 'small grant' criterion within the overall infrastructure grant scheme to enable partners to make small adjustments to their settings, or purchase the necessary equipment, to be ready for August 2020.**

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 27 September 2017 Moray Council (paragraph 20 of the minute refers) granted delegated authority to the Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport to authorise payments from indicative grant funding of £100,000 to ELC partner providers for infrastructure improvement projects and staff training and development proposals.
- 3.2 On 6 June 2018 Moray Council granted delegated authority to the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to authorise payments from additional indicative grant funding of £110,000 (year 2 of grant funding). (paragraph 8 of the minute refers).
- 3.3 The grant funding has been made available from the ELC expansion budget (2017/18 and 2018/19 allocations) provided as a ring-fenced grant by the Scottish Government. The total indicative grant funding agreed for the two years was £180,000 for infrastructure projects and £30,000 for training and development. The offer of grant funding was open to all current and potential future partner providers until 31 March 2019.
- 3.4 The offers of grant made to partners over the two year period are as follows:

Infrastructure

Setting	Grant Criteria	Grant Offer
A	Increase capacity/improve outdoor space	£3,350
B	Increase capacity/improve outdoor space	£3,350
C	Improve outdoor space	£8,000
D	Increase capacity/improve outdoor space	£14,320
E	Increase capacity	£25,000
F	Increase capacity	£18,568
G	Increase capacity	£16,500
H	Increase capacity	£11,531
I	Increase capacity/improve outdoor space	£21,709
J	Increase capacity/improve outdoor space	£16,242
K	Increase capacity	£4,656
L	Increase capacity	£25,000
M	Increase Capacity/improve outdoor space	£10,890
	Total	£179,116

Training

Setting	Grant Criteria	Grant Offer
A	Funding for external trainer/professional input in setting	£560
B	Support for individuals seeking to gain ELC qualifications	£624
C	Funding for external trainer/professional input in setting	£2,740
D	Drama Therapy training	£845
E	Specialist training	£757
F	Conference/seminar attendance Outdoor Learning Training	£327 £950
G	Funding for external trainer/professional input for up to 30 practitioners/teachers from partner settings and Moray Council schools and nurseries	£4,050
H	Forest schools course for member of staff	£1,785
I	KSEY Consultancy courses for staff	£700
J	Woodland Activity Leader training	£875
Total		£14,213

- 3.5 The Moray Council ELC Delivery Plan states that the Council is committed to the current mixed economy of ELC provision anticipating that we will continue to commission the majority of our provision through the independent sector. The Council will only look to create additional capacity where it is unable to commission the necessary capacity from our partners. The infrastructure grant offer has encouraged partner providers to look at innovative ways of increasing their capacity, investing in their businesses or settings with support from the Council. The grant funding offer is proving to be a cost effective way of developing additional quality ELC capacity across Moray. It is therefore proposed that the remaining £16,671 of indicative grant funding for phases 1 and 2 is rolled forward to 2019/20 and a further £200,000 is set aside from the Scottish Government 2019/20 ring-fenced ELC grant allocation, for additional grant funding for 2019/20.
- 3.6 The Blueprint for 2020 and the new National Standard for Funded Early Learning and Childcare Providers (published December 2018) includes a number of new requirements for funded ELC providers which they are required to implement prior to August 2020. These include the requirement to provide meals for all children attending funded sessions, and the requirement to ensure all children have daily access to outdoor play and regularly experience outdoor play in a natural environment as part of their funded ELC offer. Within our local authority settings we are investing in commercial dishwashers to facilitate the provision of meals, vinyl flooring for settings that were previously carpeted, outdoor clothing for staff and children, outdoor equipment for some settings, and outdoor training for staff. It is proposed that

the grant offer for 2019/20 includes an additional ‘small grant’ criterion (up to a maximum of £5,000) that would enable all partners to apply for assistance to make similar small adjustments to their settings, or purchase the necessary equipment to be ready for August 2020. The small grant offer would be included in the additional indicative grant funding of £200,000.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This project links to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- a. Providing a sustainable education service aiming for excellence
- b. Promoting economic development and growth
- c. Ensuring caring and healthy communities

This project links to the following priorities in the 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan):

- a. Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray
- b. Growing, diverse and sustainable economy

(b) Policy and Legal

Early Learning and Childcare duties form part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Scottish Ministers can, by order, modify the mandatory amount of early learning and childcare hours to be made available. Currently the requirement is for 600 hours but on 23 March 2017 the Minister for Childcare & Early Years confirmed an expansion to 1140 hours by August 2020.

(c) Financial implications

Moray Council has received £5,505,000 of ring-fenced ELC expansion revenue grant funding from the Scottish Government for 2019/20

The indicative breakdown of headline revenue spends for 2019/20 (ELC expansion funding) is as follows:

Description	£
Proposed grant funding for funded provider projects	200,000
Capital from current revenue (CFCR) funding transfer to capital (new build and refurbishment) programme	1,300,000
Local authority staffing costs	2,380,000
Partnership payments	1,190,000
Catering costs	45,000
ASN support	40,000
Other running costs (including training)	350,000
Total	5,505,000

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications. The terms and conditions attached to the offers of grant are designed to mitigate any potential risks.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no major staffing implications. The grant process is managed by the ELC expansion team.

(f) Property

As a result of the grant offer partner providers are seeking to expand and improve their assets, potentially requiring input from Planning and Building Standards.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

Expanding the entitlement to ELC is seen as one of the most important tools to support long-term inclusive growth in Scotland's economy. Parents and carers (predominantly women) will benefit from a high quality, flexible system as it can help support them into work, training or further study, which may not have been previously accessible.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers in Education & Social Care, Committee Services Officer (Tracey Sutherland), Chief Financial Officer, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care), Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted and their views have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Council considers delegating authority to the Head of Education to authorise payments from indicative ELC grant funding for 2019/20 of £200,000.

Author of Report: Joanna Shirriffs (Senior Project Manager: Early Learning & Childcare Expansion)

Background Papers:

Ref: