



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**SUBJECT: EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE EXPANSION –
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAINING GRANTS**

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL
CARE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to Committee on grant funding for Early Learning & Childcare partner providers in preparation for the expansion of Early Learning & Childcare (ELC).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee 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 **The Committee is asked to consider the contents of this report in relation to the agreement to provide infrastructure and training grant funding to partner providers subject to agreed criteria and conditions.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 27 September 2017 Moray Council 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 (year 1 of grant funding). The Council also agreed that payments should be reported to Children and Young People's Services Committee on a regular basis (paragraph 20 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 On 6 June 2018 Moray Council granted delegated authority to the Acting Corporate Director of Education and Social to authorise payments from additional indicative grant funding of £110,000 (year 2 of grant funding). The Council further agreed that payments should be reported to Children and Young People's Services Committee on a regular basis (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 is £180,000 for infrastructure projects and £30,000 for training and development.

- 3.3.1 An initial offer of grant funding was open to all current and potential future partner providers until 31 March 2018. A further offer will be made available later in the year if there are sufficient funds remaining. As at end July 2018 the grant offers made to partner providers 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
	Total	£122,328

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	Creative and Expressive Arts 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	£4050
	Total	£10,853

Where funding has been offered for training within a particular setting, the provider will be required to complete an evaluation report evidencing the impact of the training so that a wider rollout can be considered by the Early Years team.

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 & 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 2020.

(c) Financial implications

The offers of grant issued to date are within the agreed funding limits.

(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

Partner providers are applying for infrastructure grants to extend and/or improve their assets, 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. Providing grant funding to partner providers to expand and develop their businesses/services will ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the anticipated growth.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers in Education & Social Care; Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer; Paul Conner, Principal Accountant; Legal Services Manager; Margaret Forrest, Litigation and Licensing; have been consulted and their views have been incorporated into this report where it relates to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee notes progress with the grant funding programme offered to support the expansion of early learning and childcare within the independent ELC sector.

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

Background Papers:

Ref: