

## East Lothian Council

**FOI Ref: 2018/097(13197)**

### ***Future Provision of Early Learning and Childcare in the Dunbar Cluster Area***

***I was wondering whether you were able to please advise a) how this consultation was advertised to / shared with school communities in the area and b) the outcome / recommendation that this consultation achieved?***

- a) The consultation was live in late September/early October 2017. Information publicising the consultation was sent to schools and nurseries, both Local Authority and Private within each cluster area. The information was also sent to registered childcare providers and through colleagues in the Support from the Start Cluster Group, all of whom were asked to make parents/carers aware of the consultation.
- b) The response to the questionnaire was limited with 68 responses. Analysis of information provided is attached, please refer to Appendix I overleaf.

The consultation was a starting point for dialogue with the community, giving parents/carers the opportunity to express a view and opinion, in regard to the expansion of early learning and childcare proposed for August 2020. The consultation whilst receiving a limited response, provides a reference to the needs and wishes of parents within the cluster area at a given point in time.

As we move forward towards 2020 there will be other opportunities for parents to express their views and opinions on the provision of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare for 2020.

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## **Appendix I**

### **DUNBAR (68 responses)**

Approximately 71 % with non-school aged children. Of those, 77% (40) use childcare currently.

46% living in Dunbar use childcare in Dunbar, whilst 11% living in Dunbar use childcare in another area. Less than 2%% live elsewhere but use Dunbar EL&CC

### **USE**

Current	LA Nursery	Childminder	Private Nursery	Playgroup/Family or Friends
Preferred/Future	LA Nursery	Childminder/Private	Playgroup	LA Wraparound

Approximately 32.5% state their arrangements meet their needs. 12% who stated they did not have their needs met were for the following reasons:-

- Hours of Operation
- Cost
- Availability / Accessibility – lack of places

### **Option preference for 1140 hours**

Term Time: 25% 50 weeks: 40% others didn't know or didn't respond

### **Preferred days and times of use**

- Most popular days Tuesday (66%) Wednesday (65%) and Thursday (62%) with Monday (59%) and Friday (49%)
- Drop off /start times between 7.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. Most popular being 7.30/8.00/8.30. though higher demand for 7.00 a.m. (10.29%) than 9 a.m. (5.88%)
- Pick up /finish time between 5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. with some need at 6.30 p.m. (7.35%) and minimal (2.94%) for 7.00 p.m.

Those expecting a baby in 2017 felt they would opt for LA Nursery, Private Nursery or Playgroup, with less than 2% stating a Childminder/Friends or Family/ Out of School Club.

For 1140 hours, the majority had a preference for ELC across 50 weeks with smaller proportion sticking to Term time. An even spread across the days of the week, Monday – Friday. Timing preferences ranged between 7.30/8.00/8.30/9a.m. and 5/5.30/6.00 p.m.

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## **General Comments**

- LA provision needs to support working parent arrangements, move away from a.m. or p.m. sessional model
- Co-ordination of start and finish times between nursery and school
- Need to be a balance for both working and non-working parents.
- Disappointed by the provision of private childcare in Dunbar
- Childcare is expensive and can take up majority of a parent's income
- Ability to use 30hours across more than one provider specifically a Childminder or Wraparound
- Concerned about the increase in housing and birth rate and impact on number of places available – especially in East Linton
- A need for flexibility and session length which support working parents whether full time or part time. i.e. over 3 full days
- More flexibility and hours in LA Nursery provision
- Childcare in Dunbar is plentiful and varied - very happy with the childminder
- None of the childminders will collect children out-with Dunbar schools which excludes a lot of parents in outlying villages.
- An extension of wraparound services
- Playgroup is fantastic but it would be great if it was open for the 5 mornings or could use funded hours there
- Innerwick has very limited service
- Flexibility for those who don't have fixed working hours
- Timely access to information e.g. about wraparound care
- Needs to be a fairer way in managing waiting lists for access to wraparound and not just how has been on the list for longest.
- Where weekend working is required. And with no family and friends available it is sometimes impossible to return to work