

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 January 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Recommendations Referred by Education Resources Committee
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ request approval of the following recommendations referred to this Committee by the Education Resources Committee of 10 December 2019

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the recommendations referred by the Education Resources Committee in relation to the review of the admissions policy for early learning and childcare establishments be approved.

3. Background

3.1. Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments

A report dated 19 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a review of the policy for the admission of children into Early Years' establishments in South Lanarkshire.

Since 1996, the Council's Admissions Policy for Early Years' Establishments had been regularly reviewed to reflect changes in legislation and national policy development.

The last review of the Admissions Policy had been presented to the Education Resources Committee on 6 February 2018.

A consultation exercise had been undertaken with a range of stakeholders, in the period October and November 2019, on the current Admissions Policy and the proposed amendments, which took account of the views received from parents/carers and early years' providers in terms of early learning and childcare provision. The main priorities which had emerged from the consultation process were outlined in the report and the proposed revised Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had taken account of those priorities.

The Admissions Policy would be used for the allocation of an early learning and childcare place. As the Council moved towards the implementation of 1,140 hours, a number of Early Learning and Childcare establishments might be able to offer additional hours, free for children who fell within the Council's exemption criteria and paid by other parents/carers in terms of the Council's Nursery Fees' Policy.

In 2020, the Annual Admissions' allocation would move from May to March, with places allocated on a first come, first served basis. Parents would be informed of their child's early learning and childcare place, in writing, by the end of May each year.

Should a parent/carer apply for deferred entry to primary school for their child, they might be able to access an additional year of funded Early Learning and Childcare, however, this would only be considered where either of the following applied:-

- ◆ children whose 4th birthday fell in the January or February of the year they were due to start primary school (considered as returning children)
- ◆ children whose 4th birthday fell between August and December, and their application had been considered and approved by the Admissions Scrutiny Group

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

- (1) that the priorities for admission to Early Years' establishments be revised as follows:-

<i>Proposed Policy Children aged 0-3 years</i>	<i>Proposed Policy Children aged 3-5 years</i>
<i>Priority 1</i>	<i>Priority 1</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children affected by Abuse ◆ Children with additional support needs ◆ Looked after and Accommodated Children from birth up 2 years old ◆ Children who at any time from the age of 2 years have been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) Looked after and Accommodated or – b) subject to a Kinship Care Order ◆ Children affected by Domestic Violence ◆ Children affected by Substance Misuse ◆ Children affected by a disability within the home <p><i>All applications within Priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment/single agency assessment</i></p> <p>*2 year olds as required by relevant legislation from time to time applying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children affected by Abuse ◆ Children with additional support needs ◆ Children who at any time have been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) Looked after and Accommodated or – b) subject to a Kinship Care Order ◆ Children affected by Domestic Violence ◆ Children affected by Substance Misuse ◆ Children affected by a disability within the home <p><i>All applications within Priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment/single agency assessment</i></p>
<i>Priority 2</i>	<i>Priority 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New applications: (0-3 year olds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children in their pre-school year – new applications ◆ Deferred entry children Aug/Dec ◆ Transfer application pre-school year children – change in circumstances

Priority 3	Priority 3
♦ Transfer applications – change in circumstances	♦ Children in their ante pre-school year - new applications ♦ Transfer applications ante-pre-school year – change in circumstances
Priority 4	Priority 4
♦ Transfer applications – parental choice	♦ Transfer application pre-school year children - parental choice ♦ Transfer applications ante-pre-school year – parental choice
Priority 5	Priority 5
♦ All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire Council who are not within a catchment area of a primary school within the Council Area	♦ All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire Council who are not within a catchment area of a primary school within the Council Area
Priority 6 Additional Hours	

Priority 1 All Priority 1 Children

Priority 2 Children whose parents and/or carer were in employment or education

Priority 3 All children allocated a place in the nursery including those children returning to nursery for a further year which included deferred children approved by the Council

- ♦ Priorities 1 to 4 would apply to children who were resident within the Council Area and those children who were considered catchment pupils for a Council Primary school
- ♦ all children residing (non South Lanarkshire Council primary school catchment children) outwith the Council area, no matter the circumstances, would be considered priority 5
- ♦ eligible children would have access to Early Learning and Childcare regardless of age, gender, race, religion or need
- ♦ Early Learning and Childcare would be provided on a non-denominational basis
- ♦ securing a place in a school nursery class would not guarantee a primary school place within the primary school
- ♦ children deferring entry from Primary 1 January and February birthdays where an additional year of funding had been agreed by the Council were considered returning children
- ♦ children deferring entry from Primary 1 August to December birthdays who had been approved for a deferred year of funding were considered returning children
- ♦ additional hours were only considered once all eligible children had been allocated their entitlement

(2) that the Admissions Policy for the allocation of places to all Early Years' Establishments be implemented from March 2020.

[Reference: Minutes of the Education Resources Committee of 10 December 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. All employee implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committees.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. All financial implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committees.

6 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

7. Other Implications (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)

- 7.1. Any risks or sustainability issues or other implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to the Resource Committees.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements were highlighted as part of the original reports to the Resource Committees.
- 8.2. There is no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

9 January 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Accountable, effective and efficient

Previous References

- ♦ Minutes of Education Resources Committee of 10 December 2019

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Education Resources Committee, 10 December 2019

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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