

## **Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 3 December 2018, proposed by Councillor Sheena Wardhaugh, seconded by Councillor Jackie Burns, as follows:-

“The Independent Group congratulates the Scottish Government on its commitment to Early Years Education (now entitled ELC), and on the expansion of ELC to 1140 hours by 2020 however regrets that it is not as effective as it could be because of “birthday discrimination” by which the date of a child’s birthday affects when that child can access ELC without fees – as is the case according to current South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) policy.

To help in closing the attainment gap and giving our children the best possible start ELC must be accessed as soon as a child is three.

To remove the barrier of “birthday discrimination” the Independent Group:-

- 1 calls on the SNP Administration to negotiate with the Scottish Government to achieve ring-fenced funding to allow children in South Lanarkshire to access ELC as soon as they are three;
- 2 until this negotiation is successful, calls on SLC to facilitate access to ELC as soon as a child is three within the SLC budget, as is the case in other nearby local authorities, and to change the admission policy to reflect this.

Change should take effect at the beginning of the 2019/2020 school session.

Report on progress to be given to the Council meeting in March.”