

Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Consultation September 2017 We are looking for your views

Background

By 2020, the entitlement to free early learning and childcare will be almost doubled from 600 to 1140 hours per year for each child (this includes all 3 and 4 year olds and some eligible [2 year olds](#)).

This means a change from around 16 to around 30 hours of free early learning and childcare per week if parents choose to use it during term time - or it could be spread all year round to cover holiday periods as well.

The current 600 hours is offered at 3 hours and 10 minutes per day/15 hours 50 minutes per week term time in Council nurseries with different arrangements available at non-Council nurseries.

When 1140 hours free early learning and childcare is available you will not have to take up the full hours.

We are interested in hearing the views of parents and carers on how you would use the increased hours. Your views and experiences will be used to design a service that meets the needs of Midlothian's families

Your participation in this survey is strictly confidential. The survey is being undertaken by Midlothian Council. Our reporting of the survey results will ensure that no-one taking part can be identified. Please skip any questions that you do not wish to answer, and you can stop the survey at any time.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email 1140survey@midlothian.gov.uk

Survey

If you have children already attending an EL&C setting or who have just started P1, it would be helpful if you think back to the time when you were looking for child care and what you would have preferred then.

1. Please provide your full post code

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2. If it were available now and it offered the flexibility of provision that you needed, how much of the 1140 hours of early learning and childcare do you think you might use if you had an eligible 3 or 4 year old?

- All or almost all of the free 1140 hours (around 30 hours per week if used only during term time, or 22 hours per week if used every week of the year)
- More than half but less than all of the free 1140 hours
- Around half of the 1140 free hours, the same as the current entitlement (around 16 hours per week if used only during term time, or 11 hours per week if used every week of the year)
- Between zero and half of the 1140 free hours
- Not applicable

3. If it were available now and it offered the flexibility of provision that you needed, how much of the 1140 hours of early learning and childcare do you think you might use if you had an eligible 2 year old?

- All or almost all of the free 1140 hours (around 30 hours per week if used only during term time, or 22 hours per week if used every week of the year)
- More than half but less than all of the free 1140 hours
- Around half of the 1140 free hours, the same as the current entitlement (around 16 hours per week if used only during term time, or 11 hours per week if used every week of the year)
- Between zero and half of the 1140 free hours
- Zero hours of free early learning and childcare
- Not applicable/I don't know

4. How would you prefer to spread the 1140 hours over the year?

- I don't know/no preference
- Every week of the year (around 22 hours per week) Year-round except for when I or my partner are on annual leave (around 22-30 hours per week)
- School term time only (around 30 hours per week)
- Other (please write in below)

5. And how would you prefer to spread these hours over the week? Select all that apply

- I don't know/no preference
- Longer sessions on fewer days per week (e.g. 3 days from 8am to 4pm – please use the 'other' box below to provide more detail)
- Shorter sessions on more days per week (e.g. 5 or 6 days for part of the day – please use the 'other' box below to provide more detail)
- Flexibility to include weekend provision
- Provision outside of normal working hours (eg before 8am and/or after 6pm day – please use the 'other' box below to provide more detail)
- Other (please write in below)

6. Would you want or need to top up these 1140 funded hours with childcare you pay for yourself?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

7. If yes, how many hours per child would you need to top this up by?

8. Would you want or need to use a blended provision where your child attends 2 different providers each day (e.g. the morning in a partner provider setting and the afternoon with a childminder)?

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

- If yes, please tell us of any combination of service you would use for:

3-4 year olds

- Local Authority Nursery – attached to a primary school
 Local Authority Nursery – Not attached to a primary school
 Private Partner Nursery
 Voluntary Sector Nursery
 Childminder
 Other (please specify)

2 year olds

- Local Authority Nursery – attached to a primary school
 Local Authority Nursery – Not attached to a primary school
 Private Partner Nursery
 Voluntary Sector Nursery
 Childminder
 Other (please specify)

9. Is there a time your childcare must start before?

- Yes, please tell us the time
 No

10. Is there a time your childcare must finish after?

- Yes, please tell us the time
 No

11. If you would use the increase in free early learning and childcare for one or more of your children, what are your main reasons for wanting to use this? Select all that apply

- To work or look for work (yourself or your partner)
 To increase the number of hours that I or my partner work

- To study or improve work-related skills (yourself or your partner)
- To have more time for household tasks such as cooking, DIY, cleaning, etc (yourself or your partner)
- To have more time to look after other children (yourself or your partner)
- To care for another relative or friend (yourself or your partner)
- To have more time for ourselves: to rest, exercise, socialise, spend time on hobbies, etc (yourself or your partner)
- I think it will be good for my child's development
- I think it will be good for my child's wellbeing
- I think it will be good for my ability to help my child's learning and development at home
- Other reason (please write in below)

12. If you would NOT use the increase in free early learning and childcare for one or more of your children, are there particular reasons why you would not use this free early learning and childcare? Select all that apply

- No reason/I don't know
- I think my child is too young
- I want to look after my child myself most of the time
- My child wouldn't like to be separated from myself or my partner
- I don't think it would be good for my child's development
- I don't think it would be good for my child's wellbeing
- I don't think it would be good for my relationship with my child
- I was not aware of the availability of funded childcare
- I don't know how to apply for funded childcare/I find applying too difficult
- I cannot afford childcare, even if it's free, because there are always some associated costs
- Transport is not available or the travel time is too long
- The travel costs would be too high
- A lack of flexibility or choice in available opening hours
- A lack of flexibility or choice in available childcare settings or types of childcare
- There are no available providers near me
- There are no providers available that I could trust to provide a high quality service
- There are no providers available that meet the additional support needs of my child
- Other reason (please write in below)

13. Please add any other comments

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your views are valuable to us in trying to meet the needs of Midlothian's families.