EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EARLY YEARS CITY POLICY COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

Hybrid meeting, 25th January 2024.

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.

Present: Graham Campbell (Chair), Blair Anderson, Stephen Dornan, Patricia Ferguson, Elaine Gallagher, Zen Ghani, Fiona Higgins, Lilith Johnstone, Ruairi Kelly, Anne McTaggart (substitute for Fyeza Ikhlaq), Malcolm Mitchell and Catherine Vallis.

Also present: Christina Cannon.

Apologies: Elaine Gallagher and Fyeza Ikhlaq.

Attending: C Jack (Clerk); D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services); and F Ross (for the Director of Communication and Corporate Governance).

Early learning and childcare delivery – Progress noted – Instruction to Executive Director of Education Services.

1 With reference to the minutes of 3rd June 2021 (Print 2, page 111) instructing the Executive Director of Education Services to continue to submit updated reports on the expansion of early learning and childcare (ELC) delivery, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding the progress on the expansion and a pilot undertaken of targeted school aged children following a change in legislation, advising that

(1) the Council had delivered its planned expansion of universal access to 1140 hours of statutory ELC for all 3 and 4 year olds and some 2 year olds in August 2021, with over 15,000 children per year accessing statutory ELC;

(2) in August 2023 legislation came into force that allowed parents of all children who were not yet 5 years old on the first day of term in August to access a further year of funded 1140 hours provision for their child;

(3) Glasgow was one of a small group of local authorities that piloted the change in legislation in August 2022 and the number of families that chose to access this additional benefit had risen from 588 children in 2021 to 623 in 2022 and 781 in 2023 when the legislation came into force nationally;

(4) following the publication of the Scottish Government's Best Start – Strategic Early Learning and School Age Childcare Plan 2022-26, Glasgow had been selected as 1 of 4 local authorities to embed the benefits gained from the universal 1140 hours and to develop a system of school aged childcare (SAC) and early years care for children under 2;

(5) the pilot had been rolled out in Drumchapel/Anniesland (Ward 14) and East Centre (Ward 18) and by the end of 2022, families who were accessing the SAC services and who met the priority criteria, had received assistance with their childcare expenses and that the success of this pilot had resulted in the service being rolled out to Southside Central (Ward 8); and

(6) Glasgow had submitted a bid for the next financial year to test a system of all age childcare from 9 months to the end of primary school and, if successful, would roll out further testing of delivery to a further 5 Wards in the city.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted the progress and issues around developing childcare services; and

(b) instructed the Executive Director of Education Services to continue to submit updated reports to this committee.