

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION

by

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYFANWY ALEXANDER
(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEARNING AND WELSH LANGUAGE)**

Date: May 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: Gareth Jones

SUBJECT: Extended Childcare Offer Implementation

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

- 1.1 Welsh Government, as part of its Employment Strategy has commenced the roll out of the provision of a combined offer of universal free pre-school early year's education and extended childcare for 30 hours per week for up to 48 weeks of the year. The childcare element of the provision is only available to 3 and 4 year old children from working families, with the full rollout of the provision being achieved across Wales by September 2020.
- 1.2 Pilots for the childcare elements commenced in seven local authorities across Wales in September 2017, with further pilots expected to commence in other areas in September 2018 and within Powys from January 2019.
- 1.3 Powys County Council's response to the request for additional information and expression of interest for being part of the extended pilot (with accompanying implementation plan attached as Appendix A and B to this report). It is proposed that the rollout of the provision commences in the Maesydderwen and Gwernyfed High School catchments as the Primary School structure in each of the catchments have been designed and built with specific early year's class bases in readiness for the implementation of this initiative.
- 1.4 The authority was aware of the proposals when it commissioned the extended pre-school early years education provision from September 2017 and have anticipated that the majority of the funded settings will extend their hours of operation to meet the extended demand.
- 1.5 The authority submitted its latest child care sufficiency assessment in the Summer of 2017 and this together with the outcomes of the current review of Primary Schools capacity will be utilised to identify the available and potential capacity to deliver the extended provision,

- 1.6 As Powys currently provides 12.50 hours per week of funded pre-school foundation phase education, the available funding would be based on an additional 17.50 hours per week for the 38 school weeks, and 30 hours per week for the remaining 10 weeks of the year. The funding for the childcare provision within the pilots is currently being provided at £4.50 per hour.
- 1.7 It is anticipated that the entitlement and funding procedures would be administered by a central authority, with the funding being given directly to the registered childcare provider in relation to the childcare hours. The estimated additional funding available to a childcare setting which also delivers the pre-school early years education of variable size is summarised in the table below:

Childcare Offer			
Expected Income Streams (In addition to Funded Pre School Education)			
Average number of places taken up in setting	Funding per Week Term Time	Funding per Week Non Term Time	Total Funding
6	473	810	26,055
8	630	1,080	34,740
10	788	1,350	43,425
12	945	1,620	52,110
16	1,260	2,160	69,480
20	1,575	2,700	86,850
30	2,363	4,050	130,275

- 1.8 To qualify to be in receipt of the funding the childcare provider must be registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales.
- 1.9 All funded settings are currently supported by a team of officers from the schools and CYPP Services; this support together with a commissioned business support service will support the settings in each of the authority's 13 catchment areas as the programme is rolled out over the next 2 years.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is requested that Members note the content of the report and request that officers continue to liaise with Welsh Government officials and to provide further updates to Cabinet.

- 2.2 That officers develop further financial modelling in respect of those settings run by or within a school building.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 N/A

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 N/A

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? No
- The impact assessment will be completed following receipt of further information from Welsh Government, which is expected in May 2018.

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 The provision of the joint early year's education and extended childcare provision supports two of the key objectives within the Council's Vision 2025.

1. **Economy** – the provision of the extended funded childcare provision will provide increased employment opportunities within the settings for qualified childcare staff. In addition working parents of 3 and 4 year olds will be provided access to funded places which will reduce their personal childcare costs and allow them to further support the local Powys economy.
2. **Learning and Skills** – The funded pre-school early years education provision is the first funded provision that the majority of children will have access to. The provision is a universal entitlement to all children commencing at the start of the term following a child's third birthday. There is evidence that some children in the more rural areas are not accessing the current provision due to its part time nature. The link to the extended childcare will allow parents to access full time education / childcare provision and will allow more children and parents to take up their entitlement to the pre-school education.

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 The childcare provision will impact all wards of the council.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

If so please provide their comments

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

Have they made a comment?

The report is of public and service user interest and requires the use of news release to publicise the rollout. Schools Service will also be liaising with service providers to explain the changes.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 Legal – Professional Lead for Legal Services notes the content of the report and will support the Education Department as necessary in relation to the proposals from Welsh Government.

10.2 Finance - The Schools Finance Manager acknowledges the additional benefits the report addresses, however, it is noted at 2.2 that further financial modelling is needed to ensure there is no cost to the authority and any additional costs in running such a scheme are fully funded as part of the scheme. We will work closely with educational officers to ensure the final proposal is endorsed by the Finance Team.

10.4 HR - There do not appear to be any workforce implications at this stage, however, HR advice and support is available for the service area should that be required at a later stage.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised?

The report itself has not been scrutinised, but the Senior Manager for Central Services has attended Scrutiny and given a verbal update.

12. Statutory Officers

The Head of Financial Services (Acting Section 151 Officer) notes the comments of the Schools Finance Manager. The financial implications of the proposed extended childcare provision needs to be fully considered before rollout is commenced.

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That members note the content of this report.	To provide members an update for the extended childcare initiative.

Relevant Policy (ies):	Foundation Phase Education Provision; Extended Childcare regulations		
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	All
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Ms H Stock , Mr J Hadden
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st May and ongoing

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: