



E: ELCPartnershipForum@gov.scot

Monday 14 December 2020

NOTE FOR ALL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

To all registered childcare providers,

We are nearing the end of 2020 and it's been a challenging year. I want to thank you for all your efforts this year in continuing to provide nurture, love and care for children and families in Scotland in the toughest of circumstances. While we were all disappointed that the expansion to 1140 hours couldn't go ahead as planned in August 2020, Team ELC has made tremendous progress in delivering more expanded entitlement to children and we are now in a position to confirm a new delivery date.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion

As you will be aware, back in March we took the difficult decision to pause the ELC expansion. This decision was necessary to allow Local Authorities and childcare providers to respond to the pandemic and provide critical childcare to key worker families and vulnerable children and because elements of the expansion simply couldn't proceed during lockdown.

Over the past few months we've continued to monitor the progress across Scotland to help Scottish Ministers and COSLA Leaders determine when we could realistically deliver the 1140 hours expansion in full, while ensuring quality of experiences for children remains at the heart of all that we do.

COSLA Leaders and Scottish Ministers have now agreed the recommendation of the ELC Joint Delivery Board that the 1140 hours expansion should be implemented across Scotland in August 2021. Scottish Ministers will bring forward legislation to put this new date in law in early 2021.

Today the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd MSP, and Councillor Stephen McCabe, COSLA Spokesperson for Children and Young People have issued a Joint Statement which you can read [here](#).

We look forward to working with the Scotland-wide Team ELC as we look ahead to 2021, now that we can offer certainty to families on when every child will receive 1140 hours of funded ELC. Collectively we can focus on realising the transformational benefits the expansion will bring including improved educational and development outcomes for children, enhanced family wellbeing and greater employment and training opportunities for parents and carers.

Childcare guidance and Infographics

The First Minister announced a change to the [guidance on the self-isolation](#) period on 11 December. Until now household members and close contacts of people testing positive for coronavirus have been required to self-isolate for 14 days. That same 14 day self-isolation period has been applied to people travelling to Scotland, from countries that are not on the [quarantine exemption list](#). Following consideration of the latest scientific evidence, the UK's four Chief Medical Officers have advised that the self-isolation period can be reduced to 10 days. This change will take effect from today, 14 December.

From today anyone who is told to self-isolate should do so for a period of 10 days, not 14. And if you are someone who is already self-isolating, then from today onwards – you can stop once you reach the ten day point. These changes apply to household members and close contacts of people who have tested positive - whether you are notified by Test and Protect or by the app.

We've updated our suite of childcare guidance to reflect that change. You can find that guidance here –

- [Early Learning and Childcare](#)
- [Childminding Services](#)
- [School Aged Childcare](#)

To complement our suite of guidance we've create some infographics on specific parts of the guidance. These include – key messages, what to do in an event of an outbreak, what to do if a child becomes unwell and what to do if an adult becomes unwell. You can find the infographics here –

- [Early Learning and Childcare](#)
- [Childminding Services](#)
- [School Aged Childcare](#)

Parents and Carers

The Parent Club website (www.parentclub.scot) continues to be our 'one-stop shop' for parent and carer information about ELC. This includes the information about Covid-19 restrictions, that is regularly updated, and a new section on deferring your child's school start. We have now updated the website with the information about the reinstatement date of the 1140 expansion.

For some of you, if you are already delivering 1140 hours, parents might already have a good understanding of what this involves. For others, we will shortly share a link to a toolkit if you would prefer to use our core text in your parent communication. We would be grateful if you could share the Parent Club pages with parents and carers at your setting. These can be found at: www.parentclub.scot/elc.

Further support and information

Remember to keep an eye on Twitter where we will keep you updated on the latest changes; answer your questions; share ideas and best practice; and celebrate the fantastic efforts of the early learning and childcare sector to support Scotland's children and families. Follow us @ELCScotGov.

Thank you again for everything you do for Scotland's children and families, particularly in these challenging times.

Alison Cumming
Interim Director, Early Learning and Childcare