



Education Resources
Executive Director **Jim Gilhooly**
Head of Education

Ms Carolyn Roberts
fairfundingforourkids@outlook.com

Our ref: EDU/FOI/2016/165
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Molly Magee
Phone: 01698 454512
Date: 27 July 2016

Dear Ms Roberts

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information, received on 24 June 2016. Your request has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please find listed below your request for information and our response:

1 In your local authority, what was the estimated population in 2015/16 of:

a. Vulnerable 2 year olds eligible for free early years and childcare provision?

In response to this request, I can confirm that statistical information on population estimates can be found on the National Records of Scotland website:

- <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2015-and-corrected-mid-2012-to-mid-2014/list-of-tables>

I can confirm that the Council estimated in August 2014, that there would be approximately 874 vulnerable children. These figures were based on 2012 population figures (defined as looked after 2 year olds, 2 year olds subject to kinship orders and those whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits).

Projected figures for vulnerable children for August 2015 was between 931-1005 children. I can confirm, however, that any vulnerable 2 year old who meets the eligibility criteria¹, will receive childcare provision.

b. 3 – 5 year olds eligible for free early years and childcare provision?

I can confirm that 5606 places are available for 3-5 year olds at local authority nurseries and 2150 children and funded with partner provider nurseries.

¹ Scottish Government eligibility criteria: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/parenting-early-learning/childcare>



2 In the final term of 2015/16 how many early years and childcare places were made available for:

a. Vulnerable 2 year olds?

I can confirm that 760 places were made available for vulnerable 2 year olds.

b. 3 - 5 year olds?

I can confirm that 7764 places were made available for children aged 3-5 (local authority and partner nursery provision)

3 In the final term of 2015/16 how many early years and childcare places for vulnerable 2 year olds were made available in

a. Council nurseries?

I can confirm that 760 places were made available for vulnerable 2 year olds in local authority nurseries.

b. Partner providers?

I can confirm that 2 year olds do not receive funding at partner provider nurseries.

4 In the final term of 2015/16 how many early years and childcare places for 3 – 5 year olds were made available in

a. Council nurseries?

I can confirm that 5606 places were made available for children aged 3-5 in local authority nursery provision.

b. Partner providers?

I can confirm that 2158 places were made available for children aged 3-5 in partner provider nursery provision.

5 In the final term of 2015/16, how many council nursery places for vulnerable 2 year olds were made available as

a. Half day, term time only?

b. Half day, year round?

c. Full day, term time only (i.e.: two free half day sessions in the same day plus lunch)?

d. Full day, year round?

e. Extended hours / wrap around, term time only (i.e.: 8am to 6pm with parents paying for wrap around hours)?

f. Extended hours / wrap around, year round?

g. Are there any other models of provision offered in council nurseries?

In response to the above requests, I can advise you that in 2015/16, the Council has provided a total of 760 places for vulnerable 2 year olds. The Council does not stipulate how these places are allocated. The admissions policy allows parents to request the pattern of provision to best suits their family needs. Most requested a half day basis (am/pm) during term time (August-June), however some children attended within pattern (e) and (f) as described above.

6 In the final term of 2015/16, how many council nursery places for 3 – 5 year olds were made available as

a. Half day, term time only?

b. Half day, year round?

c. Full day, term time only (i.e.: two free half day sessions in the same day plus lunch)?

d. Full day, year round?

e. Extended hours / wrap around, term time only (i.e.: 8am to 6pm with parents paying for wrap around hours)?

f. Extended hours / wrap around, year round?

g. Are there any other models of provision offered in council nurseries?

As stated in our response to Question 2, the Council has provided a total of 7764 places in 2015/16 for 3-5 year olds at local authority nurseries and partner provider nurseries.

A child becomes eligible for a free place in the term after their third birthday and the entitlement is 600 hours over 38 weeks.

The normal pattern of attendance is 5 x 3hr 10 minute sessions per week, either morning or afternoon, with no more than 2 x 3hr 10 minute sessions in any one day, with a one hour lunch break.

The allocation of places is determined by requests from parents. This allows parents wherever possible to secure the pattern of provision to suit their child and family needs. Across the Council a range of establishments operate and offer different types of provision as detailed in points (a)-(f) above. Most choose am/pm however some children attend within the patterns (e)-(f) as described above.

7 In term 1, 2015/16, how many council nursery places were taken up for

a. Vulnerable 2 year olds?

I can confirm that the uptake of local authority nursery places for vulnerable 2 year olds in term 1 was 475 places.

b. 3 – 5 year olds?

I can confirm that the uptake of local authority nursery places for 3-5 year olds in term 1 was 3153 places.

8 In the final term of 2015/16, how many council nursery places were taken up for

a. Vulnerable 2 year olds?

In the final term of 2015/16, the uptake of local authority nursery places for vulnerable 2 year olds was 495 places.

b. 3 – 5 year olds?

In the final term of 2015/16, the uptake of local authority nursery places for 3-5 year olds was 4694 places.

9 In the final term of 2015/16, how many Full Time Equivalent places are available for

a. Vulnerable 2 year olds?

In the final term of 2015/16, the number of full time equivalent nursery places for vulnerable 2 year olds was 380 places on with actual entitlement capacity for 760 children

b. 3 – 5 year olds?

In the final term of 2015/16, the number of full time equivalent nursery places for 3-5 year olds was 3875 (2803 local authorities and 1072 partner providers) places with actual entitlement capacity for 7764 children as detailed above.

10 What was the full annual value of a funded partnership place in 2015/16?

The full annual value of a funded partnership place in 2015/16 was £2020.

11 Do you fund all eligible children attending partner providers?

Yes, all eligible children are funded in line with the Council's Admissions Policy (attached).

12 In the final term of 2015/16 how many eligible children did not receive their early years and childcare funding whilst attending:

a. Partnership settings?

There were no children in the circumstance set out above.

b. Care Inspectorate registered childcare settings outwith the partnership scheme?

I can advise you that the Council does not centrally record information on eligible children did not receive their early years and childcare funding whilst attending Care Inspectorate registered childcare settings outwith the partnership scheme. Accordingly, Section 17 of FOISA (information not held) applies to this part of your request.

13 How many funded partnership places did you commission in 2015/16?

In 2015/16, the Council funded 2158 partner provider places.

14 How many early years staff do you employ:

- a. Full time?**
- b. Part time?**

There are 405 full time early years staff. This includes a nursery teacher in each local authority provision. There are 109 part time early years staff.

In addition to these numbers there are management teams in all local authority nurseries as well as central staff. Each location also has support services staff

The numbers represented above confirm the position for Intake 1 however numbers of staff increase over the year when children start nursery in January (Intake 2) and also March (Intake 3).

Request for Review

The Council has an internal panel (the review panel) to deal with complaints from people who are not happy about the way that their request has been dealt with. Staff not involved in the original decision will handle any review. If you want to complain about how we have handled your request for information, you can ask the review panel to reassess our actions. Please note that if you wish to complain, you must do so by 19 September 2016.

In requesting a review, it would be helpful if you could quote the reference number found at the top of this letter and state the matter which has given rise to your dissatisfaction.

You should send your request for a review to:

- Mr. W. Dunn, Information Compliance Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources, Floor 13, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA.

Alternatively, you can request a review at foi.reviews@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Please note that the review panel can only assess the way we have handled requests for information. It cannot consider complaints about delivery of a service or any decisions made by the Council or its authorised employees. If your complaint relates to one of these matters, you should contact the Resource responsible.

Should you not be satisfied with the outcome of our review, you will then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Commissioner will decide whether your request has been dealt with properly, in accordance with the Act. The Commissioner's contact details are as follows:

- Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS; Telephone: 01334 464610; Fax: 01334 464611; e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

For further details, please see the Commissioner's website at www.itspublicknowledge.info.

Yours sincerely

Tony McDaid
Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality Improvement)

Early Years admissions policy

If you are applying for a place in a Council-run nursery or want to transfer to another Council-run nursery, the allocation of nursery places is determined by our admissions policy. This sets the priorities for the allocation of places based on the child's needs.

Children aged 0-3 years

Early Years admissions policy
Priority 1
Children affected by abuse Children with additional support needs Looked after and accommodated children from birth up to 2 years old Children who at any time from the age of 2 years have been a) Looked after and accommodated; or b) subject to a Kinship Care Order Children affected by domestic violence Children affected by substance misuse Children affected by a disability within the home <i>All applications within priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment / single agency assessment</i> <i>*2 year olds as required by relevant legislation from time to time applying</i>
Priority 2
New applications: 0-3 year olds
Priority 3
Transfer applications: change in circumstances
Priority 4
Transfer applications: parental choice
Priority 5
All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire area

Children aged 3-5 years

Early Years admissions policy
Priority 1
Children affected by abuse Children with additional support needs Children who at any time have been a) Looked after and accommodated; or b) subject to a Kinship Care Order Children affected by domestic violence Children affected by substance misuse Children affected by a disability within the home <i>All applications within Priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment / single agency assessment</i>
Priority 2
a) Children in their pre-school year – new applications b) Deferred entry children Sept/Dec birthdays – referred (approved by scrutiny panel) c) Transfer application pre-school year children – change in circumstances
Priority 3
a) Children in their ante pre-school year - new applications b) Transfer applications ante-pre-school year - change in circumstances
Priority 4
a) Deferred entry children: Sept/Dec parental choice b) Transfer application pre-school year children - parental choice c) Transfer applications ante-pre-school year - parental choice
Priority 5
All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire Council area