

RE Vulnerable two year olds.txt
Vulnerable two year olds
From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 19 June 2008 15:44
To: 'Camilla.Kidner@scottish.parliament.uk'
Subject: RE: Vulnerable two year olds

Camilla

Apologies for the delay in replying. We spoke on the phone so hopefully you already have the information you need.

The funding provided was £2m over 2 years. At the outset the authorities provided proposals setting out the places they would be creating and as noted in your e-mail below that was approximately 900 places, over the 2 years.

The definition of vulnerable used was left to authorities as there were existing criteria and systems in place in authorities for assessing the needs of children and families.

You also asked about the cost per place and the number of places achieved. As we discussed this is not as straightforward as it seems. Some of the authorities had start up costs for adaption works (for example installing changing facilities) which were one-off costs. An accurate analysis of costs would need to separate start-up costs from on-going costs to get a true picture. The number of places is also less straightforward than you might think. There were delays in getting the places up and running (due in part to the adaption works). Authorities were free to use the places in line with children's needs, so some children got places that were for 3 or 4 part-days per week, other children attended for 5 days. The costs and outputs of the project will be looked at in more detail through the on-going evaluation. We expect the results of that research to be available later this year.

When you initially phoned you also asked whether the places in Dundee would be continuing. This is something for Dundee City Council to answer. In this case, however, I happened to speak to Charlotte MacCrimmon at Dundee City Council and she asked me to let you know that Dundee will not be continuing the places in the pilot.

I hope this is helpful.

Susan Neilands
Early Education and Childcare Team
Positive Futures Division
0131 244 7608

From: Camilla.Kidner@scottish.parliament.uk
[mailto:Camilla.Kidner@scottish.parliament.uk]

RE Vulnerable two year olds.txt

Sent: 06 June 2008 12:03
To: Neilands S (Susan)
Subject: vulnerable two year olds

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Hi Susan,

As discussed just now, I've been asked to cost a national roll out of the nursery scheme for vulnerable two year olds. To establish whether this is possible I wonder if you could tell me:

The total number of places funded and money provided. I think its £2m over two years for 900 places according to a press release in july 2006.

The total number of places provided and the cost if known.

How eligibility for the scheme was established. i.e was there a single definition of 'vulnerable' used

Many thanks

Camilla
x85376

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From: Brown J (Joe)
Sent: 11 December 2007 14:02
To: Neilands S (Susan); Stewart S (Sara)
Subject: RE: Letter from director of education at Dundee City Council
S - Correct in every way!

JOE BROWN

DG: Education - SR2007 Project Team
AREA 1B
VICTORIA QUAY
T- 0131-244-1659
M - 07795-222390

-----Original Message-----

From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 11 December 2007 11:58
To: Brown J (Joe); Stewart S (Sara)
Subject: FW: Letter from director of education at Dundee City Council

Joe/Sara

Re the e-mail below, I have drafted a letter for Colin to send to Dundee City Council about the pilot provision for 2 year olds. Dundee are looking for a letter from Colin confirming the future funding of the project. Colin has asked a couple of questions about the funding position.

My understanding (confirmed by Don) of the position is that £200,000 is in the programme budget for 2008/09 to cover the tail end of the programme. And as this was a one-off grant of £2m over 2 years (£2m between the 3 authorities), it was not wrapped up in the local government finance settlement. Basically it just finished.

Can you confirm that this is your understanding - particularly of the £200k for next year.

Thanks

Susan
Early Education and Childcare Team
Ext 47608

-----Original Message-----

From: MacLean CR (Colin)
Sent: 10 December 2007 21:37
To: Neilands S (Susan)
Cc: McGillivray D (Donald)
Subject: RE: Letter from director of education at Dundee City Council

Susan

Thanks. Two questions:

Why are we paying money in June 2008 and is there money in the budget next year to cover this? Is it because it is based on academic years rather than financial years? (I think I remember something about this and there being something in the budget to cover it - but can you please confirm?)

Does this money get rolled up in the transfer to local government? Joe / Sara can confirm if you are not sure. If so - then we should say the funding is rolled up in the settlement - rather than saying that it has stopped. If not - then your wording is accurate - but it does seem rather blunt. However, I'm not sure I can think of a way of softening it without being misleading about the transfers to LG.

If the answer to 1 is that 'June 08 is correct and there is money' / the answer to 2 is 'no' - then happy for you to get this printed off for me to sign.

Thanks

Colin

-----Original Message-----
From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 10 December 2007 17:15
To: MacLean CR (Colin)
Cc: McGillivray D (Donald)
Subject: Letter from director of education at Dundee City Council

Colin

Anne Wilson the Director of Education wrote to you about future funding of the pilot provision of 2 year olds (copy attached). I subsequently spoke to the Early Years Manager who said that since writing they had found documents from us setting out the funding arrangements. But they would still welcome a response setting out that there would be no future funding after June 08.

A draft response is attached.

<< File: pilot provision for 2 year olds - letter from Anne Wilson to Colin MacLean - 21 November 2007.pdf >> << File: pilot provision for 2 year olds - letter from Colin Maclean to Anne Wilson - December 2007.doc >>

Susan Neilands

Early Education and Childcare Team
Ext 47608

From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 09 January 2008 17:40
To: 'kate.berry@scottish.parliament.uk'
Subject: Pilot provision for 2 year olds
Kate

We spoke about the pilot provision for vulnerable 2 year olds.

To confirm our conversation, the Scottish Government is funding the pilot provision for 2 year olds in Dundee, Glasgow and North Ayrshire for 2 years as announced in 2006. The funding for the projects is due to end in June 2008. Decisions on whether to continue the places thereafter will be a matter for the authorities concerned.

An evaluation of the projects is being undertaken by Strathclyde University. The evaluation will not be completed until later this year and will be published in due course.

Susan

Susan Neilands
Early Education & Childcare Team
Scottish Government
2 B(N) Victoria Quay
Edinburgh

0131 244 7608

Pre-school education centres, staff and pupils: summary information 2006-2008

Year	Under 3 year olds	Ante-pre- school	Pre- school	Deferred Pre- school	Total children
2006	8392	41671	51371	4380	105814
2007	12910	42490	51930	4390	111720
2008	5370	43080	53050	4560	106060

Notes:-

Children are counted once for each centre they are registered with.

For 2006 and 2007, only centres providing pre-school education as a local authority centre or in partnership with the local authority and registered with the Care Commission included.

In 2008, for the first time, centres were asked only for pre-school registrations for places funded by the local authority. As most local authorities do not fund pre-school places for under 3s, this accounts for the large drop in under 3s since 2007. Data for all other ages are also not strictly comparable with 2007.

FW MSP enquiry - pilot 2 year old nursery provision.txt
MessageFrom: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 09 January 2008 15:57
To: McGillivray D (Donald)
Subject: FW: MSP enquiry - pilot 2 year old nursery provision

For info

I will speak to Sam about the evaluation. I will also speak to Glasgow but presumably our answer is that the continuation of provision will be a matter for the three authorities.

Susan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kate.Berry@scottish.parliament.uk
[mailto:Kate.Berry@scottish.parliament.uk]
Sent: 09 January 2008 15:51
To: Neilands S (Susan)
Subject: MSP enquiry - pilot 2 year old nursery provision

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Hi Susan

Thanks for the information on the evaluation of the pilots on the free nursery provision for 2 year olds in Glasgow, North Ayrshire and Dundee.

I had asked about any statements made by Minsiters as to their commitment to support the roll out of the provision after the evaluation -however, speaking to the enquirer again I do not need to know this now.

However, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether the evaluation of the pilots will be made publicly available. Also you had mentioned that Glasgow City Council had talked about possibly continuing their provision after the pilot had ended- could you confirm whether this information could be supplied to the enquirer or is it confidential at this stage?

Thanks

Kate Berry
Senior Research Specialist (Social Affairs Team)

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FW: MSP enquiry - pilot 2 year old nursery provision.txt
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From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 27 March 2008 17:37
To: Murray J (Joanna)
Cc: Melville A (Alison); Chisholm K (Kathryn); McGillivray D (Donald); DG Education; MacLean CR (Colin)
Subject: End Year Payment - Pilot provision for 2 year olds - Glasgow City Council
Joanna

I would be grateful if you could note that we will be making a additional late end year payment of £202,693 to Glasgow City Council for the Pilot Provision for 2 Year Olds, which is not included in existing budgets . The payment will not be made until early next week but I understand that we can accrue it to 2007/08.

The background is slightly convoluted but the gist is that Glasgow was due grant of £1m split between 2006/07 and 2007/08 for the Pilot Provision for 2 Year Olds. Glasgow told us some weeks into 2007/08 that they had over claimed by £201k in 2006/7. We were advised by Finance that the over claimed grant had to be accounted to 2007/08. As we did not have sufficient budget to cover the increase of £201k in 2007/08, Glasgow were told that we could not guarantee that we would make up the shortfall, unless additional resources became available.

However I understand that there are now spare resources in the budget for 2007/08 and Colin MacLean is content for us to pay Glasgow the extra resources, providing that it can be accounted for 2007/08, thereby giving them the full grant allocation.

Glasgow have confirmed over the phone that they have spent the money in 2007/8 and are therefore able to claim all the remaining grant (£900,000 in total including payments already made) in 2007/08. We are going to sort out all the paperwork tomorrow.

Let me know if you need any more information.

Susan Neilands
Early Education and Childcare team
Positive Futures
Ext 47608

Marion Hodgson
Pre-5 and Childcare Strategy Unit
Glasgow City Council
Wheatley House
25 Cochrane Street
Glasgow
G1 1HL

28 March 2008

Dear Marion

PILOT PROVISION FOR VULNERABLE TWO YEAR OLDS

As you know Don McGillivray wrote to Margaret Doran on 20 February about funding for the pilot provision for 2 year olds. In that letter he explained that it was unlikely that the Scottish Government would be able to pay the 2006/07 underspend of £201k through an addition to the 2007/08 grant but if additional resources became available we would reconsider this position.

I pleased to say that additional resources have become available and we will now be able to pay Glasgow City Council the remaining £201k providing that Glasgow has spent the money in the financial year 2007/08 and is in a position to claim the grant. This will take the full grant over 2 years to £1m, as originally offered. The terms and conditions remain the same as in the grant letter to Ronnie O'Connor dated 11 December 2006.

If you have any queries about this letter, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Susan Neilands

From: Neilands S (Susan)
Sent: 20 February 2008 17:35
To: Verrall M (Maureen)
Cc: Chisholm K (Kathryn)
Subject: 2 year old pilots - end of year funding
Maureen

As you know we are coming to the end of the pilot provision for 2 year olds in Glasgow, North Ayrshire and Dundee.

This is slightly convoluted but in 2006/7 Glasgow City Council claimed the full amount of grant they were due (£301k). They then came back to us in the new financial year (May 07) to say that they had underspent by £201k in 2006/07. On advice from Finance the spend had to be accounted for in 2007/08 and the grant come out of 2007/08's budget.

The budget for 2007/08 is still £699k as forecast and we currently have no scope to pay them more which means that over the two years Glasgow will be £201k short of the £1m they were offered. We don't have resources in 2008/09 to make an extra payment then.

This is effectively Glasgow's own fault and they have been told that it is unlikely that we can make up the difference. However I am flagging this up in case anyone across the group is reporting an underspend at the last minute.

Glasgow are saying that they have spent more than the £1m we are giving them (which isn't a surprise - they were slow to get off the ground but have delivered more places than initially agreed). So we would be justified in paying the whole amount of grant offered. I appreciate this is a long shot, and I am aware of other calls on budgets. But in the end Glasgow are now delivering 2 year old places and it would be good to give them the whole grant if additional resources were available.

Susan

Hunter P (Peter)

From: jbrady@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Sent: 03 November 2008 13:51
To: Melville A (Alison)
Subject: Re: FW: 2 year olds

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Hi Alison -- update for you.

We have kept the 20 places at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre -- reconfigured places so no budget implications 10 places(each) have been kept at Corsehill, Cumbrae & Stanecastle Schools.

-- Have only secured funding until March 2009

5 places have been kept in Busy Bees Nursery (Private/ Partner) -- funding provided through local Early Years Partnership Forum

Happy to discuss if you need more info.

Johanna

Johanna Brady
Childcare Strategy Manager

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