



Stephen Kerr MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee

19 April 2022

Dear Convener

Publication of the Improvement Service February 2022 Delivery Progress Report

The committee will wish to be aware that the Improvement Service has published its February 2022 Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Delivery Progress Report. The report has been published on the [Improvement Service website](#) and a copy will be placed on the Scottish Government ELC Joint Delivery Board web page.

This report provides an update on the delivery of 1,140 hours of funded ELC as reported by local authorities in February 2022. The report provides comparison to previously reported positions and provides analysis on progress and activity. As committee members will be aware, the duty on local authorities to provide 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare to all eligible children has been in effect since August 2021.

As the report sets out, local authorities continue to make good progress on delivery, with 111,574 children accessing funded ELC in January 2022, an increase of 23% since August 2021. Of these, 97% were accessing more than 600 hours, and 88% were accessing the full 1140 hours of funded ELC. The report also shows that the local authority ELC workforce in Scotland is reported to have increased from 17,515 FTE in August 2021 to 18,064 FTE in January 2022, with further workforce increases expected of 593 FTE to be in place in April 2022.

The report is attached and provides greater detail and commentary on these figures and the progress being made by local authorities in delivering funded ELC. These positive figures reflect the dedication and hard work of the entire sector to deliver high quality funded ELC during a very difficult period.

Yours sincerely,

CLARE HAUGHEY

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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