

Additional responses regarding ELC Deferrals, by local authority.

Angus

Please find a link to the information we publish regarding deferrals:

https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/early_learning_and_childcare/accessing_an_additional_year_of_funded_elc

We are one of the pilot authorities, so this has been in place for a couple of years.

City of Edinburgh

Whilst all parents will be entitled to an additional year of funding from August 2023, the City of Edinburgh Council brought this change in from August 2022. Our website contain information on how parents can apply for a deferral. [Defer entry to P1 – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

North Ayrshire

- where is this information published on your website; and

[Primary school enrolment \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](#)
[Delayed and early school entry \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so.

All school and early years establishments have been made aware of this change and have shared this information with parents and carers.

North Lanarkshire

I refer to your recent email in regard to early learning and funded childcare deferrals.

I can confirm that North Lanarkshire Councils website has been updated in regard to deferrals, specifically in relation to the changes in legislation and the availability of funded provision for those children deferring. Please find below a link to the website.

[Deferred entry to primary school - updated guidance for session 2023-2024 | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

This information has been shared with all ELC settings – local authority and partner providers, allowing them to respond to parent/carer enquires. Also, officers met with

a representative of the Give Them Time campaign to keep them updated on the website changes.

Orkney

With reference to your email (1-12-22) and in response to the specific questions relating to published information confirming that from August 2023 children who will turn 5 between 2nd day of the school year in August and the end of February, are entitled to funded childcare should their parents or guardians wish to defer their entry to primary one, please note the following:

- 'where is this information published on your website';

The focus for the Orkney ELC Team, up to the end of 2022, was to include discussion of the change at setting level (with our ELC registered managers including the changes in the usual discussions they have with parents); with the start of 2023, and with registration for ELC and P1 in mind, information is now circulating on our ELC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ELCOrkney/>

This links directly to the parent club information:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/can-my-child-defer-starting-school>

Furthermore, in readiness for the local 'registration week' (17-2-23 to 24-2-23) the Council website is being updated. Once updated the web page will carry the relevant information, the link meantime is as follows:

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/P/Early-Learning-and-Childcare.htm#:~:text=Registration%20for%20funded%20early%20learning,%40orkney.gov.uk>

- 'whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so'.

We have been working to assess whether or not we have capacity to meet all the potential needs associated with the policy change (in particular assessing the budget implications for 2023/2024). At the current time we believe that our settings have (subject to being able to fill all vacant posts) the capacity to meet parental requests for deferred entry.

West Lothian

West Lothian Council formally updated its policy on funding an additional year of early learning and childcare on 22 November 2022 (copy report attached. West Lothian Council anticipated the introduction of the new legislation, and practice has been to grant access to funded ELC for those eligible to defer entry to P1 since August 2021, within the discretion allowed by the previous policy.

The policy statement is available online [ELC Additional Year \(Or Deferral of P1\) Policy and Procedure - West Lothian Council](#) as is further detail of the application process [Apply for nursery and school places - West Lothian Council](#)