



Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director of People Services
Report author: Gurmail Nizzer, Director for Children's Integrated Commissioning

Early Years FEEE Sufficiency Strategy – Extended Childcare Offer (ECO): Proposals to change the age ranges of three Council maintained nursery schools.

Purpose

- 1.1 The Government has recently announced national investment in childcare, including the expansion of funded childcare support for working parents to include children from nine months old up to school age. The changes that start to roll out from April 2024 will mean that by September 2025 households where all parents work with children over the age of nine months old will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare per week / term time or 1140 hours stretched over a year.
- 1.2 Nationally, the additional childcare support is being introduced gradually to give childcare providers time to prepare for the changes. Derby City Council has been working together closely with the early years sector to plan for the Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO) and has developed proposals in partnership with three maintained nursery schools, as follows:

	Current Numbers				Proposed Numbers			
	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total		Under 23 Months	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total
Central Community Nursery	16	52	68		9	32	52	93
Harrington Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	40	56
Whitecross Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	52	68
Total	16	132	148		9	64	144	217
Increase					9	48	12	69

- 1.3 The proposed additional 9 childcare places for children aged 0-2 and 48 two-year old places at the above nursery schools, will contribute towards meeting increased demand for funded early education entitlement (FEEE) places, as a result of the Government's ECO. The governing bodies and headteachers of the three maintained nursery schools fully support the proposed changes.
- 1.4 This report seeks approval to carry out initial consultation on the proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of the nursery schools outlined above (Para. 1.2), in readiness for the ECO. There is no cost associated with this initial consultation, as it will be carried out using existing Council resources. A draft timeline for the statutory process is set out in Appendix 1. A copy of the draft consultation document on the proposal is attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve going out to initial consultation on proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of three Council maintained nursery schools, as outlined in paragraph 1.2 of this report.
- 2.2 To note that:
 - a. Subject to the approval of 2.1 (above), the initial consultation period will run from Monday 22 April 2024 to Monday 20 May 2024, with the outcome to be reported to Council Cabinet in June 2024.
 - b. Following this initial consultation, the next stage, subject to approval, will be the required statutory consultation for a further four-week period. It is anticipated that a final decision will be taken on the proposals in July / August 2024 with a proposed implementation date of September 2024.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The proposed additional nursery school places for children aged 0-3 will contribute towards meeting increased demand for childcare places, as a result of the Government's ECO.
- 3.2 The headteachers and governing bodies of the three maintained nursery schools outlined in this report are fully supportive of the proposals.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The Government has recently announced national investment in childcare, including the expansion of childcare support for working parents to include children from nine months old up to school age. The changes will mean that by September 2025 working parents with children over the age of nine months old will be entitled to 30 hours of free childcare / term time or 1140 hours stretched over the year.
- 4.2 The national timeline for introducing ECO is as follows:
- From April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours per week of funded childcare term time (570 hours per year).
 - From September 2024, 15 hours per week of funded childcare term time (570 hours per year) will be extended to all children from term after they turn nine months.
 - From September 2025, working parents of children from 9 months up to school age will be entitled to 30 hours per week of funded childcare term time (1140 hours per year).
- 4.3 This staggered approach is intended to give childcare providers time to prepare for the changes, ensuring there are enough providers ready to meet demand. Derby City Council has been working together closely with the early years sector to plan for the Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO) and has developed proposals in partnership with nursery schools, as follows:

	Current Numbers				Proposed Numbers			
	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total		Under 23 Months	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total
Central Community Nursery	16	52	68		9	32	52	93
Harrington Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	40	56
Whitecross Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	52	68
Total	16	132	148		9	64	144	217
Increase					9	48	12	69

- 4.4 The proposed additional places for children aged 0-3, at the above maintained nursery schools, will contribute towards meeting increased demand for childcare places, as a result of the Government's ECO. The places will also provide really positive opportunities for families in the localities by:
- Increasing the childcare options available for parents/carers.
 - Ensuring continuity of care, reducing transition for children aged 0-3.
 - Providing greater flexibility to access places for 0-3 year olds within the locality.
 - Helping children to learn, play, make new friends, experience new activities and get ready for school.
- 4.5 The headteachers and governing bodies of the nursery schools covered in this report are fully supportive of the proposals.

- 4.6 This report seeks approval to carry out initial consultation on the proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of the nursery schools outlined above, in readiness for the ECO. There is no cost associated with this initial consultation, as it will be carried out using existing Council resources. A draft timeline for the statutory process is set out in Appendix 1. A copy of the draft consultation document on the proposal is attached as Appendix 2.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the initial consultation period on the proposals will run for four weeks from Monday 22 April 2024 to Monday 20 May 2024. The consultation document will be circulated widely to all interested parties, including parents, staff, governors, ward members and trade unions.
- 5.2 The outcome of this initial consultation will be reported to Council Cabinet in June 2024. Council Cabinet will be asked to consider whether or not to proceed to the next stage of the process, which includes the publication of a statutory notice. If there is approval to move to the next stage of the process, there will be a further four-week statutory consultation period.
- 5.3 The four-week statutory consultation period is prescribed in legislation (School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013) and cannot be shortened or lengthened. Following this, it is anticipated that a final decision will then be made by Derby City Council in July / August 2024 on whether to change the age ranges and sizes of the nursery schools. If the proposals are approved, then the additional places will be available from September 2024.

Other options

- 6.1 There is an option not to change the age ranges and sizes of the nursery schools. However, this could result in a shortfall of early years funded early education entitlement places, as the Government's ECO is rolled out. The nursery schools included in the proposals are fully supportive of the changes.

Financial and value for money issues

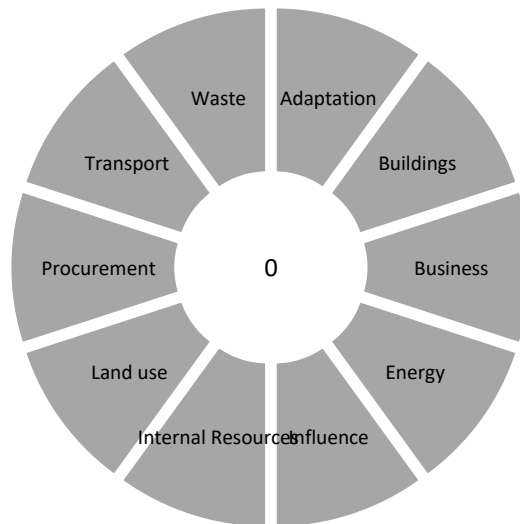
- 7.1 Should the proposals be approved, it may be necessary for the maintained nursery schools to recruit additional staff in order to provide places for the children in the younger age ranges. The higher numbers of children on roll will result in additional revenue funding to cover the associated costs. The hourly funding rates for 0-3's from April 2024 is significantly more than the fees charged by early years providers for this age group of children.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Subject to approval to move forward with consultation on the proposals, the legal statutory process, as set out in this report, will be followed. The process involves informal consultation, Council Cabinet consideration of any responses, publication of a statutory notice (with a further four-week statutory representation period), final consideration of any responses and a decision.

Climate implications

9.1



9.2 In line with Council policy, a Climate Impact Assessment has been carried out for the proposals. The increased childcare places could potentially result in additional travel and car usage in order to access the places. The proposals, however, are required to ensure sufficiency of places for the Extended Childcare Offer and it is anticipated that they will help to provide greater flexibility to access places for 0-3 year olds within the localities. It is, therefore, considered that there are unlikely to be any significant climate change implications as, whilst there will be an overall increase in the number of childcare places, some parents and carers may be able to access places closer to home, with the option to walk to their local nursery school, rather than drive.

Socio-Economic implications

10.1 The proposals cover a number of different areas in the city. In all cases, the proposed additional childcare places will provide really positive opportunities for families by:

- Increasing the childcare options available for parents/carers and support the ability of families to work, improve household income.
- Providing greater flexibility to access places for 0-3 year olds within the locality.
- Helping children to learn, play, make new friends, experience new activities and get ready for school.

Other significant implications

Personnel

11.1 Should the proposals be approved, it may be necessary for the maintained nursery schools to recruit additional staff in order to provide places for the children in the younger age ranges. The higher numbers of children on roll will result in additional revenue funding to cover the associated costs.

Equalities

11.2 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

11.3 None arising from this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Legal Services	27/03/2024
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	02/04/2024
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Director for Children's Integrated Commissioning	28/03/2024
Report sponsor	Sharon Buckby, Director for Learning Inclusion and Skills	28/03/2024
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Draft Timeline Appendix 2 – Draft Consultation Document

Appendix 1

ECO: Maintained Nursery Schools Change in Age Range Proposals: Draft Timeline

Stage	Timescale / Deadline
Report to Cabinet Member seeking approval to go out to consultation.	Wednesday 10 April 2024
Add Council Cabinet report to Forward Plan.	W/C Monday 15 April 2024.
Four-week informal consultation period including nursery parents, teachers, staff, trade unions and ward members.	Monday 22 April 2024 – Monday 20 May 2024
Report outcome of consultation to Council Cabinet and seek approval to move to next stage of process, which involves publishing a Statutory Notice.	June 2024 (Cabinet date – tbc)
Publication of Statutory Notice and circulation of Complete Proposal, which marks the start of a four-week formal representation period.	June / July 2024 (four weeks – date tbc)
Decision by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Authority - Council Cabinet is the decision maker but this can be delegated to Director of People Services if no objections are received during the representation period. - If objections are received, the decision should be taken by Council Cabinet. 	July / August 2024
Issue decision notice within 1 week of decision being taken.	July / August 2024
Implementation.	1 September 2024



Derby City Council

Consultation Document

Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO):

Please give us your views and comments on our proposals to extend the age ranges and sizes of the following nursery schools:

**Central Community Nursery School
Harrington Nursery School
Whitecross Nursery School**

Consultation Period:

Monday, 22 April 2024 to Monday, 20 May 2024

To: Parents, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions and Derby City Councillors (Ward Members).



Expanded Childcare Offer

Proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of Central Community Nursery School, Harrington Nursery School and Whitecross Nursery School from September 2024

Background

Derby City Council is consulting on exciting proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of three nursery schools from September 2024, as follows:

	Current Numbers				Proposed Numbers			
	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total		Under 23 Months	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total
Central Community Nursery	16	52	68		9	32	52	93
Harrington Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	40	56
Whitecross Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	52	68
Total	16	132	148		9	64	144	217
Increase					9	48	12	69

As background information, the Government has recently announced national investment in childcare, including the expansion of childcare support for working parents to include children from 9 months old up to school age and changes to Universal Credit childcare payments. The changes will mean that by September 2025 working parents of all children over the age of nine months old will be entitled to 30 hours per week of funded childcare term time or 1140 hours stretched over a year.

The national timeline for introducing the additional childcare support is as follows:

- From April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours per week of funded childcare term time (570 hours per year).
- From September 2024, 15 hours per week of funded childcare term time (570 hours per year) will be extended to all children from the age of nine months.
- From September 2025, working parents of children from 9 months up to school age will be entitled to 30 hours per week of funded childcare term time or 1140 hours stretched over a year.

This staggered approach is intended to give childcare providers time to prepare for the changes, ensuring there are enough providers ready to meet demand. Derby City Council has been working together closely with the early years sector to plan for the Expanded Childcare Offer (ECO) and has developed the proposals set out in this consultation document in partnership with the maintained nursery schools.

The proposed additional places for children aged 0-3, at the above nursery schools, will contribute towards meeting increased demand for childcare places, as a result of the Government's ECO. The places will also provide really positive opportunities for families in the area by:

- Increasing the childcare options available for parents/carers.
- Ensuring continuity of care, reducing transition for children aged 0-3.
- Providing greater flexibility to access places for 0-3 year olds within the locality.
- Helping children to learn, play, make new friends, experience new activities and get ready for school.

The governing bodies and headteachers of the nurseries fully support the proposed changes.

This paper sets out the background to the ECO proposals and explains how you can share your views as part of the consultation process.

How many younger children will the nursery be able to accommodate and what sessions will be available?

In preparation for the ECO, Derby City Council is proposing to make changes to three nursery schools, as follows:

	Current Numbers				Proposed Numbers			
	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total		Under 23 Months	2 Year Old Places	3 & 4 Year Old Places	Total
Central Community Nursery	16	52	68		9	32	52	93
Harrington Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	40	56
Whitecross Nursery	0	40	40		0	16	52	68
Total	16	132	148		9	64	144	217
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The session times for the maintained nursery schools which the new places will be accommodated within are as follows:

Central Community Nursery School: Within the schools usual sessions time which are available from 7:30am until 18:00pm.

Harrington Nursery School: Mornings: 8:45 am – 11:45 am and Afternoons: 12:45 pm – 3:45 pm.

Whitecross Nursery School: Mornings: 9.00am – 12.00am, Afternoons: 1.00pm – 4.00pm or Full days 9.00am – 3.00pm or 4.00pm

What impact will this have on the children currently at the nursery schools.

It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on the children currently on roll at the nursery schools. On a day-to-day basis there will be no change in routine.

In terms of accommodating the additional children, the nurseries have carefully considered the availability of space and have confirmed that they are able to offer the additional proposed places within their existing buildings.

What will it mean for the staff?

Again, very little on a day-to-day basis. It may, however, be necessary to recruit additional nursery staff in order to provide places for the children in the younger age ranges.

What happens now?

The consultation period starts on **Monday 22 April 2024** and ends on **Monday 20 May 2024**. Following this, Derby City Council will consider the consultation comments and will decide whether to progress to the next stage of the process.

If proposals are to be taken forward, there will then be a further four-week statutory consultation period on the proposal. It is anticipated that a final decision would then be made by Derby City Council in **July / August 2024** on whether to extend the age ranges and sizes of the nursery schools. If the proposals are approved, then the additional places will be available from **September 2024**.

Your views are very important. Please do let us know what you think and whether you agree or disagree with the proposal.

Please return your response form to fis@derby.gov.uk by **Monday 20 May 2024**


If you have any questions, please contact fis@derby.gov.uk

Expanded Childcare Offer: Proposals to change the age ranges and sizes of Central Community Nursery School, Harrington Nursery School and Whitecross Nursery School from September 2024

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We would really like to hear your views on the proposals. Please complete this short form to give your comments.

Data Protection

 All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only use this information to inform the proposals **to change** the age ranges and sizes of Central Community Nursery School, Harrington Nursery School and Whitecross Nursery School from September 2024 service. All of the personal information you provide will remain confidential and will not be shared with any third party. The overall anonymised findings of the survey may be shared with other departments within the council.

Please see our attached privacy statement for more information.

Q1. Do you consent to the processing and storing of your response for the purpose of this consultation? Please select one option

- Yes No, thank you. - please do not return your survey as we need consent to be able to collect your answers.

Q2. Please indicate which nursery school your response relates to. *Please select one option*

- Central Community Nursery School
- Harrington Nursery School
- Whitecross Nursery School

Q3. Please tell us if you do or do not support the proposal to change the age range and size of the nursery, as shown in the consultation document? *Please select one option*

- Yes - I support the proposal
- No - I don't support the proposal
- I'm undecided about the proposal

Please use the space below to provide any comments on the proposal:

Date.....

Status.....

Are you a parent, governor, school, childcare provider, member of school staff , local resident

Please tell us how you are responding to this survey. Please select one option

Parent/carer

Governor

Member of school staff

Member of the community

Other (please tell us in the box)

About you

If you are completing this as somebody who lives, works or studies in Derby....

The next few questions will help us to make sure that we hear everyone's views, whatever your age, circumstance or background.

Why are we asking these questions?

To make sure that we comply with our legal equality responsibilities and understand what all sections of our community feel about our services and functions.

We are keen to hear from people from equality groups or who have protected characteristics (as referred to in the Equality Act), so that we can make any appropriate changes. You can find out more about this in the guide to public authorities.

We would like people to complete these equality questions, but it is not essential. If you do not wish to answer these questions, please leave them blank and move to the next page.

Please tell us how you describe your gender. Please select all that apply

- Woman/girl Man/boy
 Non-binary Prefer not to say
 In another way

If you said in another way, please tell us how you describe yourself in the box below

Is the

gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Please select one option

- Yes
 No
 Prefer not to say

What was your age on your last birthday? Please tell us your age in years in the box below

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person? Please select one option

- Yes No

I consider myself to be... Please select one

- heterosexual/straight a gay woman/lesbian

bisexual

prefer not to say

a gay man

Other

To which group do you consider you belong? Please select one option

Asian or Asian British – Indian

Dual Heritage - White and Black African

Asian or Asian British – Pakistani

Dual Heritage - White and Asian

Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi

Any other Dual Heritage background

Asian or Asian British – Chinese

White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Any other Asian background

White – Irish

Black or Black British – African

White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Black or Black British – Caribbean

Any other White background

Any other Black background

Other ethnic group – Arab

Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean

Any other ethnic group

If you have selected one of the 'Any other background' options, please give further details in the box below.

Do you have any religious beliefs? Please select one option

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If yes, to which religion do you belong? Please select one option

Buddhist

Muslim

Christian

Sikh

Hindu

Other

Jewish

Prefer not to say

Please return your completed form to:

Or, return to the FREEPOST address below. You do not need to use a stamp.

Postal Address: Childcare and Families Information Team, Derby City Council, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS

or

Email: fis@derby.gov.uk

Please return this form by **Monday, 20 May 2024**

Corporate Consultation Privacy Notice

How is your information used?

You will be asked for your consent at the beginning of every paper based questionnaire.

Where we have your consent we may use your information to:

- Inform the decision on which the consultation subject matter is based or the formation of the policy, service or event that the consultation is concerned with;
- Help us understand who takes part in our consultation in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors and how views differ across respondents;
- Send you communications which you have requested and that may be of interest.

Who has access to your information?

We may share your information with the following third parties for the reasons detailed;

- A research company that we have commissioned to undertake consultation on our behalf. If this is the case it will be clear on all consultation materials that an external agency is conducting the consultation on our behalf and they too will be bound by GDPR.
- Internally with Council departments for the purpose of:
 - Giving feedback gathered in the consultation to the services to inform their work
 - At the consultees request where they have asked that we pass on their details to the relevant department to address a particular issue or concern
 - Where a safeguarding concern has been raised in a consultation response
- Statutory agencies, such as the Police or National Fraud Authority - we may share your information with statutory agencies in line with our legal obligations and/or in completion of our public tasks.

We will not sell or rent your information to third parties. We will not share your information with third parties for marketing purposes.

For further information about how your personal information will be used, please visit www.derby.gov.uk where you can see a full copy of our Privacy Notice.

Alternatively you can request a hard copy from - The Consultation Team, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS. Telephone: 01332 640745, email: letstalkderby@derby.gov.uk