



Care, Learning and Wellbeing

Consultation Report

**Report on the outcome of the consultation relating to the proposed new nursery in
Prestwick**

March 2014

CONTENTS

| Section | Page |
|---|-------------|
| 1.0 Introduction | 3 |
| 2.0 Considerations | 3 |
| 3.0 Consultation | 3 |
| 3.1 Overview of responses to consultation | 3 |
| 3.2 Summary of the points and views expressed during the consultation | 4 |
| 4.0 Report by Education Scotland | 4 |
| 4.1 Process | 4 |
| 4.2 Education Scotland summary | 5 |
| 4.3 Responses to main points raised by Education Scotland | 5 |
| 5.0 Council decision making process | 6 |

Appendices

| | |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Summary of responses from consultation process |
| Appendix 2 | Views expressed at public meetings |
| Appendix 3 | Education Scotland Report |

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Council at its Full Council meeting of 19th December 2013 agreed to undertake a consultation on the proposed new nursery in Prestwick.
- 1.2 The proposal document was made available to all consultees as prescribed by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010. A copy of the proposal document is available on the Council's website at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation process ran from 9th January 2014 to 24th February 2014, a period of 30 school days.
- 1.3 As part of the consultation process, the Care, Learning and Wellbeing Directorate undertook the following activities:
 - Publicised the consultation exercise and public meetings to parents/carers of children expected to attend the nursery in the next two years, Prestwick Community Council, South Ayrshire Council's Web site and placed an advert in the local paper.
 - Held a public meeting at Kingcase Primary School on Wednesday 19th February, 2014.

2.0 Considerations

The main considerations relating to the proposed new nursery, are fully explained in the proposal document and the main points are highlighted below:

- 2.1 This proposal would enhance current provision for pre-school children in South Ayrshire and more specifically in the Prestwick area.
- 2.2 It would meet future demand for more localised high quality nursery places. It would assist the council to meet the Scottish Government's pledge to increase entitlement for all 3 and 4 year old children to access 600 hours of early learning and childcare per year from autumn 2014.
- 2.3 The nursery in Prestwick would have a capacity of up to 30:30 places.

3.0 Consultation

The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and all prescribed consultees have been given an opportunity to participate in the consultation process and submit views on the proposal. In addition to this, other individuals and groups with an interest in the proposal were also given an opportunity to participate and submit their views.

- 3.1 Overview of responses to consultation
 - 3.1.1 Overall the response to the consultation proposals was low. A total of 3 written responses were received and a summary of these responses is shown in Appendix 1.

3.1.2 17 people attended the public meeting at Kingcase Primary on 19th February 2014 and a record of the points raised and views expressed are listed in Appendix 2.

3.2 Summary of the points and views expressed during the consultation

Stakeholders, who responded to the consultation, are positive about the proposals. Any concerns related mainly to the nursery not being attached to a school and suitability of the building for use as a nursery. A summary of the main points raised and views expressed during the consultation process is listed below along with a response from the Council.

1) View expressed: Would it be possible to expand existing schools?

Response: A range of options have been considered. There are no schools in the Prestwick area with available space to adapt to a nursery. All primary schools in Prestwick already have a nursery class.

2) View expressed: How will the nursery facilitate transition to primary school?

Response: Nursery staff in the Prestwick cluster of schools currently work very closely. The staff from the new nursery will be part of this cluster. This will enable them to share information and plan transitions to Primary School for children. There are very good examples of established transition arrangements in other nurseries for example Wallacetown Nursery as children move on to Primary school.

3) View expressed: Is the Space Place fit for purpose and will security be an issue?

Response: Adaptations will be required before the nursery is open. All nurseries require to be registered with the Care Inspectorate before they are allowed to operate. South Ayrshire Council have designed and opened a number of high quality nursery establishments and the Prestwick nursery will be adapted to meet these high standards. This will include security entry systems and fenced off play areas for children.

4) View expressed: Better communication about Nursery Admissions and Registration would be helpful for parents.

Response: Information is currently available on the council website and adverts are placed in local press prior to registration. South Ayrshire will work with parents to see how best to improve communication before registration next session.

4.0 Report by Education Scotland

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires HM Inspectors from Education Scotland to be involved in the formal consultation process and as part of this process HM Inspectors undertook a number of activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal. A copy of Education Scotland's report on the educational aspects of the proposal is attached as Appendix 3.

4.1 Process

4.1.1 Attendance at the public meeting held on 19th February 2014 in connection with the Council's proposals.

- 4.1.2 Consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the Council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and other interested parties.
- 4.1.4 Consideration of further information on affect on local partnership centre.
- 4.1.5 Visit to the Space Place, including discussions with relevant consultees
- 4.2 Education Scotland summary
 - 4.2.1 South Ayrshire Council's proposal to enhance pre-school provision in the Prestwick area by developing the existing building the Space Place, Prestwick to create a nursery has clear educational benefits. The proposal would increase the number of nursery places for three and four year olds and has the potential to meet the current and future demands of an increasing population of children of this age. The proposal would also enable some Prestwick parents to place their child in a local nursery. The proposed nursery has the potential to provide all pre-school children with continuity and progression in their learning as they move from nursery to primary. It is proposed that the new nursery would open in August 2014.
 - 4.2.2 The Space Place building and surrounding areas, when refurbished and customised has the potential to provide appropriate accommodation for nursery education. The Space Place option allows the council to use an empty facility effectively. The proposal would also enable the council to provide other services for parents and the community within the Space Place building and has the potential to be a community resource in the future.
 - 4.2.3 Whilst the proposed nursery is close to Pine Trees nursery, it may not have an adverse impact on it. Pine Trees caters for children between birth to five year olds and is open longer than the proposed nursery. The proposed nursery would be for three and four year olds.
 - 4.2.4 There is no opposition to the proposal and those consulted agree that the proposed nursery is a positive development. The council would need to monitor closely the refurbishment to ensure that it was on track to open in August 2014. The council needs to ensure that alternative plans are in place in the event that this deadline is not met. The council needs to ensure that the refurbishment is of a high quality, that security measures are in place inside the proposed building and at the proposed outdoor play area. The council needs to ensure that parents are constantly kept informed of the progress of the proposed nursery.
- 4.3 Responses to the main actions raised by Education Scotland

South Ayrshire Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal. Officers from Children's Services and Education met to consider the content of the report and the actions highlighted in section 3. These are listed below along with the proposals to address them.

- 4.3.1 **Paragraph 4.4:** The council would need to monitor closely the refurbishment to ensure that it was on track to open in August 2014. The council needs to ensure that alternative plans are in place in the event that this deadline is not

met. The Council needs to ensure that the refurbishment is of a high quality, that security measures are in place inside the proposed building and at the proposed outdoor play area. The council needs to ensure that parents are constantly kept informed of the progress of the proposed nursery.

Response: A work plan for the proposed adaptations is being developed. The refurbishment work will be of a high standard and appropriate security measures indoors and out will be in place. In order to ensure that this is completed to a high standard and the nursery meets the registration requirement of the Care Inspectorate the Council is not confident that the adaptations will be completed in time to open in August. Parents will be offered their next choice of nursery as an alternative . They will be given the option of moving children to The Space Place (to be renamed as Prestwick Early Years Centre) once work has been completed. Information about alternative nursery places and planned opening dates will be shared with parents.

5.0 Decision Making process

In accordance with the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010, this report will be published on Friday 4th April and made available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks. Copies of the report are available at County Buildings, Ayr, Customer Contact Centre, Ayr, all schools affected by the proposal and Carnegie Library. The report is also available on the Council's website at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

The consultation report will be submitted to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel on Tuesday, 29th April 2014 for consideration and a decision.

**PROPOSED NEW NURSERY IN PRESTWICK
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

Appendix 1

| Nos: | Category: | Date Response Received | Method Of Response | Response: |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Parent | 24/2/14 | response form | Agree. Aware of the need for more spaces in Prestwick and reassuring to know the issue is being raised. Ideal location. |
| 2. | Prestwick Community Council | 19/2/14 | response form | Agree. |
| 3. | Parent | 16/1/14 | response form | Agree. |

Appendix 2

Proposed new nursery, Space Place, Prestwick
Public Meeting at Kingcase Primary 19th February 2014, 7pm
Total attendees numbered 17

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|---|
| Views Expressed |
| Is the Space Place fit for purpose? Concerned about security of building, facilities such as toilets. Wondering why choose this building? |
| Is there no option to expand Glenburn or St Ninian's? There are big cuts in Education however you are proposing a HT and a janitor post. |
| Concerned that it is not a school environment, it is in a park with public access. Worried about security and whether it will be able to facilitate an introduction to school/transition? |
| Is the garden going to be enclosed? |
| If my child does go to the Space Place what about my other children and the catchment school. What about siblings? |
| Can you request a morning or afternoon? |
| Is the Space Place for ante pre school children? |
| How will the nursery be staffed? |
| How many places will there be in the nursery ? |
| Not solve the problems re first choice? My child in private provision at moment I don't want to chop and change. |
| I have no problem with the Space Place I just don't want my daughter to go. |
| Where / how would you register for a split place? |
| When will we be notified of nursery places? |
| If Space Place doesn't get approved what are the other options? |
| Long term there will be pressure on our primary schools, what are the difficulties going to be? Can you extend schools? |
| Would it be possible to expand existing schools? |

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|---|
| Difficult to visualize building as a nursery. Would have like to have seen plans, car parking etc. |
| What about having catchment zones for admissions to nursery? |
| More / better communication with parents about Admissions and registration would be helpful for parents |
| If it were an option last year I would have gone for it. |
| 600 hrs. Will there be choice in attendance/flexible hrs? |

Appendix 3

Consultation proposal by South Ayrshire Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to enhance pre-school provision in the Prestwick area by developing the existing building the Space Place, Prestwick to create a nursery. It is proposed that the new nursery would open in August 2014.

Context

This report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act. The purpose of this report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the council's consultation proposal. Section 2 of this report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process. Section 3 sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal and the views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Ayrshire Council proposes to enhance pre-school provision in the Prestwick area by developing the existing building the Space Place, Prestwick to create a nursery. It is proposed that the new nursery would open in August 2014.
- 1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.
- 1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:
 - attendance at the public meeting held on 19 February 2014 in connection with the council's proposals;
 - consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the site of Kingcase Primary School, Pine Trees Nursery (private partner provider), the Space Place and Prestwick Community Council, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children attending the four local authority pre-five establishments (Heathfield Nursery Class, Kingcase Nursery Class, St Ninian's Nursery Class, Glenburn Nursery Class) and Pine Trees Nursery (a private provider); children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper.
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

2 Consultation process

- 2.1 South Ayrshire Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. The consultation included a public meeting and an invitation for written submissions. The council also sought the views of parents of children affected by the proposal.
- 2.2 The council received a total of three written responses to the proposal to establish a nursery in Prestwick with a capacity of 30:30 places. All of the respondents were in favour of the proposal.
- 2.3 Attendees at the public meeting included parents, elected members and the chair of the Prestwick South Community Council. The proposal was explained clearly and succinctly. Many of the attendees asked questions related to obtaining a place at the proposed nursery; security; staffing; the outdoor area of the proposed nursery; arrangements for dropping off and picking up children; and other establishments where a nursery could be attached to or extended. Many of the attendees stated that there was a need for more nursery places in Prestwick and wished to know more about how the council allocates nursery places.
- 2.4 Staff at Pine Trees Nursery, while not opposed to the proposal, were concerned about the possible impact it could have on the number of children that would attend their nursery. This in turn could affect the number of staff working in Pine Trees Nursery. They also had further concerns about the security of the proposed nursery, the number of car parking spaces and traffic management around the Space Place. They were positive about working with the staff of the proposed nursery and felt that they could share ideas and practices.

- 2.5 Staff at Kingcase Primary and Nursery class were supportive of the proposal. They stated that there was a need for more nursery places in Prestwick. They stated that a proposed nursery at the Space Place would not have an impact on the children attending their nursery and that the proposal would help some children in getting a nursery place. All of the staff in discussion groups were in favour of the proposal.
- 2.6 Parents of children attending Kingcase Primary and Nursery and whose children would be attending a nursery in the future were supportive of the proposal. They stated that there was a lack of nursery places in Prestwick and that this proposal would help to alleviate that problem. They stated that they would have preferred the proposed provision to be part of a primary school. They were positive about the proposed provision and hoped it would be well resourced and organised in a similar way to other nurseries in Prestwick.
- 2.7 Prestwick Community Council are in favour of the proposal and are positive about the Space Place building being used for the proposed nursery. They feel that there is a need for more nursery places in Prestwick and the unused building, when refurbished and modified would provide a suitable and central provision.

3 Educational aspects of the proposal

- 3.1 South Ayrshire Council's proposal to enhance pre-school provision in the Prestwick area by developing the existing building the Space Place, Prestwick to create a nursery is of clear educational benefit for children and the community. It will help ensure a broad general education for all children from age three and provide continuity and progression in their learning. This will be achieved through the existing network among early years staff in Prestwick. It will also create opportunities for the council to provide extended support to families including working with parents and carers.
- 3.2 The proposal will provide parents and children with increased nursery provision within the local area. The proposed nursery would also meet the projected demand of providing a nursery place for all three year old children in Prestwick. The council's projected figures indicate that there will be 4% increase in the number of pre-school children in Prestwick every year for the next five years. Implementation of the proposal will also enable the council to provide 600 hours nursery provision for all three and four year olds by autumn 2014. It will also enable the council to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare for looked after two and three year olds and two year old children who are subject to Kinship Care orders. By 2015, the council plans to provide 10:10 childcare places for children aged two and three years. This will enable the council to provide local provision and reduce the need for children to be referred though the locality forum to be transported outwith Prestwick.
- 3.3 South Ayrshire Council plans to develop the Space Place to provide a high quality learning environment with direct access to an outdoor play area. The Space Place is currently unoccupied and was previously a youth facility. The proposal would make effective use of the building. The council plans to open the nursery in August 2014.

- 3.4 South Ayrshire Council considers that the proposed nursery will not have a significant adverse impact on Pine Trees nursery, as that nursery provides all day care provision for children from birth to five years.

4 Summary

- 4.1 South Ayrshire Council's proposal to enhance pre-school provision in the Prestwick area by developing the existing building the Space Place, Prestwick to create a nursery has clear educational benefits. The proposal would increase the number of nursery places for three and four year olds and has the potential to meet the current and future demands of an increasing population of children of this age. The proposal would also enable some Prestwick parents to place their child in a local nursery. The proposed nursery has the potential to provide all pre-school children with continuity and progression in their learning as they move from nursery to primary. It is proposed that the new nursery would open in August 2014.
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- 4.4 There is no opposition to the proposal and those consulted agree that the proposed nursery is a positive development. The council would need to monitor closely the refurbishment to ensure that it was on track to open in August 2014. The council needs to ensure that alternative plans are in place in the event that this deadline is not met. The council needs to ensure that the refurbishment is of a high quality, that security measures are in place inside the proposed building and at the proposed outdoor play area. The council needs to ensure that parents are constantly kept informed of the progress of the proposed nursery.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
March 2014**