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30 June 2022

Dear Convener,

Publication of the Improvement Service May 2022 Delivery Progress Report

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

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

As the report sets out, local authorities continue to make good progress on delivery, with 121,101 children reported to be accessing funded ELC as of the end of April 2022. Of these, 117,780 children (97%) were accessing more than 600 hours, and 104,923 children (87%) were accessing 1,140 hours funded ELC. There has been a year-on-year increase in the numbers of 2- to 5-year-old children reported to be accessing funded ELC (3% increase). Amongst eligible 2-year-olds, there are continued year-on-year increases both in the number of children accessing funded ELC, and in the proportion of children accessing the full 1,140 hours. The local authority ELC workforce is reported to have increased by 8,845 FTE since academic year 2016/17, including an increase of 357 FTE since January 2022. Funded providers in the private and voluntary sectors and childminders provide 31% of all funded provision.

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The report 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

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