

Consultation proposal by Glasgow City Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to close Kincardine Nursery School and Garthamlock Family Learning Centre and open a new nursery.

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 the 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 the 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 to close the nursery provision in the two primary schools. As the council is proposing to close early years provision, it will need to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining the opportunity for representations to be made to Ministers.

1. Introduction

1.1 Glasgow City Council proposes to close Kincardine Nursery School and Garthamlock Family Learning Centre and open a new nursery.

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:

- 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 sites of Kincardine Nursery School, Garthamlock Family Learning Centre, Avenue End Primary School, Croftcroighn Primary School and St Rose of Lima Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- 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 Glasgow City Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. The consultation included a public meeting held in April 2014. The council also invited interested parties to respond to the proposal. It received only four written responses to the proposal.

2.2 Almost all of the parents and carers of children who attended the public meeting on Kincardine Nursery School and Garthamlock Family Learning Centre were in favour of the proposal to close the existing facilities and build a new nursery school. There were limited written responses to the proposal. Almost all of those who responded were in favour of the proposal. Some parents and staff who met with HM Inspectors were not aware of the proposal. Parents and staff who met with HM Inspectors wished to have more detail on the exact nature of the new build. They also wished to have more information from Glasgow City Council on the impact on rising school roll in Avenue End Primary School since this will be at capacity when the new nursery opens.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 The proposal outlines clear educational benefits for children and families in the locality through the increased capacity of a new building with purpose-built learning spaces. The proposal will also enhance the educational experience of children through bringing together two effective early years staff teams. There are effective transition links between the two early years facilities and local primary schools and the proposal for an adjacent site means these will continue. Should the proposal go ahead, the council will need to provide more information on the design of the new build. It should give more details as to how the effective family learning approach presently delivered by Garthamlock Family Learning Centre will be maintained in the new facility.

3.2 Kincardine Nursery School presently shares a building with Avenue End Primary School and Croftcroighn Primary School, which supports children with additional and complex needs. Closing Kincardine Nursery School and building a new nursery on an adjacent site will increase early years provision in the area. The council's proposal is based on best value, taking account of its responsibility to use its resources effectively and efficiently. This proposal is borne out by the current rolls and capacities of the three primary schools and the two early years facilities. This move is welcomed by parents as both Kincardine Nursery School and Garthamlock Family Learning Centre presently have waiting lists.

3.3 The closure of Kincardine Nursery School will alleviate pressure on Avenue End Primary School's accommodation. Avenue End Primary School is currently bringing in temporary accommodation to accommodate its high number of pupils. It has a capacity of 297 and a roll of 289. The two additional temporary classrooms that will open in August 2014 will provide some extra capacity for the rising school roll. The closure of Kincardine Nursery School would provide both additional teaching space and support bases for the school.

3.4 The closure of Kincardine Nursery School will have limited impact on Croftcroighn Primary School's main accommodation. It has a capacity of 60 and a roll of 48.

3.5 The closure of Garthamlock Family Learning Centre will alleviate pressure on St Rose of Lima Primary School's accommodation. St Rose of Lima Primary School is currently experiencing an increase in the number of pupils. It has a capacity of 507 and a roll of 411. The closure of Garthamlock Family Learning Centre would provide additional support bases for the school at present capacity.

3.6 The council's proposal should address the issue of increased road traffic which will be generated by families living in the Mossend area and using the exit road on to Mossvale Road. At present, this road is significantly congested at the beginning and end of the school day by parents and carers parking their cars in Mossvale Road to drop off their children for the two primary schools and the early years provision; and buses transporting children to and from Croftcroighn Primary School. Mossvale Road is also a bus route for residents to access the local housing and shops. The impact of new housing has the potential to add further to traffic congestion. The council needs to set out how it will address this issue fully in its final consultation report.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors recognise that the council's proposal to close Kincardine Nursery School and Garthamlock Family Learning Centre and build a new, larger nursery school on an adjacent site will provide clear educational benefits for children, parents and families in the Mossend area. The closure of the two early years establishments will also provide additional spaces for teaching, learning and support in Avenue End and St Rose of Lima Primary Schools in the short term. In its final consultation report, the council needs to set out how it will address traffic management concerns.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
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