

Inspiring Scotland Presentation Notes – SAPOE meeting December 2018

Slide 1

What this presentation will cover:

- Early Learning and Childcare expansion – its features and principles
- What the expansion offers for outdoor learning
- Overview of the forthcoming (How to) document to support development
- Key themes that we are asked
- Implications for staffing

Slide 2

- Equates to 30 hours per week on a term time basis – however flexibility means that many providers – including LA – will offer full year options
- Provider neutral. Parents able to request where their child gets their ELC as long as the provider meets the agreed standards – National Standards due to be published by end 2018. Some funded providers are raising concerns regarding the rates being paid by LAs to funded providers for ELC places, particularly in the run up to 2020.

Slide 3

Space to Grow is a document developed by Care Inspectorate, Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust and sets out design guidance for early learning and childcare and out of school care settings.

Section two relates to the outdoor space and introduces the option to increase ELC capacity through the use of the setting's outdoor space.

Slide 4

- Worth noting that “up to 20%” in existing settings can be quite small numbers (circa. 5-8) but some LAs are looking at new build “super structures”(!) with big numbers both in and out – unclear about how Care Inspectorate will deal with this – quality comes first!
- Due to challenges for looking at adding the additional capacity using the indoor/outdoor model...
 - Providers finding Space to Grow difficult to interpret and navigate
 - Older buildings not having suitable outdoor space to utilise
 -there is growing interest in the satellite model.
- This may be the model that is kept long term or it may be one which is used on a temporary basis – either as a ‘stop-gap’ while the build programme progresses or as a means to test a fully outdoors model in an area. It may also be used as a way to manage changing demographics – Heather Douglas GCC “Easier to move staff than to move a building”

Slide 5

Part of Inspiring Scotland's contract with Scottish Government is to deliver a guide aimed at supporting those wishing to set up a satellite or full outdoors model of childcare.

Primarily aimed at those seeking to provide a Care Inspectorate registered service the guide will also be relevant to those looking to access space for less regular activities or for non-registered play services.

The guide seeks to provide practical advice based on the main areas we get asked, the Care Inspectorate get asked and the existing outdoor settings get asked – and would've found helpful when they were starting up!

Slide 7

Owning

Comes with a lot of responsibilities and potential overheads – although the outdoor setting may be part of what an organisation does on their land – e.g. Linwood Community Development Trust have recently opened Little Seeds Woodland Nursery as one of several community services they provide.

Renting

Many outdoor nurseries operate from rented space, often on a peppercorn rent and this works well in areas where relationships can be built around mutual interest.

Public land

- Publicly owned land is often closer to populated areas
- it is often in the gift of LAS or their strategic partners
 - often these organisations have strategic objective of increasing footfall Mon-Fri

Permission To Use (PTU)

Organisations including LAs will require providers to complete a PTU to access the space – this is actually beneficial as it ensures that the landowner knows the space/s you plan to be using and keep an eye on them for maintenance, it establishes a relationship and that can lead to increased opportunities - environmental awareness training etc.

Slide 8

Toilets!

There are many and varied options. What settings use will be determined by what is possible on the space.

Ultimate thing to consider – dignity and respect

- For children
- For staff
- For the land you are on

*Talk through the options on this slide and next:

- Plumbed
- DIY
- Composting
- Chemical
- Pop-up

All options on show here are at sites operational and registered by Care Inspectorate

Slide 10

Nap time

With the rise in the ELC entitlement comes the likelihood that wee ones will need a snooze during the day, or at least some quiet time.

Again there are many options for providing this:

Hammocks – can't be too high for wee ones (and are often too much fun for sleeping in!)

Tents

Shelters – more on shelters in general in a minute

Slide 11

Handwashing is a confusing issue – there is lots of differing guidance out there.

However, this document by Health Protection Scotland is for all day care of children settings including childminders and outdoor nurseries. It is what the Care Inspectorate use to inspect against therefore you should be advising all registered services to follow this.

The main difference between the guidance set out by HPS and that on other NHS sites and even the WHO is that it states that “warm / tepid” running water should be used, rather than simply running water.

So why “warm/tepid”?

It is not that the temperature itself has an effect on the combating germs, it is that children are more likely to wash their hands for the required length of time if the water is warm.

There is a chance that the guidance will change, however, settings currently operating outdoors have been able to find ways to manage this....

Slide 12

Shelter

Lots of possibilities from permanent to semi-permanent to very temporary – talk through images.

The type of shelter used will be site specific – some sites won't work well with yurts/tents due to the aspect for example. Many settings used a range of different shelters on the site - different sizes, different materials, built and DIY....

Slide 13

Food

Packed lunches – need appropriate storage, cool packs etc. Warm food in colder weather.

Campfire cooking requires confident staff

Settings will need to work with Environmental Health if the setting is providing food – and the expansion makes provision for this through offer of free meals as part of the entitlement.

Slide 14

Provision of food should be an opportunity to gather socially but settings should also consider how to enable children to make food choices throughout the day on a rolling basis as being active outdoors will require fuel!

Slide 15

The good Scottish weather!

It is very possible to operate outdoors in Scotland year round! Stramash in Fort William was the only nursery open in the Lochaber area a few years ago! They are used to being out.

But there are some considerations....

Clothing

- Needs to be quality
- Needs to be layered
- Needs to have plenty of changes

Providers need to learn what weather conditions create potential safety issues for their site. In wooded areas this will often be the wind...but not always

...last winter, the Muddy Buddies in Drumchapel felt it was unsafe to go up to their usual woodland site because the ice on the pavements and roads had not been gritted and walking would not be safe...This is not mean they went indoors, instead they used the nursery garden and built snowmen and made igloos!

This demonstrates a sensible approach to contingency.

The Care Inspectorate will expect settings to have clear processes for contingency:

- What instances require contingency plans to be followed?
- Where will be used?
- How will parents be notified?
- How will staff ensure that the contingency space will provide high quality experiences for children?

Slide 16

1140 deficit is estimated to be around 11,000 fte!

Advice we would give is to “cast your net wide”! Staff from other sectors can be supported to gain the necessary early years/childcare qualifications. There are excellent examples of outdoor childcare staff having come from the creative arts, community development, outdoor education and environmental sectors. It brings a richness to the experiences and opportunities for children and colleagues. Confidence and competence is a big issue for existing ELC staff – and culture change!

All of this means there is a huge requirement for training...

There is a need for greater emphasis and experiences within formal initial training and we are in discussions with colleges, the College Development Network and others to raise this issue.

There is also a need for CPD opportunities – in the projects we have directly supported, we have sourced outdoor play training (through GfL), Environmental awareness training and Outdoor First Aid – this is not a requirement but helped staff feel more confident.

If colleagues are aware of outdoor training that would be appropriate for early years or play workers, we would be grateful if you could let us know as it helps to point providers in the right direction and to link local people together.