

Children and Young People Bill becomes an Act

The Children and Young People Bill was introduced to Parliament on 17th April 2013. The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 February 2014, and it received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014, making the Bill an Act of the Scottish Parliament. The Act will commence on the 1st August 2014

The Act will further the Scottish Government's ambition for Scotland to be the best place to grow up in by putting children and young people at the heart of planning and services and ensuring their rights are respected across the public sector.

From August 2014, Local Authorities will have a statutory duty to provide a mandatory 600 hours of early learning and childcare to eligible pre-school children. An eligible pre-school child

- is under school age,
- has not commenced attendance at a primary school.
- been looked after by the authority concerned or by any other local authority
- is the subject of a kinship care order
- is under a guardianship
- is from a workless household/family (Secondary Legislation awaiting enactment)

A model has been developed for Local Authority School Nursery Classes who will provide 5 sessions of 3 hrs 10 mins over 38 school weeks. Partner providers in Playgroups and Private Nurseries will run models to suit their provisions but the sessions will be at more than 2.5 hrs and less than 8 hours over a minimum of 38 weeks.

Secondary legislation for two year olds from workless households/families, who meet the criteria for 600 hours of early learning and childcare will require appropriate provision across Aberdeenshire to be identified and Early Years staff are currently engaged in this process.

In August 2015 local authorities will have a statutory duty to provide flexibility for parents in accessing the 600 hours of early learning and childcare. Through consultation Aberdeenshire look to provide flexibility for parents through partnership with private providers, playgroups and local authority nursery classes.

Aberdeenshire Council will continue to work in partnership with all providers of early learning and childcare to ensure the Children and Young People Act is implemented across Aberdeenshire in a planned and sustainable manner.

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Children and young People Act 2014.