

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Education & Families Committee

Does this report require to be approved?  Yes  No

Ref GML/JOH

Date 13/09/23

## Birth-Three Admissions – Policy Review

**From** Gerard McLaughlin, Head of Education (North) Education & Families

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### Executive Summary

There are currently 25 settings that offer a service for children from birth to three years. Places are allocated in response to a request for assistance from a partner agency e.g. health or social work services or in alignment with eligibility status. A policy review has been undertaken due to significant changes in services and to address the needs of children under 3 years and their families.

This report provides the committee with a revised policy for approval.

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### Recommendations

It is recommended that Education and Families Committee:

- (1) Approve the proposed changes to the admission policy for children under 3 years.

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### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	(9) Invest in early interventions, positive transitions, and preventative approaches to improve outcomes for children and young people

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#### 1. Background

1.1 The existing Admission to Early Years Establishments for Children Aged Birth - Three Years Policy was approved by the Education Committee on 11 January 2011. This policy requires review in line with national and local policy change.

1.2 Within the current policy, approvals for allocating Request for Assistance (RFA) are considered in one of two routes. These are the 'Under Three Area Admissions Panel' or the 'Birth to Three Meeting' specifically for children with additional support needs.

- 1.3 The 'Under Three Area Admissions Panel' is chaired by Head of Centre/Head Teacher with multi-agency representation.
- 1.4 The existing pathway for children with additional support needs is to be considered at the 'Birth to Three Meeting', co-ordinated by Psychological Services through a team around the child meeting.
- 1.5 In accordance with Scottish Government guidelines, eligible 2 year olds will automatically be allocated 1140hrs placement.
- 1.6 In 2020, the birth – two provisions in within Family Learning Centres was re-established with a stronger focus on early intervention and family support.
- 1.7 A full review of the policy has been undertaken by a multidisciplinary working group, including wide ranging consultation and in accordance with Keeping the Promise (May 2023) Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) (September 2022) and Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act (2004)

#### **Birth to Three provision within local authority settings**

0-2 Provision (10)	2-3 Provision (24)
Abernethyn FLC	Newmains FLC
Ailsa FLC	Craigneuk FLC
Forgewood FLC	Ailsa FLC
Kildrum FLC	Forgewood FLC
Shawhead FLC	Devonview FLC
St Patrick's FLC	Richard Stewart FLC
Wishaw FLC	Broomlands FLC
Shotts FLC	Kildrum FLC
Devonview FLC	Dunbeth FLC
Laburnum FLC	Jigsaw FLC
	Shawhead FLC
	St Patrick's FLC
	Wishaw FLC
	Shotts FLC
	Laburnum FLC
	Bellshill FLC
	Sacred Heart/Orbiston NC
	St Thomas' NC
	St Aidan's NC
	Our Lady and St Francis NC
	St Brendan's NC
	Victoria NC
	St Mary's NC (Coatbridge)
	St Bartholomew's NC

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## **2. Report**

### **2.1 Existing admissions criteria**

#### **Category 1:**

- Children who are on the Child Protection Register or subject to child protection procedures and those children who have progressed to a family support plan, in order to reduce the risk of significant harm, as determined by Social Work Services.

#### **Category 2:**

- Children who have been identified as having additional support needs arising from a disability, as defined by legislation, and where a nursery placement is recommended following multi agency review.

#### **Category 3:**

- Children from families where the impact of significant circumstances is recognised by more than one professional as preventing a positive start, and where a nursery placement will support families to engage with professionals, resulting in improved outcomes for children.

#### **Category 4:**

- Children from families affected by circumstances requiring a short-term immediate response, as identified by a professional agency. Placements will be for a maximum of 12 weeks only and any extension will be through re-referral.

### **2.2 Proposed revised admissions criteria**

#### **Category 1:**

- Children who are subject to current child protection registration or are the subject of a current child protection investigation. Children who have a child's plan following child protection concerns having been raised and for whom professionals agree that a placement would reduce the risk of harm to the child.

#### **Category 2:**

- Children who are on the edges of child protection procedures and for whom there is a current child's plan indicating unmet need which could be met if a place was available to them.
- Children who have been identified as having additional support needs arising from a disability, as defined by legislation, or due to developmental concerns and where a nursery placement is recommended following a team around the child meeting.
- Children of young parents who are currently in full time school education (consideration of day care process/budget).

#### **Category 3:**

- Children from families affected by circumstances requiring a short-term immediate response, as identified by a professional agency. Placements will be temporary and allocated for the period required as per request for assistance. All placements should be reviewed after a maximum of 6 months and only extended through an updated request for assistance.

### Eligible 2 Year Olds

Eligible 2-year-olds should be allocated 1140hrs as per Scottish Government guidance. Where places are limited, all children who are eligible should be considered individually by Head Teacher/Head of Centre and panel chairperson in accordance with the admissions criteria.

### 2.3 Proposed new timeline and representation for admissions panel meetings

The frequency of panel meetings will increase to ensure children's applications are considered more timeously.

Date	Panel Representatives
August	Chairperson
November	Health Visitor
January	Social Work
March	CLD
May	Nursery HT/DHT/HOC
	Cluster CIIL
	ELC Quality Officer

### 2.4 Proposed new admission panels

The size, number and membership of the panels were reviewed, and the proposed additional panels will ensure all applications are fully considered in a more local context.

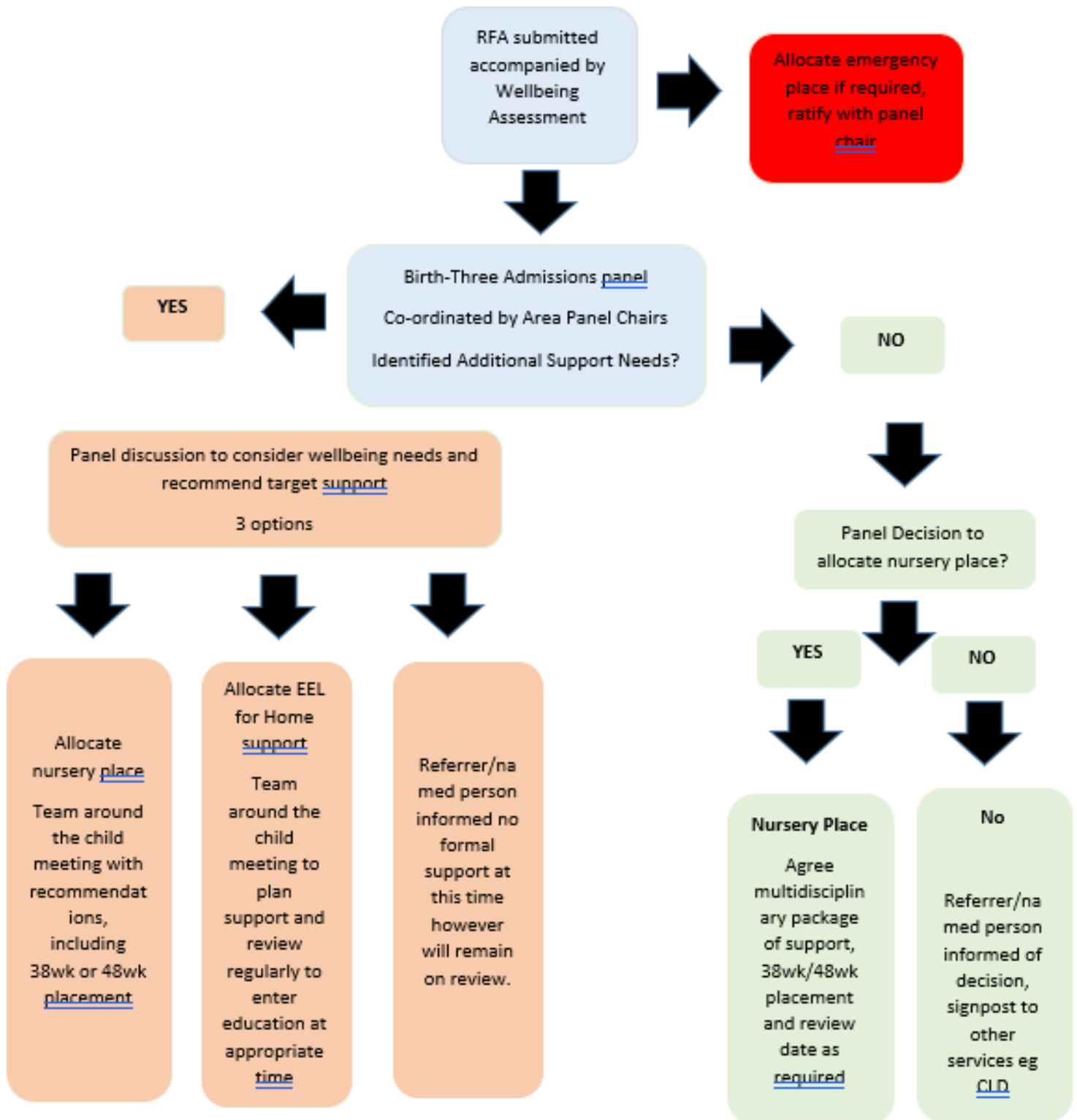
Panel	Locality	FLC/NC aligned	Chair	QO link
Wishaw 1	Wishaw 5	Wishaw, Newmains, Abernethyn, Shotts, St Aidans,	HOC Newmains	Lorraine Smith
Wishaw 2	Wishaw 3	Craigneuk, Heathery Park, St Thomas,	HT St Thomas	Lynn Walsh
Bellshill	Bellshill 3	Bellshill, Laburnum, Sacred Heart/Orbiston	HOC Bellshill	Vicky Harris
Coatbridge	Coatbridge 4	Dunbeth, Shawhead, St Marys (C/B), St Bartholomews	HT St Marys	Eileen McGeoch
Airdrie	Airdrie 3	Devonview, Richard Stewart, Victoria,	HOC Devonview	Ruth Eglinton
Motherwell	Motherwell 4	Forgewood, Ailsa, OLSF, St Brendans,	HOC Forgewood	Lynn Walsh
Cumbernauld	Cumbernauld 4	Broomlands, Kildrum, Jigsaw, St Patrick's	HOC Kildrum	Cheryl Valentine

### 2.5 Proposed procedures for sharing information with the central team

Following each panel meeting, the panel chair will collate the new operating numbers for each setting on the template provided and submit to the central team. The template will highlight which settings have spaces remaining and note children that were approved at panel but could not be placed. This will be submitted to Assistant Early Learning & Childcare Manager – Louise Smith [smithlou@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:smithlou@northlan.gov.uk)

## 2.6 Proposed changes to Admissions Process

### BIRTH TO THREE NURSERY ADMISSIONS/INTERVENTION PROCESS



Name Gerard McLaughlin  
Title: Chief Officer (Education - North)

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5. Impacts ( <http://connect/report-template-guidance> )

<p><b>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty</b> Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? <a href="https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments">https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments</a> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>5.2 Financial impact</b> Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts have been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.3 HR policy impact</b> Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts have been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.4 Legal impact</b> Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts have been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.5 Data protection impact</b> Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk">dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p><b>5.6</b></p>	<p><b>Technology / Digital impact</b>  Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>5.7</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental / Carbon impact</b>  Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.8</b></p>	<p><b>Communications impact</b>  Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?  Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>  If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>The paper contains information regarding a change to policy and will require a communication strategy to ensure all services are informed.</p>
<p><b>5.9</b></p>	<p><b>Risk impact</b>  Is there a risk impact?  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p>
<p><b>5.10</b></p>	<p><b>Armed Forces Covenant Duty</b>  Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p>