

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 31 AUGUST 2011

OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF FLOWERBANK NURSERY AND FAMILY CENTRE

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the responses and comments which have been received from stakeholders during the public consultation on the proposal to discontinue educational and care provision at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter, and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following its meeting of 4 May 2011, the Cabinet (Education) agreed to initiate a full public consultation exercise to consider the future of the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings. The consultation period took place between 6 May 2011 and 20 June 2011.
- 2.2 Letters were issued to all stakeholders on the 5 May 2011 including a notice on the Council's website. In addition a public notice was placed in the Kilmarnock Standard; Cumnock Chronicle and Ayrshire Post.
- 2.3 Two public consultation events were held on Wednesday 18 May 2011 from 4-5.30 pm and separately on 18 May 2011 between 6.30-8 pm.
- 2.3 Consultation with children in Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre was carried out on the 15 June 2011.
- 2.4 Following the formal end of the consultation period on the 20 June 2011 a copy of all responses was sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education. Thereafter the District Inspector visited the Nursery and Family Centre and spoke with parents/carers and staff. A written report on the findings was presented to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services.

3. RESPONSES DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

- 3.1 The undernoted sets out a summary of the response. Appendix 1 to this report provides a full analysis of the responses including a full transcript of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education findings.
- 3.2 Thirty-two responses were received in respect of the proposals.

- 3.3 Seventeen parents signed a statement supporting the move to a refurbished and extended Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.
- 3.4 The Head of Centre, Depute Head of Centre and three Family Care Workers submitted responses, all of which were positive, however, anxious to ensure appropriate outdoor learning area.
- 3.5 Two responses were received from Elected Members. This was an individual Elected Member and separately a response from the Labour Group. Both responses indicated their support and felt that this was a positive development. They noted the comments expressed at the public consultation meetings and commented that they hoped that with engagement “with parents, staff and the EAC Directorate Staff it will be possible to address concerns raised, in particular to outdoor space”.
- 3.6 One response was received from Unison on behalf of its members affected by the proposed changes. The view expressed was that staff were very positive and felt it beneficial to the future care of children. The response indicated that staff are keen to contribute at all stages, and provided an opportunity to use their knowledge and experience to develop the new facility. It was felt that there might be less space for outdoor learning than they currently had but indicated that they were keen to see “the best possible use of any available space”.
- 3.7 Similarly, one response was received from NHS Ayrshire & Arran and again the proposal was supported. Comments were specifically received regarding the improved accessibility for children particularly with complex needs and recognised the potential for enhancing joint working with health visiting and social work.
- 3.8 Four East Ayrshire Council staff members responded in the Early Education and Childcare Service and indicated that this would be a positive development for children, parents and staff.
- 3.9 The Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services responded confirming that consultation had been carried out with Heads of Service and that they were happy with the proposals.
- 3.10 A response was received from the Head of Children’s Services in South Ayrshire Council advising that they had no comments on the proposals.

3.11 **Public Consultation**

Fifteen people attended both public consultation meetings held on the 18 May 2011. These were predominantly staff members. Overall those attending the public meetings were very positive about the development. The issue of the natural environment was discussed and the current space available for outdoor learning at the existing building.

3.12 **Consultation with Children**

Consultation with children currently attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre was carried out on 15 June 2011. A mind map was used to gather comments as children were used to this type of discussion. They were introduced to “Mr Crow” a puppet bird who had a nest overlooking the new nursery building.

The children spoke of the colours they would like to see the nursery painted. Most of the comments were on the outdoor area. The children were keen that there would be trees and flowers in the new nursery. One child drew a path that she would like to see in the outside play area and she wanted the pathway to go in different directions and she drew this on the mind map.

Photographs of the development of the mind map are available for Members viewing.

3.13 **Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education**

A full copy of HMIE’s report is set out at Para 5.1 of the attached Consultation Report. It reflects the overall view of parents/carers and staff and other professionals that the proposal is overwhelmingly positive.

The report reflects the educational benefits arising from better access to playrooms designed to facilitate child centred learning and development.

In addition, there was recognition that there will be potential for children to benefit from “better quality interaction with their parents as a result of improved facilities to support parents”.

Children with disabilities will also benefit from greater continuity in their learning.

4. RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED

4.1 The full consultation report is attached as Appendix 1 and provides a detailed response to the issues raised. The two main issues relate to access to outdoor learning and the natural environment and separately car parking.

4.2 Officers in the client Department and Corporate Infrastructure have worked closely together and are satisfied that the campus, which will be shared with the new Day Care Facility will have appropriate access to outdoor learning areas. The Roads Section have been consulted and have indicated that they are satisfied with the proposals.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At a meeting of Cabinet on 26 January 2011, a report was approved regarding the option appraisal of the relocation of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre and provision of a new adult day service. The Capital Programme

allocated resources of £1.75m in respect of the Flowerbank project and a total of £2.5m in relation to the provision of a new Adult Day Centre. The consolidated budget will meet the overall requirements of the new campus.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The relocation of the Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre into a refurbished and extended Woodstock School site will enhance the educational care and experience for our very youngest children including their parents, in East Ayrshire.
- 6.2 Council officers will ensure that there is a smooth transition from the current site to the new site.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This proposal positively impacts on both the Promoting Lifelong Learning theme of the Community Plan and the Improving Health and Well-being theme of the Community Plan. Depending on the future use of the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre building it may also support the community regeneration theme of the Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to:
 - (i) consider the outcome of the findings of the statutory consultation period and associated response from HMIE;
 - (ii) consider the consultation report which is published as an Appendix;
 - (iii) approve the proposal to discontinue educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre building with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.
 - (iv) declare the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings surplus to operational requirements when the new Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre is opened; and
 - (v) otherwise note the content of this report.

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

16 August 2011
GRS/KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
2. Cabinet report – 1 December 2010 – Capital Programme Update
3. Cabinet Report – 26 January 2011 – Option Appraisal
4. Cabinet report – 4 May 2011 – Statutory Consultation Document

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service:
Community Support, Tel: 01563 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL AND CARE
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING FLOWERBANK NURSERY AND
FAMILY CENTRE**

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal that:

- **Educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings be discontinued with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the Woodstock School Site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- (a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period;**
- (b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 18 May 2011; and**
- (c) HMIE's report**

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council under the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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Having had regard (in particular) to:

- (a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period;**
- (b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 18 May 2011; and**
- (c) HMIE's report**

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- Set out a record of the total number of written representations made to the Council by any person during the period of the public consultation period;
- Set out a summary of those written representations;
- Set out a summary of the oral representations made to the Council at the public meeting held at Woodstock Special School on 18 May 2011;
- Set out a statement of the Council's response to:
 - Those written and oral representations
 - HMIE's report
- Provide a copy of HMIE's report
- Set out a statement explaining how the Council has reviewed the proposal having regard to relevant written representations; oral representations; and HMIE's report;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper (including a statement of the Council's opinion on it);
- Provide a statement of the action taken in respect of the omission or inaccuracy, or if no action has been taken of that fact;

2. FLOWERBANK NURSERY AND FAMILY CENTRE INFORMATION

2.1 ACCOMMODATION

The Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre is a substantial two storey sand stone former villa with slated pitched roof sited close to Kilmarnock Town Centre. It has occupied this site, in some form, since at least 1843, and became a day nursery in 1946. The main building has had a major two storey extension added to the rear some years ago, believed to be pre 1939. Two separate smaller buildings are also located on the site; one is currently used by the Daycarers Service and one as a laundry.

The Nursery and Family Centre has the following facilities and accommodation:

- 1 playroom for children aged 0-2 years
- 1 playroom for children aged 2-3 years
- 2 large playrooms for children aged 3-5 years
- Library
- Family room
- Multipurpose room/dinner room
- Family Care Workers office
- Staffroom with kitchen area
- Head of Centre Office
- Office for admin/depute manager/seniors
- Large kitchen
- Utility room
- Outhouse
- 2 large resource cupboards
- 2 staff toilets
- Children's toilets
- Small cupboard under stairs
- Large outdoor area (front and rear of building)

A bungalow, used as office accommodation for three staff in the Day Carer Service, is situated at the back of the building.

Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre has been rated as "B" condition (as defined by the Condition Core Fact, Building Our Future: Scotland's School Estate, issued by the Scottish Government). A 'B' rating means minor repairs are required in relation to the physical condition of the building and doesn't relate to the suitability of the building for early education and childcare.

2.2 USAGE

Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre provides care and education for children 0-5 years of age. Children who use the service predominantly come from the Kilmarnock area as follows:

- 13 New Farm Loch and Wellpark
- 11 Bellfield, Riccarton and Shortlees
- 18 Bonnyton
- 8 Onthank and Southcraigs
- 18 Newmilns, Hurlford, Galston and Crookedholm
- 17 Town centre
- 7 others

The Nursery and Family Centre is registered with the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland to provide 9 whole time equivalent places for children 0-2 years; 15 whole time equivalent places for children 2-3 years and 32 whole time equivalent places for children 3-5 years.

The undernoted sets out the uptake of places over the last five years:

YEAR	PLACES
2006/7	Total 84 0-2 20 2-3 11 3-5 53
2007/8	Total 96 0-2 18 2-3 31 3-5 47
2008/9	Total 90 0-2 13 2-3 23 3-5 54
2009/10	Total 82 0-2 18 2-3 22 3-5 42
2010/11	Total 92 (31 March 2011) 0-2 16 2-3 24 3-5 52

Children in receipt of a place at Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre, who are under three years of age, are admitted through the Council's 0-3 Admissions Policy. Places for children 3-5 years are allocated through the Council's Pre-school Admissions Policy.

At any one time, Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre can have a number of visiting specialists supporting children, namely:

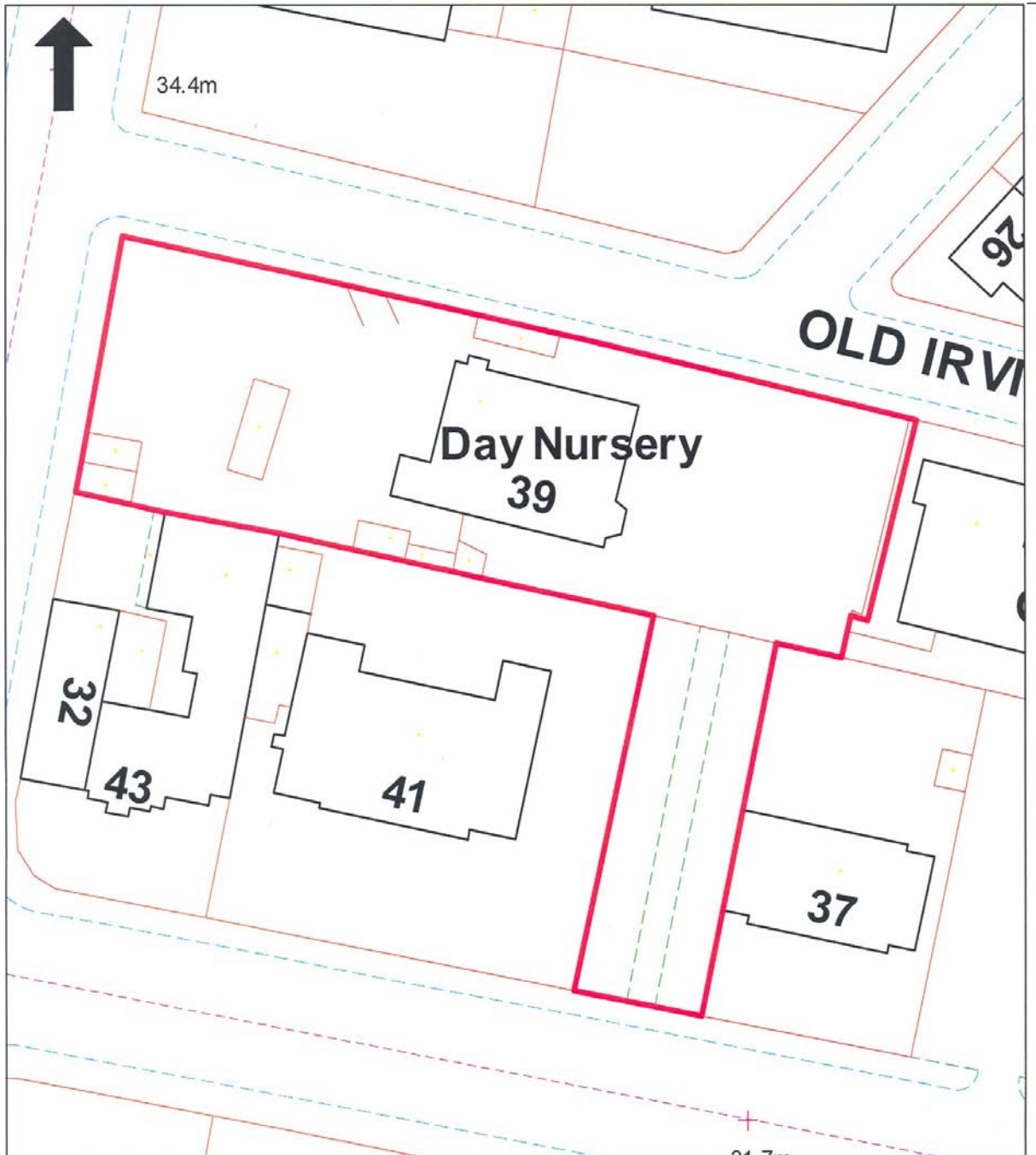
- Peripatetic Early Years Teacher;
- Physiotherapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Hearing Impairment Specialist

- Educational Psychologist
- Social Workers

Currently there are 8 children with additional support needs; 3 who have a physical disability and 1 who has a sensory impairment.

2.3 NURSERY AND FAMILY CENTRE LAYOUT

2.3.1 Outline of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre Building



2.3.2 Staffing

Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre has the undernoted staffing establishment:

- 1 FTE Manager
- 1 FTE Depute Manager
- 2 FTE Senior Early Years Workers
- 10.4 FTE Early Years Workers
- 2 FTE Family Care Workers
- 1.28 FTE Clerical
- 1.256 FTE Facilities Management Staff

Depending on the number of children with additional support needs, the staffing establishment will be enhanced in any academic session through either peripatetic Early Years Workers or Classroom Assistants.

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 East Ayrshire Council's (Education) Cabinet of 4 May 2011 approved the recommendation to issue a proposal document (attached as Annex A of this report) on the future of educational and care provision at Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre. The formal consultation period ran from Friday 6 May 2011 to Monday 20 June 2011.

3.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were offered the opportunity to participate in the consultation process:

- The parents/carers of children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre;
- The parents/carers of children who may want to attend Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre within two years of the date of the publication of the proposal document;
- The children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre;
- The staff of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre;
- The trade union representatives of the above staff members;
- The Community Councils;
- The constituency MSP;
- List MSP for the area;
- The constituency MP;
- Sub-Divisional Commander, Strathclyde Police
- Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
- Area Commander, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
- Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, East Ayrshire Council
- Executive Director of Finance & Corporate Support, East Ayrshire Council

- 3.3** The Proposal Document was also advertised in the press. Additional copies of the document were obtainable from the Department of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, from the Nursery and Family Centre and through the Council Website at www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk. Copies were also available at public libraries and Council offices in the area. A copy was also sent to HMIE, who under the 2010 Act are statutory consultees.
- 3.4** In terms of meeting its statutory obligations to consult with all parents and carers, a letter was issued to all parents and carers of children currently attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre and those parents/carers who have requested a place commencing academic session 2011/12, informing them both of the availability of the statutory consultation document and inviting them to one of two public meetings to be held on 18 May 2011.
- 3.5** As there is no statutory requirement for parents/carers to send their children to a nursery and/or a family centre, the proposal document was placed on the Council's website and circulated as widely as possible in order for parents and carers who may wish to send their children to Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre in the course of the next two years to be involved in the process.
- 3.6** The meetings held on 18 May 2011 offered an opportunity for a presentation on the proposal document and for subsequent discussion and clarification of the proposal, as well as a forum for people to express their views of the consultation proposals. A written record of the meetings is available.
- 3.7** Children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre were consulted using a mind map which children were familiar with as a method of hearing their views. They were introduced to "Mr Crow", a puppet bird who had a nest overlooking the new nursery building. Photographic evidence is available of the development of the mind map.

4. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 4.1** A total of 31 written responses were received, including those made by e-mail. The table below provides details of the written submissions:

TABLE : RESPONDENTS BY GROUP

RESPONDENT GROUP	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Parents (petition format)	17
Head of Centre	1
Depute Head of Centre	1
Family Care Worker	3
Individual Elected Representatives	1
Labour Group	1
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	1
Trade Union	1

Other Council departments	1
Officers in the Department of Educational and Social Services	4
South Ayrshire Council	1
TOTAL	32

A full list of the respondents is attached as Annex 2.

4.2 On 11 July 2011 a report was received from HMIE on the proposals. This is reproduced in Section 5.

4.3 The undernoted sets out a summary of the issues raised both at the public meetings and in written responses to the proposal document.

4.3.1 Public Meeting – 18 May 2011

The two public meetings were held in Woodstock Special School. One arranged for late afternoon and one arranged for the evening. The purpose in having two meetings was to encourage as wide an attendance as possible. Crèche facilities were made available at the public meeting in the afternoon. Both meetings were chaired by the Head of Service: Community Support and attended by Senior Officers from Educational and Social Services Department, Finance and Asset Management (now Corporate Infrastructure) and Legal Services. The District Inspector attended the meeting held in the evening.

4.3.2 The Head of Service: Community Support delivered a presentation regarding the consultation process and in particular the proposal.

4.3.3 Following the presentation those attending both meetings were provided with an opportunity to raise issues or seek further information on the consultation. The undernoted summarises the main issues raised at both meetings.

- Staff wanted to see a plan of the building and where the extension to the current Woodstock Special School is likely to be and how this might affect outdoor areas. Staff also raised the issue of the current outdoor natural environment and asked how much outdoor space will be available at the new site and how natural this is likely to be. Some concerns were raised regarding the potential for the garden area to be next to the car park in relation to noise level and commented that it would be good if the garden wasn't too close to the car park if this was possible.
- It was noted that Dr Joseph, NHS Ayrshire & Arran had phoned the Head of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre to say that she welcomed the proposal as it would mean that children with additional support needs would remain in the same establishment from 0-5 years.

4.4 Written Responses

4.4.1 (a) Parents/Carers

Seventeen parents/carers signed a statement to say they were in agreement with the proposals.

(b) Individual Elected Representatives

Councillor Keohone indicated that he was delighted that Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre would move to Woodstock School when it is vacated, he thought it was a good substantial building.

(c) Labour Group

The Labour Group expressed their support for the proposal. They noted the opinions and views expressed at the public meeting and hoped that through engagement with parents, staff and directorate staff that it would be possible to address concerns raised, in particular in relation to outdoor space. The Labour Group felt that given the proximity of the move that children, staff and parents would be comfortable and additionally will be close enough to the site to feel very involved with the process. The continued use of space in the town centre was considered a positive feature and anticipated that detailed planning would have the potential to alleviate issues associated with car parking of which they had some concerns.

It was anticipated that the development would provide a positive environment which would prove supportive for the ongoing relationships between children their families and professionals. In particular, the opportunity provided in the move for a fully accessible building and services would offer the level of equity of provision that has come to be expected across East Ayrshire. The more open setting at the new location would further integrate children and their parents using the service within the local community and from this develop the potential for new relationships with that community.

(d) NHS Ayrshire & Arran

The Health Care Manager, Children's, Women's & Sexual Health Services indicated support for the proposal, particularly as there will be no disruption to the service provided as the new facility is near the existing building. The new facility would be a great improvement on the current one which is very old. NHS Ayrshire & Arran have indicated that they are pleased to see the paper mentioned improving the building accessibility for all children, particularly with complex needs and that there will be potential enhanced and joint working with health visiting and social work.

(e) Trade Union: UNISON

On behalf of staff Unison indicated that those involved view the proposal as very positive. Staff indicated that they were keen to

engage with management on all aspects of the proposal. Staff were particularly keen to contribute at all stages of the development. Initial observations were made regarding outside space for children to play. It was felt that there might be less space than they have at the moment and staff were keen to see the best possible use of any available space. It was suggested that it might be nice for the "Willow Arch" which is currently in the garden to be moved to the new garden.

Parking was discussed, along with provision of an area for loading/unloading. Some staff have experienced difficulties in the past with parking, particularly those who may only be at Flowerbank for part of the day. As cars are usually parked in all available on street spaces, an area close to the entrance where staff could unload equipment would be beneficial. Unison were confident that with continued consultation and discussion the outcome would be beneficial to the future education and care provision for children of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.

(f) Head of Centre, Flowerbank, Depute Head of Centre, Family Care Workers

- A number of constraints in the current Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre were presented, particularly in relation to access to play rooms and parenting support
- Lack of direct access to toilets from playrooms
- Lack of access for children with mobility problems
- The new facility will enhance opportunities to work with families

(g) Other Council departments

The Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that consultation had taken place with Heads of Service who indicated that they were happy with the proposal.

(h) Officers in the Department of Educational and Social Services

Principal Officer, Early Education and Childcare Services; Early Education and Childcare Quality Officer; Principal Teacher Early Years and Quality Improvement Officer. The proposal was supported for a number of reasons:

- Access to the existing Flowerbank Nursery is very restrictive;
- Provision is over two levels with a winding staircase leading to the upper floor and this can be very restrictive for young children and those with a disability;
- The existing building has several small rooms which restricts free play;
- The current building is difficult in an emergency and is not designed for nursery provision;

- There is no suitable accommodation in the current building to support the development of practical skills with parents and carers nor to undertake group work or workshops with parents and carers;
- Opportunities to support child access visits are also limited due to the constraints of the accommodation;
- Some children who have a 0-3 place at Flowerbank need to seek an alternative pre-school educational placement in another establishment due to the issues of accessibility. This is disruptive to the continuity of care for children;
- The current building has no car parking area near the building and restricts access to the nursery and family centre. The new site will address all of these issues;
- The view was expressed that curriculum for excellence builds on solid foundations developed in the critical years of pre-birth to three which is supported by the new national pre-birth to three guidance. The learning opportunities for children aged 0-5 years will be enhanced in purpose built playrooms with direct access to play and outdoor learning;
- It was viewed that the emphasis on outdoor learning for children 0-5 years will mean that it is important to have sufficient outdoor place space for children on the Woodstock site.

(i) South Ayrshire Council

South Ayrshire Council had no submissions in respect of the proposal.

5. HMIE REPORT

5.1 The undernoted is a full transcript of HMIE's report.

<p>Consultation proposal by East Ayrshire Council</p> <p>Report by HM Inspectorate of Education addressing educational aspects of the proposal to discontinue education at Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre in August 2013 and relocate provision to the site of the current Woodstock School.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>1.1 East Ayrshire Council proposes to discontinue educational provision at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings in Kilmarnock with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter. Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre will move to a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School site with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>1.2 The report from HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) is required under the terms of the <i>Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010</i>. It has been prepared by HMIE in accordance with the terms of the Act.</p>	
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1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 18 May 2011 in connection with the council's proposals;
- 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;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected;
- visits to Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre, including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- a visit to the present site of Woodstock School.

1.4 HMIE considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre, for any other users, for children likely to use the nursery and family centre within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper, and for other children and families 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 East Ayrshire Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

2.2 Parents who use the nursery and family centre are very positive about the proposal. The main advantages they identify include the building being more accessible. They feel that not having to negotiate a flight of stairs to access the rooms for three to five year olds will be a benefit. They also feel that the proposal will result in easier access to outdoor play areas for children, and improved parking for pick-up and drop-off of children. Children were encouraged to express their opinions on the proposals using age appropriate material, including photographs and a mind map drawing. Children were able to say what they liked about

the proposals and what worried them. Their understanding was limited, but they will continue to be involved in the proposed move.

- 2.3 Staff in the nursery and family centre are unanimously in favour of the proposal. In addition to the benefits identified by parents, staff feel that the proposal will lead to opportunities for better child-led play, as children will be able to choose when to access outdoor play. At present access to outdoor areas at the Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre is adult led, for safety reasons. Staff also consider that having all play rooms on one level means that siblings of different ages will be able to interact more freely. Encouraging better sibling interaction achieves one of the key aims of the family centre, which is to build stronger family units. Visiting specialists will also have improved space and facilities for working with parents and children. The only concern expressed by staff was the possible reduction in garden space.
- 2.4 Other professionals and professional organisations commented positively on the proposal. NHS staff agree with all of the reasons outlined by parents and staff. They welcome greater accessibility and improved facilities for working with parents, children and babies. All responses to the consultation were positive for the reasons expressed by parents and staff. The council has indicated that there are no community users of the premises who will be affected by the proposal.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

- 3.1 If the proposal is implemented, children will benefit from better access to playrooms which are designed to facilitate child-centred learning and development. They will have greater choice and will be able to move freely between rooms. Children will be able to access outdoor play freely and at a time of their choosing rather than at a time of adult's choosing. It is therefore likely that their learning will be more active and self-directed. There will also be the potential for children to benefit from better quality interactions with their parents as a result of improved facilities to support parents. The nursery and family centre already provides good quality support to parents which helps to develop nurturing relationships. Improved facilities will help staff to enhance the work already taking place in the nursery. It is likely that children with physical disabilities will benefit from greater continuity in their learning. At present, the rooms for three to five year olds are on the first floor, which cannot be accessed by people with mobility difficulties. A few children who start in the birth to three year old rooms downstairs need to transfer elsewhere on reaching age three. Visiting professionals will have improved meeting rooms and facilities for working with parents, babies and children. These improved facilities will offer potential benefits for children and their families deriving from improved interagency working in line with the *Early Years Framework* and *Getting it right for every child*.

- 3.2 Children and their parents who are likely to use the nursery and family centre within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper will benefit in the same way as the current users of the nursery and family centre. In addition, as a result of the proposal, any future users of the nursery and family centre experiencing limited mobility will have greater choice in nursery provision. At present, children with physical disabilities, who would otherwise attend Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre, are redirected to Hillbank Nursery and Family Centre in the north west of Kilmarnock.
- 3.3 The only possible adverse effect identified during the consultation is the loss of the educational resource of garden space and a number of large, mature trees. However, staff and parents are clear that this issue can be addressed through provision of raised flower beds, planters and similar resources. The current Woodstock School has a few mature trees and a large area of grass which can be developed into a garden space. The council intends to minimise potential disruption to children's learning and development by establishing a comprehensive transition programme for all children, parents and staff.
- 3.4 The refurbished and extended building will retain a town centre location and will support improved interagency working to the benefit of children and their families. The current building does not support approaches to learning which are fully in line with Curriculum for Excellence and best educational practice. In addition, lack of access for anyone with mobility difficulties and lack of space within the current building do not allow the most effective approaches to joint working by a variety of professionals.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The council has set out a clear case for the educational benefits arising from the proposal. Parents, children and staff will continue to be closely involved in the transition process to the refurbished and extended building. Children and their families are likely to experience clear educational benefits arising from the proposal. All children, including those with a physical disability, will have free access to all playrooms. Children will have greater choice and be able to direct their own play and learning, independent of adults. Children and their families will benefit from greater opportunities to work with a range of professionals which may include health visitors, speech and language therapists, social workers, hearing impairment specialists and educational psychologists. The council identified the significant limitations of the current building and the proposal addresses these shortcomings, providing a learning and care environment which is suited to twenty-first century learning.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

6.1 Once the Council received HMIE's report on 11 July 2011, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to review the relevant proposal (Option 2), which is referred to at the beginning of this report, having had regard (in particular) to the written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period; oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 18 May 2011 at Woodstock Special School; and HMIE's report. In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report requires to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under the above Section 9(1) of the Act. In terms of Section 13(3) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report also requires to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under Section 12 of the Act when reviewing the relevant proposal in terms of Section 9(1) above.

6.2 Having reviewed the report presented by HMIE, the responses received both written and verbally and the consultation involving children, Council officers have concluded that Option 2 should remain the preferred option in respect of the continuity of education and care at Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre. The undernoted sets out why the Council has reached this conclusion.

7. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AND HMIE'S REPORT

7.1 The overwhelming response in relation to the proposal document is very positive. No-one raised any substantive issues which could not be addressed. The two issues raised which require an officer response are:

- (i) The availability of space for outdoor learning including the natural environment;
- (ii) car parking availability.

In respect of (i), officers have reviewed the overall campus which will be shared with the new Adult Day Service and are confident that there is ample space to support good access to outdoor learning.

In respect of (ii), officers have reviewed the overall campus and, in consultation with the Roads section are confident of the available space on the campus for car parking.

8. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT (EBS)

8.1 The Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 provides detail on what should be included in the educational benefits statement. The guidance states that the Authority should set out the effect of the proposal for different users of an establishment, however it is also clear that there is not a limit or list of range of factors which should be taken into consideration and/or articulate in the educational benefits statement.

8.2 The proposal document clearly set out the benefits that children currently attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre would receive in a new building. These are:

- (i)** The children of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre will benefit from greater access to play rooms designed to facilitate child centered learning and development in line with Curriculum for Excellence.
- (ii)** Parents/carers will benefit from a quality environment which will promote support for parents/carers to build nurturing relationships with their children.
- (iii)** Fully accessible for children, parents/carers and staff who may have a disability. Proportionately, more children with complex physical disabilities attend Hillbank Nursery and Family Centre due to the limitations at Flowerbank Nursery & Family Centre. Re-locating to a purpose built refurbished building will enable a more equitable provision for children referred.
- (iv)** Will support improved joint and interagency approaches to working with very young children by enabling easier access for health visitors; social workers and other professionals.
- (v)** If implemented, the Council will minimise disruption by establishing a comprehensive transition programme for all children, their parents/carers and staff members. Careful consideration will be given to 'lead in' time and to ensure that all stakeholders are fully consulted and understand all of the steps of the transition programme. The prime consideration will be to minimise any adverse impact on the learning and care of children and their parent/carers attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.

HMIE has also recognised these educational benefits in its response to the Council on the proposal document.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 Any reduction in the property portfolio will reduce the risk to which the Council is exposed in terms of issues such as infrastructure; vandalism and threats security. Any property that is vacated, however, is likely to be exposed to an increase level of risk requiring additional security measures.

9.2 The disruption to the provision of education and care provision during the relocation phase will seek to be minimised by Council officers.

10. LEGAL ISSUES

10.1 The Council has adhered to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in the issuing of the statutory consultation document and process.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 Having reviewed Option 2 as set out in the proposal document and having had regard to:

- (i) relevant written representations received by the Council from any person during the consultation period;
- (ii) oral representations made to the Council by any person at the public meeting of 18 May 2011; and
- (iii) the contents of the HMIE report it is concluded that the Option 2 remains the best option to provide a quality educational and care experience for children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 It is therefore recommended that:

- (i) Educational and care provision will be discontinued on the current Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre site as of the 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) that the children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre will be relocated to an extended and refurbished Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre on the existing Woodstock site from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/KG/SR
5 July 2011



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

The following educational establishment is affected by this Proposal Document:

- Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council for Proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

Any Ordnance Survey map data included within this document is provided by East Ayrshire Council under licence from Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function in relation to this public Proposal. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping data for their own use.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the East Ayrshire Council web-site:
www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk

A copy of this document will be provided to:

- **The parents/carers of the children of the establishment**
- **The children using the facility**
- **The staff, at the affected establishment**
- **The trade unions representatives of the above staff**
- **The Community Councils**
- **Relevant users of the affected establishment**
- **The constituency MSP**
- **List MSPs for the area⁽ⁱ⁾**
- **The Constituency MP**
- **Sub-Divisional Commander, Strathclyde Police**
- **Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran**
- **Chief Executive Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)**
- **Area Commander, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**
- **Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, East Ayrshire Council**
- **Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support, East Ayrshire Council**

A copy of this document is also available from:
Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU
Public libraries in the vicinity of the nursery affected
Local area offices in the vicinity of the nursery affected
The nurseries affected by the proposal

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to the Department of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU, by telephone on 01563-576109; or by e-mail: education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

(i) MSP copies will be issued post election.

SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

1. CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET (EDUCATION)

This Proposal Document has been issued as a result of a decision by the Cabinet (Education) of East Ayrshire Council. This is to seek views on the proposals in this paper.

2. PROPOSAL DOCUMENT ISSUED TO CONSULTEES AND PUBLISHED ON COUNCIL WEB-SITE

A copy of this document will then be issued free of charge to the consultees listed on the preceding page, and it will also be published on the Council website : www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

3. PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENT IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

An advertisement will be placed in the relevant local newspapers and if necessary any national newspaper. In addition, there may be announcements related to the Proposal process on the local radio station, West Sound / West FM.

4. LENGTH OF CONSULTATION PERIOD

Letters to all stakeholders will be issued on 5 May 2011. The formal consultation period commences Friday 6 May 2011 and will thereafter run until close of business on Monday 20 June 2011, which includes a period of 30 ante and pre-school days.

5. PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held, the details of which are given on the following page.

6. INVOLVEMENT OF HMIE

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to HMIE by East Ayrshire Council. HMIE will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period or, if HMIE agree, a summary of them. HMIE will further receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Council at the public meeting that will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. HMIE will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, HMIE may enter the affected establishment and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate and

may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

7. PREPARATION OF CONSULTATION REPORT

The Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMIE Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers and, if necessary, any national newspaper. It will be available on the Council web-site and from Council Headquarters, public libraries in the vicinity of the affected establishment, local offices in the vicinity of the affected establishment as well as the affected establishment itself, free of charge. Anyone who made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the HMIE Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the HMIE Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the HMIE Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

8. CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN

The views of children currently attending the affected establishment will be sought.

9. DECISION

This report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Cabinet (Education) who will make a decision. This decision is then subject to the Council's call-in procedures.

NOTE ON CORRECTIONS

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, there has been an inaccuracy. It will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMIE will be advised.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meetings will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will be convened by East Ayrshire Council and will be addressed by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, or other senior officers of the Council, as appropriate.

The meetings will be an opportunity to:

- **Hear more about the proposal**
- **Ask questions about the proposal**
- **Have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the Proposal process.**

The meetings will be held on:

Venue – Woodstock School (*Crèche available*)
Date – Wednesday 18 May 2011
Time – 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Venue – Woodstock School
Date – Wednesday 18 May 2011
Time – 6.30pm – 8.00 pm

A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note will be published on the Council web-site, and a copy will be made available on request.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES**

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Proposal:

That subject to the outcome of this Proposal exercise :

- Educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings be discontinued with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School Site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 As at 31 March 2011, there were 92 children attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.

16 children were 0-2 years of age; 24 were 2-3 years of age and 52 were 3-5 years of age.

1.2 The current building is a substantial two-storey sandstone former villa with slated pitched roofs sited close to Kilmarnock town centre. It has occupied this site, in some form, since at least 1843, and became a Day Nursery in 1946.

1.3 The main building has had a major two-storey extension added to the rear some years ago, believed to be pre 1939.

1.4 Two separate smaller buildings are also located on the site; one is currently used by the day carer service and one as a laundry.

1.5 The site boundary drawing, attached as Appendix 1, shows the extent of the site and the location plan, attached as Appendix 2, shows the site in relation to neighbouring properties.

1.6 At its meeting of 4 May 2011 the Cabinet (Education) agreed to initiate a full public consultation exercise to consider the future of the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 It is proposed that:

Proposal:

That subject to the outcome of this Proposal exercise :

- Educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings be discontinued with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School Site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

3. VISION

3.1 East Ayrshire Council has an established vision for its school estate which will ensure the delivery of a modern curriculum in education buildings which are suitable for purpose. This vision further states:

“East Ayrshire Council’s Department of Educational and Social Services : committed to providing choice, maximising opportunity for all, developing the potential of individuals and meeting needs through inclusion”

3.2 This statement covers every aspect of the Department’s work including the management and development of educational establishments. The Council’s School Estate Management Plan states that development and improvement in the fabric of its buildings is a key component in the facilitation of the learning and teaching process.

3.3 The Council has also approved the Department’s objectives for achieving its aims. These are detailed below:

- reducing surplus capacity
- addressing maintenance issues
- meeting statutory requirements of DDA legislation
- improving property flexibility

3.4 The Scottish Government issued its Building Better Schools : Investing in Scotland’s Future Strategy in September 2009. This document sets out the Government’s aspirations for the school estate. In this context nurseries are included.

- “All children and young people will be educated in, and community users will use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency;
- Schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire and drive new thinking and change and which support the

delivery of high quality educational experiences through *Curriculum for Excellence*;

- Schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities;
- Schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and well being, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities;
- A sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient; contributes directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance;
- A school estate that is efficiently run and that delivers maximum value for money;
- A school estate which is flexible and responsive - both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough Proposal and engagement with users and stakeholders”.

3.5 The Government's Early Years Framework sets out its ambitions for Scotland's children. It states that *'What happens to children in their earliest years says much about our society and is key to outcomes in adult life'*. Day care provision for children under 3 years of age needs to be provided in an appropriate, quality environment which meets the educational and care needs of very young children and their families.

3.6 This document has been framed taking account of the Scottish Government's aspirations.

4. PRESENT POSITION

4.1 Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre provides care and education for children 0-5 years of age. Children who use the service predominantly come from the Kilmarnock area as follows:

13	New Farm Loch and Wellpark
11	Bellfield, Riccarton and Shortlees
18	Bonnyton
8	Onthank and Southcraigs
18	Newmilns, Hurlford, Galston and Crookedholm
17	Town centre
7	others

4.2 The Nursery and Family Centre is registered with the Care Commission to provide 9 whole time equivalent places for children 0-2 years; 15 whole time equivalent places for children 2-3 years and 32 whole time equivalent places for children 3-5 years.

4.3 The undernoted sets out the uptake of places over the last five years:

YEAR	PLACES
2006/7	Total 84 0-2 20 2-3 11 3-5 53
2007/8	Total 96 0-2 18 2-3 31 3-5 47
2008/9	Total 90 0-2 13 2-3 23 3-5 54
2009/10	Total 82 0-2 18 2-3 22 3-5 42
2010/11	Total 92 (31 March 2011) 0-2 16 2-3 24 3-5 52

4.4 Children in receipt of a place at Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre, who are under three years of age, are admitted through the Council's 0-3 Admissions Policy. Places for children 3-5 years are allocated through the Council's Pre-school Admissions Policy.

4.5 At any one time, Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre can have a number of visiting specialists supporting children, namely:

- Peripatetic Early Years Teacher;
- Physiotherapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Hearing Impairment Specialist
- Educational Psychologist
- Social Workers

Currently there are 8 children with additional support needs. 3 who have a physical disability and 1 who has a sensory impairment.

4.6 The Nursery and Family Centre has the following facilities and accommodation:

- 1 playroom for children aged 0-2 years
- 1 playroom for children aged 2-3 years
- 2 large playrooms for children aged 3-5 years

- Library
- Family room
- Multipurpose room/dinner room
- Family Care Workers office
- Staffroom with kitchen area
- Head of Centre Office
- Office for admin/depute manager/seniors
- Large kitchen
- Utility room
- Outhouse
- 2 large resource cupboards
- 2 staff toilets
- Children's toilets
- Small cupboard under stairs
- Large outdoor area (front and rear of building)

4.7 A bungalow, used as office accommodation for three staff in the Day Carer Service, is situated at the back of the building.

4.8 The present accommodation presents a number of issues.

- It is a two storey building and presents considerable issues in respect of access for children and adults with disabilities.
- It does not incorporate the design principles of a modern education and care facility for very young children.
- The flow of children between play areas is restricted.

4.9 Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre has been rated as "B" condition (as defined by the Condition Core Fact, Building Our Future: Scotland's School Estate, issued by the Scottish Government). A 'B' rating means minor repairs are required in relation to the physical condition of the building and doesn't relate to the suitability of the building for early education and childcare.

4.10 The following table lists the main component renewals for the buildings on the site and their estimated costs (Note :- the estimated costs, extracted from the Asset Management Portal, are based on prices current at February 2010)

Element	Costs
Roofs	£94,137.80
External Walls, Windows and Doors	£26,278.54
Floors and Stairs	£22,193.00
Ceilings	£626.40
Internal Walls and Doors	£20,118.00
Fixed Internal Facilities, Furniture and Fittings	£2,950.00
Sanitary Fittings	£12,405.50
Mechanical Engineering Installations	£67,389.50
Electrical Installations	£37,368.55
TOTAL COST	£283,467.29

5. OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

5.1 OPTION 1 - Status Quo

Advantages

- Retains a town centre location for parents and carers

Disadvantages

- Playrooms do not support Curriculum for Excellence and a modern approach to learning
- The GIRFEC practice model cannot be fully developed in the most flexible and child centered way due to physical limitations
- Children with disabilities cannot fully access the building
- Parents/carers with a disability cannot fully access the building

5.2 OPTION 2 – Refurbish and extend the existing Woodstock Special School and relocate Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre there.

Advantages

- The children of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre would benefit from access to play rooms designed to facilitate child centered learning and development.
- Children aged 0-5 years would be educated and cared for in a modern building designed for the care and education of the very youngest children in the 21st century.
- The building would be fully accessible for children, parents/carers and staff who may have a disability.
- Retains a town centre location for parents and carers
- Will promote greater access for child/parent placements by providing an environment which is fit for purpose
- Will better support joint and interagency approaches to working with very young children in line with the GIRFEC practice model.

Disadvantages

- None

5.3 PREFERRED OPTION AND CARE AND EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

5.3.1 Preferred Option

The Cabinet of East Ayrshire Council agreed at its meeting of 4 May 2011 to adopt Option 2 as its preferred option. The educational benefits of this preferred option, if implemented, are set out below.

5.3.2 Educational Benefits Statement

- (i)** The children of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre will benefit from greater access to play rooms designed to facilitate child centered learning and development in line with Curriculum for Excellence.
- (ii)** Parents/carers will benefit from a quality environment which will promote support for parents/carers to build nurturing relationships with their children.
- (iii)** Fully accessible for children, parents/carers and staff who may have a disability. Proportionately, more children with complex physical disabilities attend Hillbank Nursery and Family Centre due to the limitations at Flowerbank Nursery & Family Centre. Re-locating to a purpose built refurbished building will enable a more equitable provision for children referred.
- (iv)** Will support improved joint and interagency approaches to working with very young children by enabling easier access for health visitors; social workers and other professionals.
- (v)** If implemented, the Council will minimise disruption by establishing a comprehensive transition programme for all children, their parents/carers and staff members. Careful consideration will be given to 'lead in' time and to ensure that all stakeholders are fully consulted and understand all of the steps of the transition programme. The prime consideration will be to minimise any adverse impact on the learning and care of children and their parent/carers attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF THE PREFERRED OPTION

- 6.1** Where necessary, any aspect of the implementation of these proposals that impacts on staff will result in consultation with the relevant trade unions and the individuals concerned.
- 6.2** If implemented, the proposal will result in the current Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre being declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Department of Educational and Social Services.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The 10 year Capital Programme 2009-10 to 2019/19 includes an allocation of £1.750m in respect of Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre. Following completion of the option appraisal exercise it is estimated that the recommended proposals to refurbish and extend the current Woodstock School for the relocation of the Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre can be accommodated within this approved budget allocation.

7.2 The benefits derived from the new facility in terms of the Council's Asset Management aspirations to improve the school estate are significant, and will also allow central maintenance resources to be redirected toward other facilities within the school estate.

8. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

8.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposal by making written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, and E-mail: education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

8.2 A form is provided at Appendix 3 for the convenience of those wishing to respond. Its use is not compulsory, however, those wishing to respond are invited to state their relationship with Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre – for example, “parent”, “grandparent”, “staff member”, “member of the Community” etc. Responses from the parents of children currently attending Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre and staff members are particularly welcome.

8.3 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of East Ayrshire Council.” Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 On 4 May 2011 the Cabinet of East Ayrshire Council agreed to adopt, for the purpose of consultation, the proposal that:

- Educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings be discontinued with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the Woodstock School Site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

9.2 It is also recommended that:

- i) interested parties be invited to make written submissions on the proposal to:

The Executive Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU

or by e-mail to:

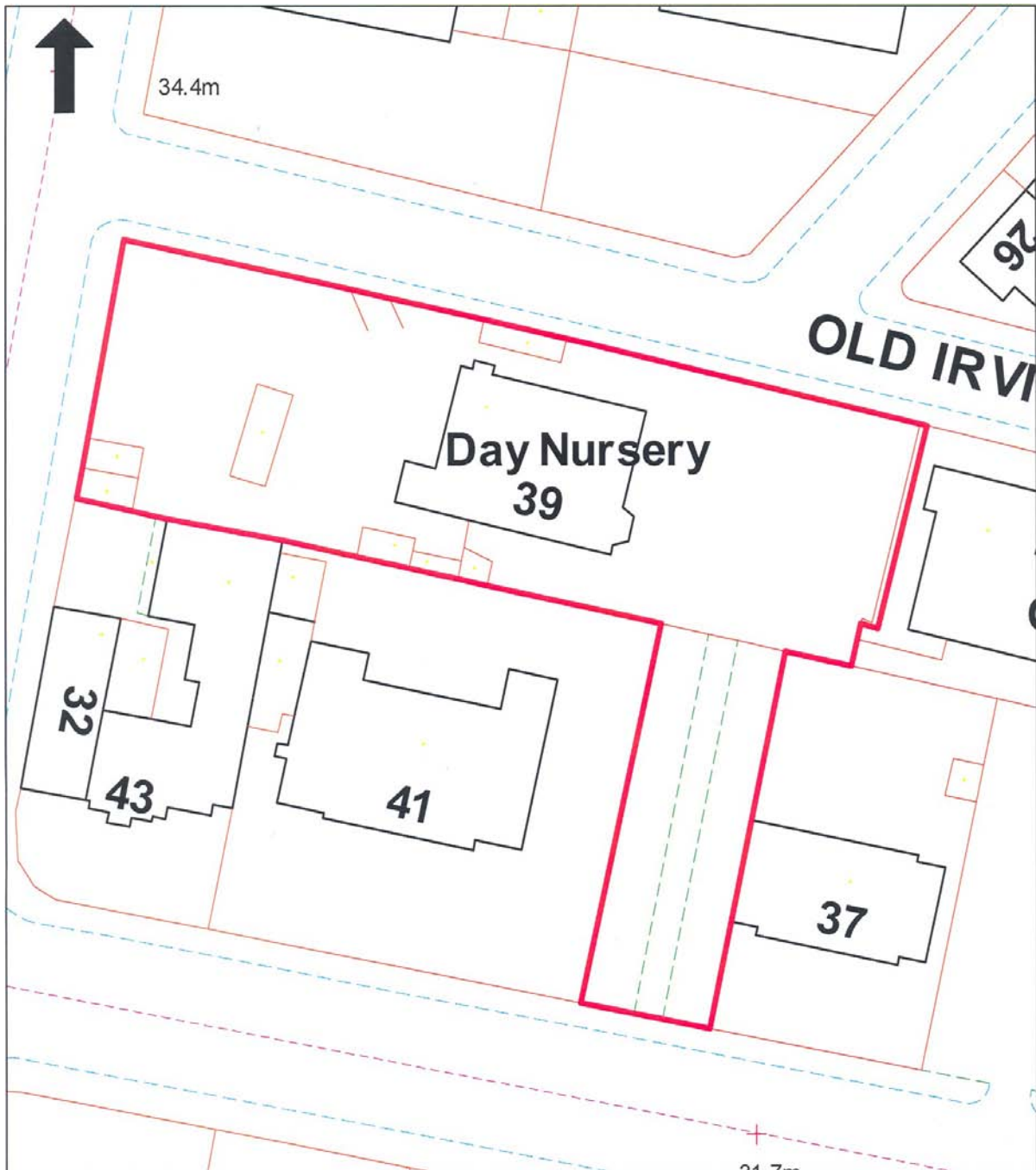
education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than close of business on Monday 20 June 2011.

- ii) the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services prepares a report on the results of the Proposal process for consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

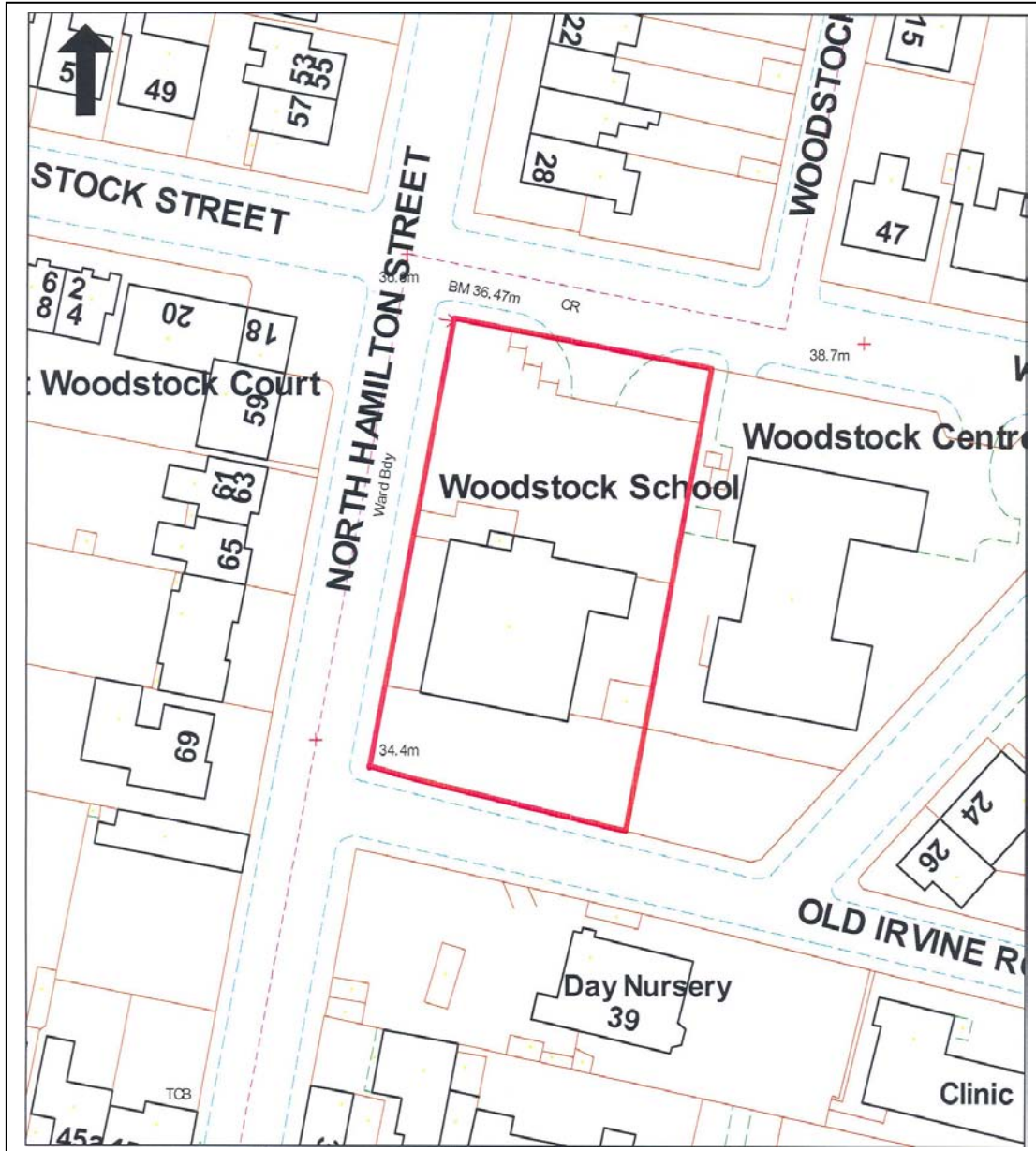
15 April 2011

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

SITE BOUNDARY OF FLOWERBANK NURSERY & FAMILY CENTRE



OUTLINE WOODSTOCK SCHOOL AND ITS GROUNDS



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESPONSE FORM

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of East Ayrshire Council.

Proposal

- Educational provision and care at the existing Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre buildings be discontinued with effect from 19 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter and reopened in a refurbished and extended building on the present Woodstock School Site with effect from 19 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter

This part of the form must be completed for a valid response:

Name: (please print)

Address:

Post Code:

I agree/do not agree (delete which does not apply) that my response can be made publicly available

Signature:

Date:

YOUR INTEREST: (please tick)

Parent

Child /
Young Person

Staff

Other *

Elected Member / MSP / MP

Member of Community Council

*Other: (please specify)

Please state your views on the proposal (continue overleaf if necessary)

Office Use:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

FLOWERBANK NURSERY AND FAMILY CENTRE CONSULTATION – ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

FCR – Flowerbank Consultation Response

LOG NO	DATE RECEIVED	E-MAIL (EM)/ LETTER RESPONSE FORM (RF)	STATUS OF RESPONDENT	FOR OPTION 5	AGAINST OPTION 5	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE
FCR01	14/6/11	EM	Elected Member	Yes		Elected member agreeing that this is a good move.
FCR02	13/06/11	EM	NHS	Yes		Supports the proposal , the new facility is near the existing one and the building will be a great improvement on the current one.
FCR03	13/06/11	Letter	Early Education & Childcare Quality Officer	Yes		Supporting the proposal in option 5 as access to the existing Flowerbank N&FC is very restrictive.
FCR04	20/06/11	EM	Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services	Yes		Confirming that consultation has been carried out with Heads of Service and they are happy with the proposals.
FCR05	20/06/11	Letter	Principal Officer (Early Education and Childcare)	Yes		Letter confirming that this would be a positive development for children, parents and staff. The current building which houses Flowerbank N&FC does not meet the requirements of a modern service.
FCR06	20/06/11	EM	Unison Branch Secretary	Yes		E-mail submission from Unison on behalf of members affected by the proposed changes to Flowerbank N&FC. Staff involved view this in a very positive way and feel it would be beneficial to the future care provision for the children. Wanted maximum use made of available outdoor space.
FCR07	20/06/11	EM with Response Form attached	Quality Improvement Officer	Yes		The move from the present Flowerbank site to a refurbished and extended building is a positive proposal to address the need for purpose built accommodation.
FCR08	20/06/11	EM with response	Elected Member	Yes		The labour group registered their support and welcomed the opportunities provided.

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FCR09	20/06/11	EM	Head of children's Services South Ayrshire Council	Yes		Advising that they have no submissions for the proposals.
FCR10	20/06/11	Letter	PT Early Years Peripatetic Nursery Team	Yes		Supporting the proposal which will allow fuller access to the curriculum including outdoor learning.
FCR11	20/06/11	Letter	Head of Centre - Flowerbank N&FC	Yes		Supportive of the proposal which will enable greater access to the curriculum for all children and enhance support for parents/carers. Concern that there may be more limited outdoor space.
FCR12	21/06/11	Letter	Depute Manager Flowerbank N&FC	Yes		Supporting the proposal which will enhance access to the curriculum.
FCR13	21/06/11	Letter	Family Care Workers (x3) Flowerbank N&FC	Yes		Supporting the proposal which will enhance support for parents/carers
FCR14	20/06/11	Petition (Single page)	Parents	Yes		Supporting the proposal.