



# Early Learning and Childcare

A full summary report on the current use of childminding services to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare to eligible two year olds.

October 2016



We acknowledge the support of the Scottish Government through the Third Sector Early Intervention Fund, managed on behalf of Scottish Government by the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland

## Contents

1. Executive Summary	03
2. Introduction	04
3. Background & Objectives	04
4. Funded entitlement within local authorities	05
5. SCMA	12
6. Why Childminding?	12
7. Childminders central to childcare ambitions	13
8. Community childminding	14
9. Recommendations	14
10. Further information	
Appendix	16

**scma**®

Scottish  
Childminding  
Association

committed to quality childcare



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I.1 This report draws together the available information on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) funded places, operating in local authorities throughout Scotland, with a focus on how each is progressing with their plans to deliver ELC allowing parents an appropriate degree of choice when deciding how to access services within their local communities.
- I.2 The Scottish Government is committed to encouraging high quality, flexible ELC which is accessible and affordable for all families. It has pledged to increase the provision of funded early learning and childcare to 1140 hours per year by 2020, for children who are three or four years old, as well for two year olds whose parents/carers are on qualifying benefits and are eligible for the 600 hours free entitlement through the Children & Young People's Act 2014.
- I.3 The Act expected services to be delivered in a way that offers a high-quality service that best meets the needs of children but also gives flexibility, accessibility and choice for families. Each local authority received funding from central government to decide how they were going to deliver the funded hours.
- I.4 Funded ELC places are a big help for families. They're good for children – giving them the chance to learn and play with other children. They also help families financially as free places can contribute towards other ELC commitments and support parents to work, train or study.
- I.5 SCMA anticipates that for most children we will see a model of blended services being developed to meet the needs of children and families as recommended in the recent report 'Shifting the Curve'.<sup>1</sup>
- I.6 Only 11 local authorities across Scotland are currently partnering with childminders to deliver ELC, six are working towards partnership but 15 local authorities have no apparent plans to use childminder services to deliver ELC within their locality areas. There are 5,336 childminders in Scotland and only 402 (8%) are partner providers with only 84 (1.5%) actually delivering ELC with eligible two year olds and four (0.07%) delivering ELC with three and four year olds.
- I.7 This report explains the importance of the inclusion of childminding services in the delivery of ELC and summarises the range of information available within each local authority area. It shares updated information around the levels of commissioning of childminding services in each local authority area to deliver funded hours of ELC as outlined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and summarises with recommendation as to how this can be improved in order to deliver high quality, flexible, accessible, choices to children and families.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492430.pdf>

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.2 The Scottish Government is committed to encouraging high quality ELC providing flexible patterns or models of provisions offering choice, accessibility which is affordable for all families. It has pledged to increase the provision of funded ELC to 1140 hours per year by 2020, for children who are three or four years old, as well for two year olds whose parents/carers are on qualifying benefits and are eligible for the 600 hours free entitlement through the Children & Young People's Act 2014.
- 2.3 SCMA is a third sector membership organisation established over 25 years ago. The Association has a membership of over 4,500 childminders Scotland-wide, equivalent to over 80% of Scotland's childminders. It is the only organisation in Scotland representing childminding.
- 2.4 With the assistance of a Scottish Government aided post, SCMA has recruited a new National Early Learning and Childcare Officer whose aim is to work with and support local authorities and childminders, across Scotland to deliver ELC places for three and four year olds and eligible two year olds. This report provides a full summary on the current use of childminding services by Scottish local authorities to deliver funded ELC to eligible two year olds.

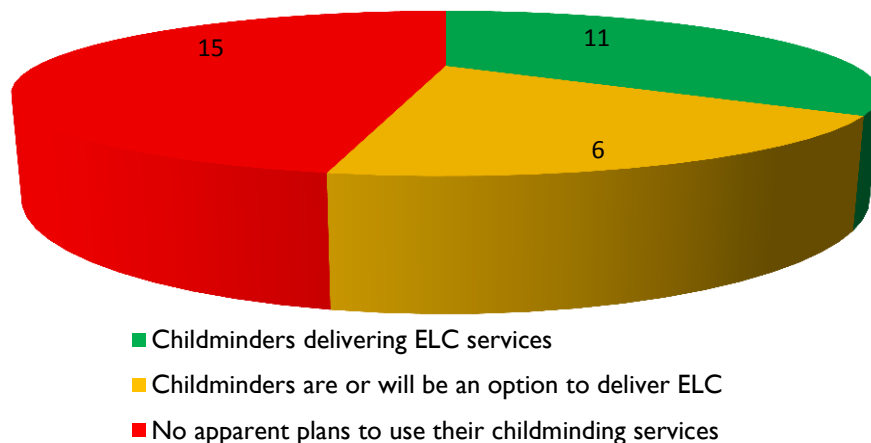
## 3. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The landscape of ELC in Scotland is undergoing transformational change. This report draws together the available information on the ELC systems operating in local authorities throughout Scotland with a focus on how each is progressing plans to deliver ELC within their local communities.
- 3.2 Through the 2014 Children & Young People (Scotland) Act the annual entitlement to funded ELC provision increased from 475 hours (12 hours a week over 38 weeks) to 600 hours (or 16 hours a week over 38 weeks) for all three and four year olds, and for those two year olds who stand to benefit most. This was accompanied by increased flexibility of provision to meet the needs of parents. In 2015 SCMA was commissioned by the Scottish Government to produce a detailed report on the current use of childminding services to deliver funded ELC to eligible two year olds. The objectives of the report are:
- *To explain the importance of the inclusion of childminding services in the delivery of ELC*
  - *To investigate the levels of commissioning of childminding services in each local authority area in Scotland to deliver the funded hours of ELC as outlined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.*
  - *To make recommendations as to how this can be improved in order to deliver high-quality, flexible, accessible choices to children and families.*
- 3.3 Local authorities should be confident that quality will not be compromised by commissioning with their highly graded childminding services. Discussions have already taken place and are ongoing between Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, ADES and SCMA. These have proved very promising and indicate that the evidence already being collected by childminders for the Care Inspectorate against the Wellbeing Indicators is in line with expectation from Education Scotland in relation to the Pre-Birth to Three Curriculum. Local authorities should be confident that quality will not be compromised by commissioning with their highly graded childminding services.

## 4. FUNDED ENTITLEMENT WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

4.1 SCMA is concerned about the current use of childminding services to deliver funded ELC. Currently only 11 out of 32 local authorities are working with childminders as partner providers to deliver ELC with eligible two, three and four year olds.

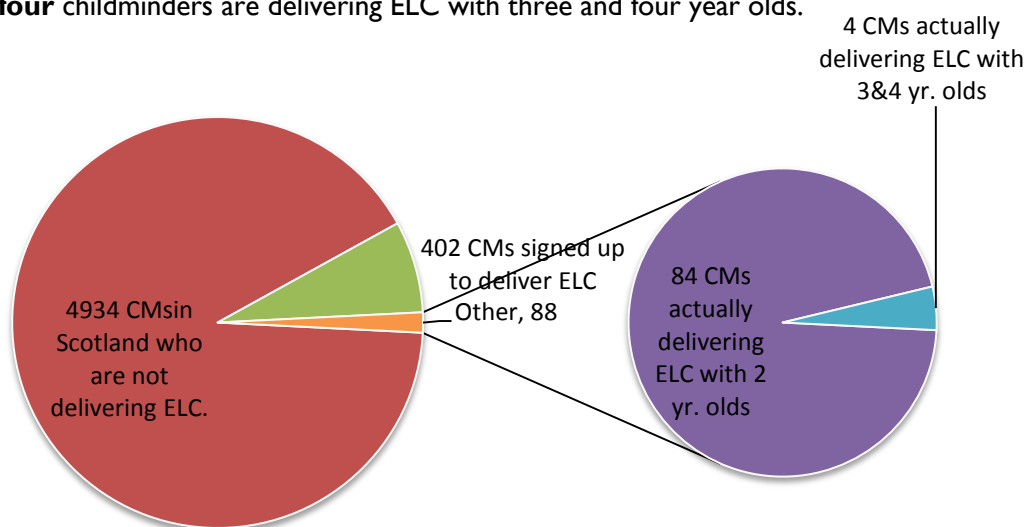
### Local authorities in Scotland



4.2 There are **5,336** childminders across Scotland. It is known that **only 402** childminders who are members of SCMA are included within local commissioning strategies to deliver funded ELC places. **Over 4,900 aren't**. The implications are limiting choice, accessibility and flexibility of services for parents in some areas. Each local authority is continuing to expand their own provision and many are not making use of the high-quality, flexible childminding services that already exist.

4.3 From the research and statistical analysis SCMA is able to advise that:

- **only 402** childminders in Scotland are commissioned to deliver ELC with eligible two, three and four year olds
- **84** childminders are actually delivering ELC with eligible two year olds
- **only four** childminders are delivering ELC with three and four year olds.



4.4 The following pages are an assessment of the current use of childminding services to deliver ELC across the 32 local authority areas. Three of these areas also contract with childminding services for three and four year olds;

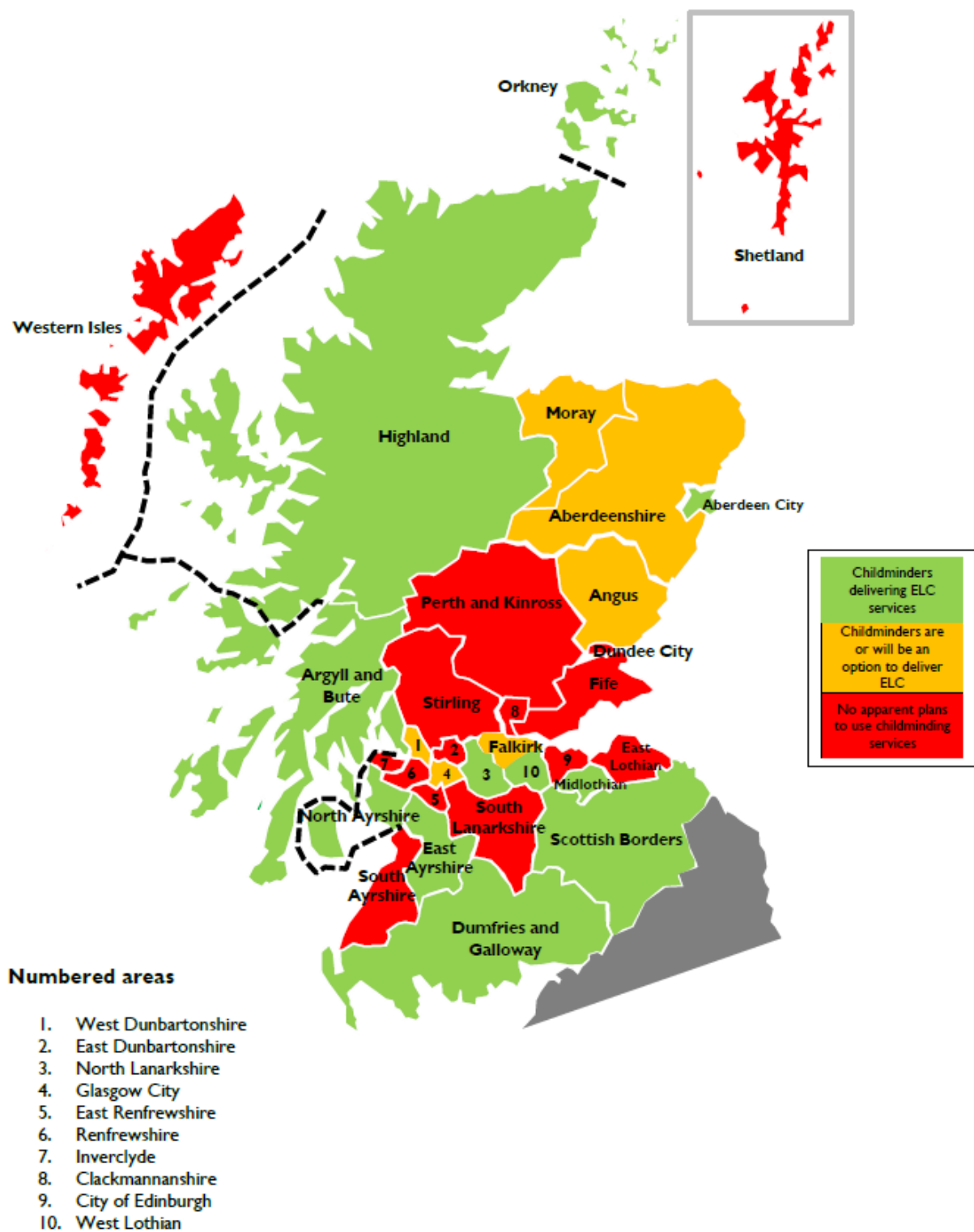
- one childminding service in Dumfries and Galloway
- one in South Lanarkshire where this has happened for a number of years
- two childminders in Scottish Borders who are into the second year of a pilot.

4.5 SCMA would anticipate that for most children we will see a model of blended services being developed to meet the needs of children and families as recommended in the recent report 'Shifting the Curve'.<sup>2</sup> Included are case studies which illustrate the range of ways that childminding is making a difference for children and families. Information has been difficult to find in some areas but is accurate to the best of our ability. We welcome any new information from local authorities.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492430.pdf>

## At a glance October 2016.....

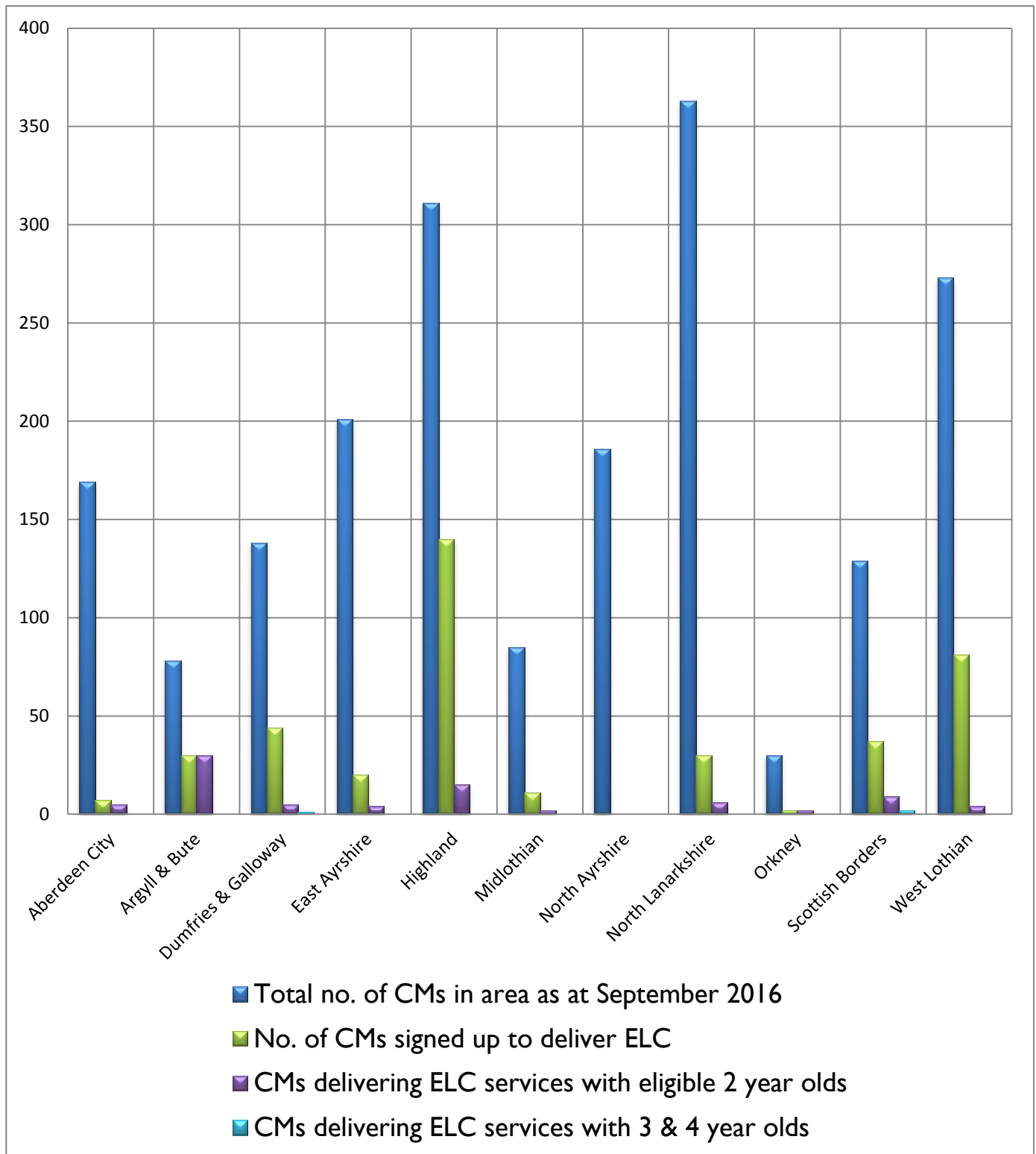


## Use of childminding (CM) services for funded ELC for eligible two's and three & four year olds

Local Authority Area	Total no. of CMs in area as at August 2016	Approx. number of children within CM service	No. of CMs signed up to deliver ELC	CMs delivering ELC services with <b>eligible 2 year olds</b>	CMs delivering ELC services with <b>3 &amp; 4 year olds</b>
Aberdeen City	169	507	7	5	0
Argyll & Bute	78	234	30	30	0
Dumfries & Galloway	138	414	44	5	1
East Ayrshire	201	603	20	4	0
Highland	311	933	140	15	0
Midlothian	85	255	11	2	0
North Ayrshire	186	558	?	?	0
North Lanarkshire	363	1089	30	6	0
Orkney	30	90	2	2	0
Scottish Borders	129	387	37	9	2
West Lothian	273	819	81	4	0
Aberdeenshire	345	1035	0	0	0
Angus	171	513	0	0	0
City of Glasgow	193	579	0	0	0
Falkirk	219	657	0	0	0
Moray	121	363	0	0	0
West Dunbartonshire	53	159	0	0	0
City of Edinburgh	380	1140	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	71	213	0	0	0
Dundee	174	522	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	145	435	0	0	0
East Lothian	135	405	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire	149	447	0	0	0
Fife	483	1449	0	0	0
Inverclyde	57	171	0	0	0
Perth and Kinross	189	567	0	0	0
Renfrewshire	98	294	0	0	0
Sherland Islands	18	54	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	116	348	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	304	912	1	1	1
Stirling	128	384	0	0	0
Western Isles	24	72	0	0	0

\*Numbers correct as at September 2016





Local Authority	Next Steps
<b>Aberdeen City</b>	
<b>The "Me2" pilot, is currently underway working with 7 childminders delivering ELC for eligible 2 year olds.</b>	Continue with Pilot 7 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 5 CMs are actually delivering it.
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	
<b>Aberdeenshire are really keen to work with childminders to deliver ELC initially for 2 year olds. Meeting with Council again in October.</b>	3 joint information sessions will take place in Oct to enable childminders to hear more from the Council around their future plans and register their interest in hearing more about becoming partner providers. Pilot area to be identified.
<b>Angus</b>	
<b>Angus are really keen to work with childminders to deliver ELC for 2, 3 &amp; 4 year olds. A working group has been created to implement the locality ELC plan.</b>	Working group meeting 4 October. 2 joint information sessions will take place in Nov to enable childminders to register and begin the journey to becoming partner providers. Pilot areas to be identified.
<b>Argyll &amp; Bute</b>	
<b>Childminders are actively delivering ELC for eligible 2 year olds. Unfortunately the Council are requiring more CMs to become partner providers as well as recruiting more CMs.</b>	30 CMs are signed up and delivering ELC with eligible 2 year olds. 7 childminding network sessions took place during September; their aim was to encourage CMs to register and become partner providers to deliver ELC to 2, 3 & 4 year olds. Follow up meeting with Council in December TBC. Pilot area to be identified.
<b>Clackmannanshire</b>	
<b>Initial contact made but currently all provision being delivered through local providers. Meeting with council again in November.</b>	Meeting with LA in November.
<b>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</b>	
<b>Parents have the option to use a childminder but few are choosing to, for various reasons.</b>	44 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 5 CMs are actually delivering it. Working with local Childminding Development Officer (CDO) to identify groups of people who may benefit from hearing and learning more about the role childminders have and the range of services which they can provide.
<b>Dundee</b>	
<b>Looking at identifying a pilot area within Dundee using childminders as an ELC option for parents to choose from.</b>	SCMA have met with Council representatives, sharing information around other LA future plans as well as the proposed SCMA ELC criteria. Considering identifying a pilot area which would link with concurrent family support services.

<b>East Ayrshire</b>	
<b>Would like to work more closely with SCMA especially around training opportunities.</b>	20 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 4 CMs are actually delivering it. Further details to follow
<b>East Dunbartonshire</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>East Lothian</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>East Renfrewshire</b>	
<b>Council declined to meet SCMA – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>Edinburgh</b>	
<b>Initial contact made but currently all provision being delivered through local providers.</b>	Working with council to investigate resources and capacity to deliver an ELC pilot for 4 year olds in one or more locality area.
<b>Falkirk</b>	
<b>Meeting regularly with Falkirk to discuss identifying a pilot area within Falkirk using childminders to deliver ELC as a blended ELC option for parents.</b>	Information evening will take place on 2 Nov, providing an initial discussion opportunity with CMs. Pilot area will be identified following the information session.
<b>Fife</b>	
<b>Met council in August, although all provision being met through local providers, the council have identified areas where childminders could be used to support other services.</b>	Map current provision with childminders providing services. Identify gaps in service delivery. Possible pilot area identified.
<b>Glasgow</b>	
<b>Currently all provision being delivered through local providers but have asked SCMA to develop and manage ELC service across Glasgow for all eligible 2 year olds.</b>	An SCMA Childminding Development Officer will be employed to develop, monitor and evaluate the ELC service.
<b>Highland</b>	
<b>Looking to pilot in possible 3 areas, rural, town and city locations to try and increase the number of CMs delivering ELC for eligible 2 year olds.</b>	140 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 15 CMs are actually delivering it. Break down of CMs by postcode may help identify gaps within services. Possibility to host future information sessions for CMs to become partner providers with the council. Provide information for parents and health visitors about CMs

<b>Inverclyde</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>Midlothian</b>	
<b>Are actively working with childminders to deliver alternative flexible methods of delivery along with Quality Improvement support.</b>	<p>11 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 2 CMs are actually delivering it.</p> <p>This service will naturally progress on when the child turns 3 then 4.</p> <p>More CMs are required to become partner providers</p> <p>More CMs are needed across the Midlothian area.</p>
<b>Moray</b>	
<b>Looking to pilot in 1 area and hold information evening to encourage CMs to become partner providers and deliver ELC for eligible 2 year olds.</b>	<p>Break down of CMs by postcode could help identify pilot areas.</p> <p>ELC Project Officer will be recruited in Moray to support the delivery of 1140hrs.</p> <p>Host future information sessions for CMs to become partner providers with the council.</p> <p>Identify area(s) to pilot ELC delivered by CMs.</p>
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – CMs are delivering ELC to eligible 2's but unsure of numbers and extend of services.</b>	There are apparently CMs signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but unfortunately we have no details.
<b>North Lanarkshire</b>	
<b>CMs are delivering ELC for eligible 2 year olds within the area.</b>	<p>30 CMs are partner providers within the council but only 6 are delivering ELC with eligible 2's.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with Council to support extending the service in early 2017.</p>
<b>Orkney</b>	
<b>Childminders have been asked to register their interest to become partner providers for all ages.</b>	<p>2 CMs are now commissioned to deliver ELC with all ages.</p> <p>More CMs are required to further the reach of flexible ELC provision.</p>
<b>Perth &amp; Kinross</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	
<b>CMs will be able to tender in 2017 to deliver ELC but currently all provision being delivered through other local providers.</b>	Council purchased SCMA CPD Training sessions to be delivered across the region.

<b>Scottish Borders</b>	
<b>Childminders are actively delivering ELC for eligible 2 year olds and pilot continues with 2 CMs delivering ELC for 3 &amp; 4 year olds.</b>	37 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 9 CMs are actually delivering it. Continuation of pilot – 2 CMs delivering ELC with 3 & 4 year olds.
<b>Shetland Islands</b>	
<b>Council declined to meet SCMA – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>South Ayrshire</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>South Lanarkshire</b>	
<b>All provision being delivered through local providers. Childminding Development Officer (CDO) will support CMS to complete partner provider process.</b>	Council expect all partner providers to complete their procurement process. One CM delivering ELC. Work with CDO to identify and support a small number of CMs to complete the partner application process.
<b>Stirling</b>	
<b>No recent contact with them – all provision being delivered through local providers, not CMs.</b>	
<b>West Dunbartonshire</b>	
<b>Currently CMs are contracted to deliver ELC to eligible 2 year olds but not many are partner providers.</b>	SCMA National Questionnaire will identify CMs in the locality area who may be interested in applying to become partner providers. Support small number of CMs who do identify themselves to go through the application process.
<b>West Lothian</b>	
<b>Met with Council around ELC on 04/08/16.</b>	81 CMs are signed up to deliver ELC with eligible 2 year olds but currently only 4 CMs are actually delivering it. CM's are delivering ELC to 2 year olds All 3 & 4 year old provision will be met through current providers, not CMs.
<b>Western Isles</b>	
<b>Western Isles will identify an area where they can support a pilot with CMs</b>	SCMA are working with the Western Isles by sharing the from other local authorities. Pilot area will hopefully be identified.



## 5. SCOTTISH CHILDMINDING ASSOCIATION

- 5.1 SCMA is a third sector membership organisation established over 25 years ago. The Association has a membership of over 4500 childminders Scotland-wide, equivalent to over 80% of Scotland's childminders. It is the only organisation in Scotland representing childminding.
- 5.2 Our vision is "Quality Childminding... building confident children within a family childcare experience" and our aim is for childminding services to improve outcomes for Scotland's children.
- 5.3 It is our firm belief that a childminding service is the ideal setting for children to experience their funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare, especially our eligible two year olds.

## 6. WHY CHILDMINDING?

- 6.1 Childminding services are professional, high-quality childcare settings. All childminding services must be registered and inspected by the Care Inspectorate under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. The registration process is robust with checks made on the individual becoming registered and also all other members of the household. There are also checks on the suitability of the domestic premises.
- 6.2 There are around 5,336 active childminding services operating across Scotland with around 32,000 children operating throughout the year<sup>3</sup>.
- 6.3 Significantly, the **adult-to-child ratios** in childminding services are low with registrations normally allowing a maximum of six children under 16 years old (though most children are under 12). Of this number, only three children can be under school age and only one child under one year old. These ratios include the childminder's own children.
- 6.4 This gives a great deal of scope for the childminder to give **one to one attention** to the children in her care and to go out and help the children learn from real life experiences. Rather than being isolated, childminders will often meet as a group so the children have an extended mix of friends of all ages. The interaction with other children and continued support from the childminder paves the way for a **smooth transition** to nursery and school.
- 6.5 Childminding services are **regularly inspected** and each year must complete a self-assessment form for the Care Inspectorate outlining the way they improve outcomes for children against the Wellbeing Indicators.
- 6.6 Childminders are responsible for their own continuing professional development and SCMA members can access tailored workshops and e-Learning on a range of subjects. Further information on the learning available from SCMA can be found at [www.childminding.org](http://www.childminding.org).
- 6.7 The **quality** of childminding services have been shown by the Care Inspectorate to be consistently highly graded. The latest results show that around **94%** of childminders were graded in the top three grades across all four themes and almost 50% of childminders were

<sup>3</sup> Care Inspectorate (2014) *Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2013*, Dundee

graded 'very good' or 'excellent'. This is significantly higher than the grades for day care of children services which includes nurseries<sup>4</sup>.

- 6.8 Childminding services are **flexible** and generally available throughout the year. Many of our case studies show that parents prefer to have more choice about how they access their funded hours than is possible within local authority services, private nurseries or voluntary playgroups. This is the case even where parents are not working and is certainly the case where commitments to work simply do not fit into traditional services.
- 6.9 Evidence from the recent **GUS report** 'tacking inequality in early years' showed: *'GUS has found that children who attended providers with a high 'care and support' grade as assessed by the Care Inspectorate were more likely to show improvement in vocabulary skills by age five, irrespective of their social background and other pre-school characteristics.'* Social and emotional development is an area childminding services excel in and tend to be highly graded by the Care Inspectorate.
- 6.10 The use of these childminding services will certainly help Scottish Government achieve its 'Fairer Scotland' aims where flexible childcare has already been identified as a key factor in parents being able to attend training or move towards the labour market<sup>5</sup>. One of the requests made in the Fairer Scotland consultation document is that; *"There is good quality childcare available if and when I need it"*.
- 6.11 A similar thing is happening for parents returning to education. Families are able to access funding to help with childcare costs but we are aware some colleges are only funding places with services in partnership with the local authority. This means that if a parent chooses to use a childminding service then they will not be eligible for childcare support, therefore losing the appropriate degree and perception of choice.
- 6.12 These inequalities were never the intention of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act but in practice are happening and are having an adverse effect on children and families.

## 7. CHILDMINDERS CENTRAL TO CHILDCARE AMBITIONS

- 7.1 In November 2015, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon gave her wholehearted support to the important role of childminders both in providing high quality care and in delivering the funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare. Following the announcement, we will be working with the Care Inspectorate and others on a quality standard for childminding. This will ensure that Induction becomes an expectation prior to registration and that childminding services will have clearer access to qualifications.
- 7.2 The First Minister said: *"Childminders do an absolutely crucial job for parents across Scotland, ensuring that their children are properly cared for while they go out and work. Childminders play a vital role in children's development, which helps to reduce social inequality and close the attainment gap. They will be central to our ambitions for a massive expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in the years to come. That is why, alongside the commitment to increasing the level of entitlement to free Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours per year, we will also ensure that the provision which will be offered is of the highest possible quality. These new standards will help drive up quality and ensure parents can rest assured that their children are in the best possible hands. As we expand the hours that children are entitled to, we will also increase the flexibility of the offer. We will ensure that parents can opt to take their available hours of free childcare to better suit their working patterns, with childminders being central to that offer."*

<sup>4</sup> Care Inspectorate (2014) *Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2013*, Dundee

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/4845/1>

## 8. COMMUNITY CHILDMINDING?

- 8.1 SCMA Community Childminding Service provides support for families at times of need. There have been a range of benefits from the delivery of the service, which Families can be referred to for a variety of reasons.
- Children's well-being is enhanced by spending time away from stressful situations with a responsive adult who can focus on their needs.
  - Parent's also benefit; the childminder is seen as a role model in a non-judgemental environment. They become more able to cope with challenging family circumstances, feel supported at a time of personal ill-health and acquire helpful knowledge of parenting and childcare routines.
- 8.2 The Community Childminding Service benefits children and families through short-term placements, typically lasting eight hours per week over 6 – 26 weeks. Childminders provide care based on the child's individual needs, helping them develop resilience and achieve crucial milestones. The Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), wellbeing indicators are used to map achievements and measure success.
- 8.3 SCMA have examples of **children who are most in need of support** being **forced to move** childcare setting when they reach two years old. This needs to **STOP!** SCMA are looking to extend their current six Services by highlighting the benefits each child and their family would have from accessing the Service as well as the opportunity to deliver a smooth transition between services by expanding the funded ELC places for eligible 2 year olds.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Local authorities should be confident that quality will not be compromised by commissioning with their highly graded childminding services. Discussions have already taken place between Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, ADES and SCMA in relation to the quality of childminding services providing Early Learning and Childcare to eligible 2 year olds.
- 9.2 We are all working to make Scotland 'the best place to grow up'. SCMA feel that improvements to the implementation of the Act could be made by considering the following recommendations.
- Parents, particularly of two year olds, should be given childminding as an option for their 600 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare.
  - Scottish Government and local authorities should run positive promotion of childminding services especially to non-working parents of eligible 2 year olds. Currently some local authority websites only promote nursery and parent's understanding of childminding services is often limited.
  - Local authorities should make clear their plans to deliver the 600 hours and later the 1140 hours. If this does not include the use of childminding services then an explanation as to why that is and an assessment of the impact of moving children already settled with their

childminder and an assessment of the impact on those existing childminding services many of whom will inevitably go out of business.

- Parents already using a childminding service should have the right to be able to continue with that service for their funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare with that cost being funded by the local authority.
- Further research should be carried out to determine the impact that childminding has to improve outcomes for children.
- Consultations by local authorities with parents must be meaningful, giving the full range of service options which would include the option to use a childminding service for their funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare.
- Information on local authority websites should be improved so that information about the funded hours of Early Learning and Childcare is really accessible to parents and shows childminding as an option for their children.
- The local section of the Family Information Services website should have a clear section about Early Learning and Childcare that includes the option of using a childminding service.
- Information should be made available from local authorities through the Scottish Government census of all the services they are making available for parents for Early Learning and Childcare.
- A regular audit should be carried out by local authorities to take into account the wider childcare needs of families including the needs of working parents.
- Audit data should be used to inform any plans to expand local authority provision in order that it does not have a negative impact on existing childcare services.
- Childminders should be given access to the workforce development funding within local authorities.

## 9. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 9.1 If you require further information on this report please contact Anne Condie, Head of Childminding Services, [anne.condie@childminding.org](mailto:anne.condie@childminding.org), telephone 0141 341 0418 or Alison Guthrie, National Early Learning and Childcare Officer, [alison.guthrie@childminding.org](mailto:alison.guthrie@childminding.org), telephone 01786 445377, mobile: 07393231631, DD: 01506 880941

Maggie Simpson  
Chief Executive, Scottish Childminding Association  
[maggie.simpson@childminding.org](mailto:maggie.simpson@childminding.org)  
T: 01786 434950

© October 2016  
Scottish Childminding Association, 7 Melville Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2ND

## Appendix I

### Early Learning and Childcare: Case Studies

*The following case studies are from local authority areas where childminders are contracted to deliver funded ELC and services are working well.*

#### **Caitlyn\*, age: 2 years**

Caitlyn has attended Elizabeth's childminding service since April 2015. She is entitled to 600 hours funded Early Learning and Childcare as set out in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.

Caitlyn attends the childminding service three days per week from 9 am to 3 pm.

The family had been going through difficult personal circumstances and as a result Caitlyn had become quite unsettled. During the settling in process with the childminder, she would cry when separated from her parent but comforted with a blanket which went everywhere with her. When in Elizabeth's house, Caitlyn settled fairly quickly knowing that the blanket was close by.

During her first week with Elizabeth, Caitlyn did not eat much, developed a cough and became unwell. She seemed to feel better by the second week but Elizabeth decided to go through the settling in process with her again.

Thanks to Elizabeth's care and patience, Caitlyn began to feel secure and happy in the childminding environment and only needed her comfort blanket when going to sleep. Mum commented that Caitlyn's afternoon nap brought about a positive change in her bedtime routine.

Prior to attending the childminding service Caitlyn hadn't interacted much with other children due to family circumstances. As a result, in the beginning she would mostly play on her own or want reassurance that Elizabeth was close by. By the end of the third week she was beginning to make friends with other children. As she got to know the children and became more confident she started to interact with others. She especially liked to play with the music box and was happy marching around the room with the other children playing various instruments!

Elizabeth provided lunch which led to an improvement in Caitlyn's eating habits also.

By the end of the fourth week with her childminder, Caitlyn had become more confident and sociable with her surroundings and around other children. She is now happy to leave her comfort blanket at the door in her bag.

She often asks her Mum "is it a Lizzie's day?"



**Christopher\*, age 2 years**

Christopher was placed with the Community Childminding Service at 17 months old. He completed his six month placement, during which time the Community Childminder played a supportive role to both his parents in establishing routines - bedtime in their home as well as providing care and socialisation.

The placement was continued through social work funding. Christopher turned two and it was planned to use the childminder to provide the funded Early Learning and Childcare. The problem was the child lived ten miles away. The immense benefits to both him and his family have been recognised and social work have agreed to fund the travel costs.

**Katy\*, age 3 years**

Katy had been cared for by a childminder for a year when she became eligible for funded Early Learning and Childcare. Her mum works full days, while dad is self-employed working from home. Dad cannot drive for medical reasons. The nursery which feeds the local primary school offers morning hours only. Mum cannot leave work to collect Katy in the middle of the day, and Dad can't as it is three miles away and not accessible by public transport.

Katy attends nursery two mornings per week and the rest of her entitlement is with the childminder who collects her from nursery enabling Katy's entitlement to be taken over two full days. The childminder has access to the same support from the council as that enjoyed by the partner provider nurseries.

*The following case studies are from local authority areas where childminders are not contracted to deliver funded ELC and services are uncoordinated.*

**Jamie\*, age 2 years**

Childminder Louise started caring for Jamie when he was only eight weeks old. The placement had come to Louise via the local authority as Jamie's mum was only 14 years old when he was born.

The placement worked well for Jamie's mum as her mother and father could drop Jamie off and pick him up from the childminder's house; giving her time in the morning and after school to do homework and keep up-to-date with her studies.

The childminder also worked hard to settle Jamie in her service and made sure his mum felt welcome and confident about leaving her baby in her care while she was at school.

Now Jamie has turned two years old he has been removed from the childminder's service and placed in a private nursery by the local authority. As the council's Education department (who do not contract with childminders as partner providers) holds the budget for funded

Early Learning and Childcare, the family had no choice but to place Jamie in the nursery or pay for the childminder themselves.

This has had a distressing impact on the family. The grandparents cannot now be involved in drop offs and pick-ups as the nursery is not local to them. Mum has lost the time she had before and after school to study as she now has to drop Jamie off at nursery in the morning before walking to school and pick him up straight afterwards. Her mother and father are concerned losing this time will lead to her falling behind with her studies. Jamie has not transitioned well into the nursery setting, with it taking around four months to settle him.

Getting it right for every child seems not to be working well for this family.

### **Chloe\*, age 2 years**

Childminder Mary has worked as a Day Carer for many years. As part of her childminding service, Mary receives placement requests from the local authority for families at times of need.

The family's Social Worker had placed Chloe in Mary's childminding service as her parents lived a chaotic life. As well as providing Chloe with a secure homely environment, Mary also ensured she attended appointments with Health Visitors, Doctors and the Dermatologist whilst providing some support to her young parents.

Now Chloe has turned two years old she qualifies for 600 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare. As the local authority do not contract with childminders to deliver this service, Chloe has been removed from Mary's care and placed in a local nursery.

The senior social worker Mary works with has serious concerns about the lack of holistic care provided by the nursery. The support the childminder provided to Chloe's parents has now been lost.

*\* Names have been changed to protect identity*