

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 14 March 2013

## Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School

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| Item number   | 8.8  |
| Report number |  |
| Wards         | Craigentinny Duddingston, Leith and Leith Walk |

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# Executive summary

## **Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School**

### Summary

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The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise in respect of the proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School. The report responds to the main issues raised during the consultation and provides recommendations on how to proceed.

Pilrig Child and Family Centre is constrained by its size as it is a small building and can offer only a limited range of facilities. It is in a poor state of repair and any investment in the fabric of the building would be restricted to keeping it wind and water tight and to ensure health and safety requirements are met.

Craigentinny Primary School has spare capacity which could be refurbished to provide a modern facility with opportunities to develop Early Years services.

The proposed move will provide an improved educational and care environment both for children at Pilrig Child and Family Centre and at Craigentinny Nursery Class. The additional family support services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre will be co-located with the existing Nursery Class and Primary School. This will increase opportunities for a wider range of families to access these support services.

The Council conducted a statutory consultation in November and December 2012 on a proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School. Representations on the proposed relocation were made during the consultation in writing and verbally at the public meeting. The issues that have been raised by letter or email reflect the main issues that were raised at the public meeting. The issues raised by respondents are addressed in detail in the main report.

The views of Education Scotland have been sought under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Following visits to Pilrig Child and Family Centre and to Craigentinny Primary School by representatives of Education Scotland, their report concluded that the overall proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre and establish Craigentinny Early Years Centre offers a range of educational benefits, particularly to those children and families who would be supported by the new centre. In their report Education Scotland stated that the authority should consult with the primary school pupils and this was carried out and the findings recorded in Appendix 4. The overall response from pupils to the proposal was positive.

After taking account of the representations made and the issues arising, the Director of Children and Families considers that the case for relocation substantially outweighs the objections made. The following conclusions have been drawn:

- The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to giving children the best start in life through the development of integrated, flexible services that provide effective learning and childcare for children and families across Edinburgh.
- Early intervention in the earliest years has been proven to improve outcomes for children during childhood and through to later life. The co-location of Pilrig Child and Family Centre at Craightinny Primary School will enable more integrated and collaborative working to meet the requirements of *Getting it Right for Every Child*.
- There are advantages for children and their families receiving support within a universal setting. Families will have open access to a broader range of services and activities. Children will have the opportunity to learn and develop with their peers which will lead to improved transitions to primary school.
- There will be increased local places available for babies and two year olds with the opportunity to remain in the Early Years Centre until they move to their choice of Primary School.
- As the early years service develops there will be future opportunities to provide childcare and afterschool services for families.
- Close links between parents, the early years centre and the school will help parents support their children at home.
- There will be increased opportunities to deliver support to children and families across the school through parents groups, home visiting and outreach support.
- The Council believes it can make savings by running nurseries/early year centres more efficiently. Disposing of the Pilrig Child and Family Centre building is expected to bring annual savings of £19,000. Rationalisation of the buildings would deliver the service more effectively and therefore more funding would be available for Early Years services. This would have educational benefits for children across the city.

## Recommendations

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1. Pilrig Child and Family Centre is relocated to Craightinny Primary School and opens in August 2013.
2. Information is provided to parents at Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craightinny Primary School on the relocation and services available.
3. Approval is given to plan and implement the works to be carried out at Craightinny Primary School.

4. The Pilrig Child and Family Centre building is declared surplus from August 2013 and that action be taken to dispose of the site and buildings.
5. The receipt from the sale of Pilrig Child and Family centre is ring fenced for reinvestment into the Early Years sector.

## Measures of success

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The success of the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre will be measured by:

- increased local places available for babies and two year olds with the opportunity to remain in the Early Years Centre until they move to their choice of Primary School;
- increased levels of family support for local families through more parenting groups and classes;
- positive parent and carers evaluations.

## Financial impact

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The council has allocated £200,000 from the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund to deliver this project and upgrade the early years environment by completing internal works and reconfiguration of space at Craigentenny Primary School. This was approved by Education Children and Families Committee in June 2012.

If the proposals are approved and the Pilrig Early Years Centre building became surplus it is proposed to sell the land and building which have been valued at £300,000-£360,000 based on residential development of the site.

One off costs associated with disposing of the building (e.g. boarding up/ utility disconnections/ removals) are included in project costs. Ongoing security costs prior to sale may also be incurred.

## Equalities impact

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There are considered to be no infringements of the rights of the child in relation to the proposal.

Should any child currently attending Pilrig Child and Family Centre be accessing additional support this will continue. Transport for families by the centre minibus will also continue for families as arranged as part of children's placements

The relocation of the Child and Family Centre staff to the new setting would provide the families in the Craigentenny area with wider opportunities and experiences in the school.

## Sustainability impact

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There is no adverse economic, social and environmental impact arising from this report. The proposal ensures the most efficient use of available buildings and also ensures the best use of resources. Furthermore, families with additional support needs will have easier access to the services they require.

## Consultation and engagement

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The Council is required to carry out formal consultation procedures with regard to the relocation of preschool education services, under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This consultation has been undertaken and this report set out the responses to the consultation.

The Council are further required to advertise and publish this report 3 weeks before its consideration on the 14 March to allow those who made a response an opportunity to consider the report and its conclusions and to give them time, if they so wish, to express their views.

## Background reading / external references

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- Early Years Framework, Scottish Government and CoSLA, December 2008  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0)
- Early Year Strategy, Edinburgh Council 2010  
[https://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/200305/early\\_years\\_and\\_childcare](https://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/200305/early_years_and_childcare)
- Supporting Parents and Carers in Edinburgh  
[https://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/200324/childcare/1634/supporting\\_parents\\_and\\_carers\\_in\\_edinburgh](https://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/200324/childcare/1634/supporting_parents_and_carers_in_edinburgh)

# Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School

## 1. Background

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise in respect of the proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School. The report responds to the main issues raised during the consultation and provides recommendations on how to proceed.
- 1.2 The Council conducted a statutory consultation in November and December 2012 on a proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School. Representations on the proposed relocation were made during the consultation in writing and verbally at the public meeting. The issues that have been raised by letter or email reflect the main issues that were raised at the public meeting. The issues raised by respondents are addressed in detail in the main report.
- 1.3 The views of Education Scotland have been sought under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Following visits by representatives of Education Scotland to Pilrig Child and Family Centre and to Craigentinny Primary School, their report concluded that the overall proposal to relocate and establish Craigentinny Early Years Centre offers a range of educational benefits, particularly to those children and families who would be supported by the new centre. The report also advised that:
  - The wider benefits for those children and families affected who attend Craigentinny Primary School need to be considered. The range of benefits that would arise from improved accommodation and facilities are clear and the greater use of available space in Craigentinny Primary School would benefit the new centre, the school and also help the council achieve best value by addressing the issues of under capacity.
  - The council should set out more clearly how they will ensure that there will be no detrimental impact on those children and families who will transfer from Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Nursery Class. Careful transition planning for children with additional support needs should be put into place.
  - The council should provide parents of children attending Craigentinny Primary School with more detailed information, clarification and reassurance about both the nature of the children's centre and the benefits for their children.
  - Consideration of the views of the primary school children should be gathered.
  - More thought should be given to the short time to complete the renovation works.

1.4 The issues outlined above are addressed in the main report.

## **2. Main report**

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- 2.1 The proposal paper was published 9 November 2012 and is included as Appendix 1. The consultation period ran for six weeks from 9 November to 20 December 2012. A public meeting was held in respect of the proposals at Craigentenny Primary School on 5 December 2012 and the record of this meeting is in Appendix 2. The correspondence received in response to the consultation is laid out in the report. The report received from Education Scotland is contained in Appendix 3 and the consultation with children is included as Appendix 4(a and b).
- 2.2 A total of 10 written representations were received. Eight letters were received from parents whose children currently attend Craigentenny Primary School. A letter was also received from a parent who previously attended Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Leith Central Community Council made a written representation regarding the disposal of the building currently housing Pilrig Child and Family Centre.

### **Key Issues Identified**

- 2.3 Analysis of the representations received and the minute of the public meeting show 12 key issues requiring a response from the Council. These issues are as follows:

Issue 1: The Function of an Early Years Centre

Issue 2: Educational Benefits for Children

Issue 3: The Safety and Security of Pupils

Issue 4: The Impact of Relocation on children and families

Issue 5: The Reputation of Craigentenny Primary School

Issue 6: Demographics and Demand

Issue 7: Accommodation Needs

Issue 8: Additional Support Issues

Issue 9: Financial Issues

Issue 10: Disposal of Pilrig Child and Family Centre

Issue 11: Renovations at Craigentenny Primary School

Issue 12: Consultation with Craigentenny Primary School Pupils

### **Key Issues: Summaries and Responses**

- 2.4 The following section of the report summarises the main issues identified and sets out the Council's response:

#### **Issue 1: The Function of an Early Years Centre**

2.5 Respondents felt that there was insufficient information about the function of an early years centre, the services it would provide and the benefits to the school of having an early years centre. Particular points made were as follows:

- More information is needed on the range of services provided by an early years centre.
- Clarity is required on the meaning of a 'wider range of families' accessing the early years centre.
- Clarity is required on the benefits to the nursery and school of the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre.
- Education Scotland highlighted the need for more information to be shared with parents on the wider benefits for those children and families currently attending Craigentenny Primary School. The council should also provide parents of children attending Craigentenny Primary School with more detailed information, clarification and reassurance about both the nature of the early years centre and the benefits for their children.

## **Council Response to Issue 1**

### **Council's Strategy for Early Years Centres**

- 2.6 Child and family centres have a role in delivering the vision and aims of the national Early Year's Framework (2008) and the strategy for early years in Edinburgh (2010).
- 2.7 The Scottish Government's National Early Years Framework published in 2008 set out its commitment to giving children the best start in life and using the strength of universal services to improve outcomes for children and families.
- 2.8 The City of Edinburgh Council published its own Early Years Strategy and Action Plan in January 2010 setting out a vision and long term commitment to improve the life chances for children. It describes the desire to create integrated, flexible services that provide effective learning and childcare for children and families across Edinburgh. Early Years Centres will be further developed to provide the services described in 2.15.
- 2.9 The Strategy identifies early years intervention as a key priority and a core component of Getting it Right for Every Child in Edinburgh. It also recognises that all families will need support of some kind at some point and providing help and support at the earliest opportunity is most likely to be successful.
- 2.10 The four aims within the Edinburgh's strategy are:
- Develop integrated flexible services to provide effective childcare for all children and families;
  - Develop a highly skilled workforce to deliver a high quality Early Years Service;
  - Strengthen and develop universal services to provide support for all children and families;
  - Develop learning through play opportunities and active learning as integral parts of the Early Years service.



- 2.11 The strategy also supports the coalition's commitment to ensuring that every child in Edinburgh has the best start in life (Coalition Agreement Schedule 3 1.1).
- 2.12 As part of Edinburgh's Early Years Strategy child and family centres are reviewing their provision to ensure it is flexible and responsive to the needs of children and families, has a greater emphasis on outreach work, family learning and community capacity building.

***More information on the range of services provided at an Early Years Centre***

- 2.13 Early years centres provide a range of universal and targeted services to support the diverse needs of children and families. These services are based on the principles of early intervention and prevention as the most effective way of improving outcomes for children and families.
- 2.14 The services provided at an early years centre can include a range of support services for parents with young children. These include the following:
- Flexible child care provision for children aged 0-3 years which is tailored to support the needs of individual children and families and 1:1 support for children and families as required.
  - Pre- School education to children aged 3-5 years
  - The delivery of PEEP (Parent Early Education Programme): a universal early learning programme which is open to all parents with children from birth to age five. The programme encourages parents to support their child's development and learning through everyday activities and takes place in open supported parent and toddler groups within communities.
  - The delivery of parenting group work programmes such as Incredible Years, Mellow Parenting and Raising Children with Confidence. These programmes are delivered as part of Edinburgh's Supporting Parents and Carers Framework (2009-2012).
  - Outreach support to children and their families in their own homes who have specific needs such as a child with a disability or a parent with a health problem.
  - Provision of care packages and plans which support Child Protection Plans, Looked after and Accommodated children and children with complex additional support needs.
  - Crèche facilities to support family learning activities, adult education groups and parenting groups.

***Clarity on the meaning of a 'wider range of families' accessing early years centres.***

- 2.15 Edinburgh's Early Years strategy identifies a need to break down the barriers between the delivery of early learning and childcare services and to develop more integrated, flexible service models. Locating early year's services in primary schools will mean services are more accessible to all families.
- 2.16 Currently most families with young children who access services at child and family centres are referred by other professionals such as health visitors and social workers.
- 2.17 The early years centre at Craigentenny Primary School will be accessible to families with young children in the local community and will provide a range of services such as stay and play sessions and parent groups without the need for referral. This is consistent with the national aim to strengthen universal services to ensure that they are inclusive.

***Clarity on the benefits to the nursery and school of the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre.***

- 2.18 The benefit of relocating Pilrig Child and Family Centre to the nursery and the school is that the early years centre will be an integral part of the school community.
- 2.19 Having a wider range of skills and resources on-site will enable all staff to offer support to children and parents across the school.
- 2.20 A further benefit of relocation is easier access to the appropriate services for children and families. It will reduce the time delay in identifying and accessing support from other agencies and it will enable school staff to be more involved in plans with children and families as required.
- 2.21 It is envisaged that as the early years service develops there will be an opportunity to deliver wrap around and out of school services to address the childcare needs of families in the local area. There are also plans to consider the co-location of health professionals.

**Issue 2: Educational Benefits for Children**

- 2.22 *Some respondents wanted clarification on how an early years centre could positively benefit the education experience for all children.*

**Council response to issue 2**

- 2.23 High quality, flexible early learning and childcare services are essential to enable all our children to meet their potential.
- 2.24 Research shows that high quality early learning and childcare can enhance children's intellectual, social and behavioural development, helping them to make

a better start at school, increasing their sociability, their ability to co-operate and their independence. These gains can last well into the early years of primary school.

- 2.25 In addition, an early years centre offers greater opportunities at an earlier stage to foster partnerships with parents which we know lead to longer term positive outcomes for children. When high quality early years provision is combined with learning at home activities with parents this also supports the social and cognitive development of children.
- 2.26 Co-location of the early years centre and the primary school will encourage more collaborative working and the development of a consistent approach to the implementation of the Pre Birth to Three National Guidance and Curriculum for Excellence particularly at the early level.

### **Issue 3 Safety and Security of Pupils**

2.27 *A number of issues were raised about the safety and security of pupils. Respondents expressed concern that co-location would bring more families experiencing problems such as alcohol and substance misuse to the school environment and pupils would be at greater exposure to new risks and harm. Respondents wanted reassurances on how this would be managed.*

*Particular points made were as follows:*

- *Responsibility and accountability for the safety of the children and security of the building.*
- *Clarity on how the safety risk to pupils has been assessed.*

### **Council Response to issue 3**

- 2.28 The early years centre will be registered with the Care Inspectorate and will operate under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and the National Care Standards which require early years settings to be secure. The Care Inspectorate will regularly assess the degree to which the early years centre meets these standards.
- 2.29 The Children and Families Department takes seriously the duties imposed on it by the City of Edinburgh Council's Health and Safety Policy. Respect for the health, safety and well being of employees and the safety of other persons including children and families is an integral part of managing and delivering Children and Families services.
- 2.30 The Director of Children and Families has overall responsibility for the health, safety and well being of employees and others within the Department and is accountable to the Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 2.31 The Heads of Service are responsible for the implementation of the policy. They have the duty to ensure that suitable organisational arrangements exist within their respective business areas and that the policy is effectively monitored.

- 2.32 In establishments the responsibility for implementing the Health and Safety Policy lies with the Head of establishment or other person in charge of the establishment.
- 2.33 Adaptations to the building are planned to ensure that all pupils will continue to be safe and secure. Connecting doors between the school, and the early years centre will be locked with access for staff only. Safety procedures will be in place to ensure that no individual will have access to the building without supervision.
- 2.34 The early years centre will have a new reception area with a dedicated receptionist during school hours. The nursery class currently operates without this facility.

#### **Issue 4 Impact of relocation on children and families**

- 2.35 *There were some concerns about how relocation might disrupt children and families moving from the child and family centre and also pupils across the school. The following concerns were raised.*
- *Disruptive impact of relocation on pupils in the school*
  - *Additional intrusive noise of babies and young children and impact of this on pupils.*
  - *Education Scotland highlighted the need for good transition planning for the children and families moving from Pilrig Child and Family Centre*

#### **Council Response to Issue 4**

- 2.36 It is not envisaged there will be disruption to pupils and families as a result of relocation. Senior managers from Craigentenny Primary School and Pilrig Child and Family Centre will work together to ensure that the transition in to Craigentenny Early Years Centre will be carried out in a planned and coordinated manner.
- 2.37 All necessary building work will take place in rooms not currently used by the school and the majority of the work will take place during the school holidays.
- 2.38 The location of the early years centre means that any potential noise from babies and children will be minimised. Babies and children will be cared for by skilled practitioners who will ensure good settling in procedures for all children.
- 2.39 Each child and family from Pilrig Child and Family centre will have a transition plan to support the move. The early years transition policy will be implemented.

#### **Issue 5: Reputation of Craigentenny Primary School**

2.40 *Some views were expressed about the impact of co location on the reputation and image of Craigentenny Primary School and on the school roll where parents may reconsider sending their children to Craigentenny Primary School. A view was expressed that the negative reputation of child and family centres needed to be countered and the awareness of the positive elements of these centres promoted.*

The following points were raised.

- *Having a child and family centre at the school might deter other parents from enrolling their children at Craigentenny Primary School.*
- *The reputation of the school had improved. There was more support from parents who were initially reluctant to send their children to Craigentenny Primary School.*
- *There was a view that the current proposal does not look to improve the school building or environment as a whole. This was an opportunity for the City of Edinburgh Council to invest in the school building and improve its image for example removing the bars from windows and updating the play area.*
- *The on line information on the Council's website about the work of child and family centres focuses primarily on services to families with a range of difficulties for example substance misuse, mental health and child protection which gives a negative image of child and family centres.*
- *Concern that locating a child and family centre in a school would stigmatise children and parents who use the service.*

### **Council Response to issue 5**

2.41 Feedback from other early years centres in particular Queensferry Early Years Centre which is a similar model suggests there is no evidence of any detrimental impact on the school roll.

2.42 The additional services which will come with this proposal will be attractive to families. Strong leadership and commitment from the senior management team will ensure that the early years centre will become a centre of excellence.

2.43 The child and family centre and the primary school both have a reputation for helping each child to achieve his or her full potential. Every child is valued as an individual, they work inclusively with all pupils to try and ensure there is support where it is needed and that every child is encouraged to succeed.

2.44 Bringing the two skilled and experienced staff groups into the one location will enhance a happy and caring atmosphere within which children achieve positive outcomes. This will continue to enhance the reputation within the community, and assist in building strong partnership with parents.

- 2.45 The current plans are to improve one wing of the school which is currently unused and the outside play space. The school has plans to improve the play area as a whole.
- 2.46 As stated previously there is an ongoing review of provision at child and family centres. To reflect these new developments in service delivery child and family centres will be renamed as early years centres. Information on Council websites will be updated to reflect these changes.
- 2.47 In line with the early years strategy services offered by the early years centre will be accessible to all families therefore reducing the perceived stigma around seeking support.

### **Issue 6: Demographics and Demand**

- 2.48 *Respondents expressed concerns about the future increased intake of pupils and the demands this might place on classroom space. The following issues were raised.*
- *Historically class sizes at Craigentenny Primary School have been small due to out of catchment placements however 46 pupils started in P1. Some parents asked for reassurance that there will be adequate classroom space at the school if intake continues to rise as it did this year and the impact of Population Increase*
  - *Clarity on capacity at Craigentenny Primary School based on the out of catchment placing requests*
  - *The amount of 12 classrooms required to cater for peak demand period to 2019*

### **Council Response to issue 6**

- 2.49 Craigentenny has a current capacity of 14 classes which can accommodate a maximum roll of 420 pupils. The roll for 2012/13 was 175, giving an occupancy rate of only 42%. The school currently operates an 8 class organisation.
- 2.50 In 2013/14 Craigentenny Primary School will operate a 9 class organisation. Should a P1 intake of approximately 40 catchment pupils be maintained in future years, expansion to a projected 12 class organisation will require that class bases previously available for other functions be reclaimed. However, space for GP activities, dining, gym and pupil support space will be preserved. It will be for school management to determine how space is arranged and utilised. Outside space will be unaffected by proposals.

### **Issue 7 Accommodation Needs**

- 2.52 *Accommodation issues were:*

- *The need to retain the outside space and the parents' room at the school.*
- *Clarification on what was meant by 'Support Space' and 'generous space in the nursery' in the proposal.*
- *Allocation of space for additional support services outside the classroom*

### **Council response to issue 7**

2.53 There will be no reduction of outside space. The school has plans to develop the outside play facilities. The parent's room will continue to be available and there will be more facilities for parents meetings and groups.

2.54 Support space referred to the GP activity space where children can work out with the classroom. The nursery currently has the use of additional rooms for children which is more than the Care Inspectorate standards. As stated in 2.37 spaces for GP activities, dining, gym and pupil support space will be preserved.

### **Issue 8 Additional Support Issues**

2.55 *Respondents wanted a clearer explanation of additional support and the numbers of children with additional support needs who may move into the school. There was also concern that there would be sufficient resources to support children with additional support needs.*

*The following issues were raised*

- *Clarity on 'additional support'*
- *Number of children with additional support needs coming into school as a result of relocation.*
- *Recognition of the support required for children with additional emotional needs.*
- *Information on the predicted number of children who will make the transition into the mainstream school setting at Craigentenny from the proposed early years centre.*
- *Clarity on extra support as the result of increased staffing and resources available to all children and parents.*
- *Craigentenny special classes are known as Language and Communication classes. There are no guarantees that any child in the city would be allocated placement at a named resource or provision. This point is misleading (5.10).as stated in the proposal.*
- *Reassurance that staff will be adequately supported to implement Getting it Right for Every Child which includes support to the typically developing child.*

### **Council Response to issue 8**

2.56 Some children who currently attend Pilrig Child and Family centre receive support from different therapists such as speech and language, occupational therapist or

physiotherapists in the centre. These therapists will continue to see the children in the early years centre.

- 2.57 Fifteen children who currently attend Pilrig will move to Craigentenny Early Years Centre. Five of these children have additional support needs. This may change before the move as applications continue to be taken for children under three years.
- 2.58 The early years service recognises the support required for children with additional emotional needs and this is evidenced in the variation of staff child ratios where required and the partnership working with parents and other professionals.
- 2.59 Four children will make the transition into the mainstream school setting at Craigentenny from the proposed Early Years Centre in August 2013 as this will be their catchment school.
- 2.60 The staffing from the early years centre will transfer from Pilrig Child and Family Centre. Also additional funding from the Early Years Change Fund will enhance the staffing over the next two years.
- 2.61 Point 5.10 of the proposal highlighted the special classes in the school. The Language and Communication classes are a citywide resource not a school resource. The proposal should have highlighted the excellent support offered to children as documented in the HMIE report 2009. Particular strengths of the school were reported as strong partnerships with other agencies to support vulnerable pupils and their families and the effective links between children in mainstream classes and those in these supported language classes.
- 2.62 Staff will be supported to ensure the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child will underpin support offered to children, young people and their families. Co location will contribute to a shared understanding of well-being and will enhance co-operation, joint working and communication between all staff.

## **Issue 9: Financial Issues**

- 2.63 *Respondents requested further clarity on the financial rationale for the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School. The following points were made:*
- *Clarity needed on whether relocation was for educational or financial reasons. It was considered by some respondents that the relocation was a commercial decision.*
  - *The amount of funding available for educational benefits and the need for improvements to the whole school building and outside play area.*
  - *Financial commitment to support integration.*

## **Council Response to 9**

- 2.64 The council is striving to achieve fewer but better buildings across the city. The proposal is based on strengthening early years provision and improving the



educational and care environment for both children at Pilrig Child and Family Centre and at Craigentenny. The relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre is expected to bring annual savings of £19,000.

- 2.65 Edinburgh's Early Years Strategy seeks to enhance and develop new services in areas which have limited provision. Through analysis of demographics, resource allocations and referral indicators, Craigentenny was identified as an area requiring additional early years support.
- 2.66 £200,000 will be invested in the development of the early years service and improvements to the school building where the early years centre will be located.
- 2.67 The council has identified the outdoor space at Craigentenny Primary School as a priority for improvement. The school has submitted an application to Grounds for Learning to support these improvements.
- 2.68 The integrated service delivery model at Craigentenny means that the early years centre will bring its own budget for staffing and resources.

#### **Issue 10 Disposal of Pilrig Child and Family Centre.**

- 2.69 *There was a concern raised about the security of Pilrig Child and Family Centre and the increased risk of vandalism when a building is empty. There was a request for reassurances on this issue.*

#### **Council Response to issue 10**

- 2.70 Once the service has moved out of Pilrig Child and Family Centre the building will be secured and the Children and Families Department will remain responsible for the building until it is sold. An appropriate security system will be put in place as advised by property care.

#### **Issue 11 Renovations at Craigentenny Primary School**

- 2.71 *Education Scotland expressed the need for the council to ensure that the necessary renovation works can be completed in the timescales.*

#### **Council Response to issue 11**

- 2.72 The timescales for the renovation work have been agreed with Property Care.

#### **Issue 12 Consultations with Primary School Pupils**

- 2.73 *Education Scotland found that the children at Craigentenny Primary School were positive about the proposal. A recommendation for the Council to gather more views from the pupils was made and the council responded by carrying out a consultation activity with 90 pupils from the school. The council consultation found that the pupils were overall very positive about the relocation. Appendix 4.*
- 2.74 69 pupils had attended Craigentenny Nursery class and the remainder had attended other nursery classes. 7 of the pupils had attended Pilrig Child and

Family Centre however some children had attended a child and family centre then moved on to nursery class.

- 2.75 32 pupils knew about the proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre and had heard from a range of sources including letter to parents, teachers, parents had attended the public meeting.
- 2.76 Pupils were asked about the difference the relocation would make to them. The majority didn't know if relocation would make a difference. Of the 17 pupils who thought it would make a difference they felt that it might encourage more people to come to the school, would help toddlers to learn and there would be more people in the building.
- 2.77 Pupils were asked about the difference that relocation would make to their local area. The majority didn't know. Of the 26 pupils who thought it would make difference all the responses were positive. The pupils were also keen to find out if the younger children would use the playground and would they be able to see them.

## Conclusions

- 2.78 After taking account of the representations made and the issues arising, the Director of Children and Families considers that the case for relocation substantially outweighs the objections made. The following conclusions have been drawn:

- The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to giving children the best start in life through the development of integrated, flexible services that provide effective learning and childcare for children and families across Edinburgh.
- Early intervention in the earliest years has been proven to improve outcomes for children during childhood and through to later life. The co location of Pilrig Child and Family Centre at Craigentenny Primary School will enable more integrated and collaborative working to meet the requirements of *Getting it Right for Every Child*.
- There are advantages for children and their families receiving support within a universal setting. Families will have open access to a broader range of services and activities. Children will have the opportunity to learn and develop with their peers which will lead to improved transitions to primary school.
- There will be increased local places available for babies and two year olds with the opportunity to remain in the Early Years Centre until they move to their choice of Primary School.
- As the early years service develops there will be future opportunities to provide childcare and afterschool services for families.
- Close links with parents, the early years centre and the school will help parents support their children at home.

- There will be increased opportunities to deliver support to children and families across the school through parents groups, home visiting and outreach support.
- The Council believes it can improve services while making savings by running nurseries/early year centres more efficiently. Relocating Pilrig Child and Family Centre building is expected to bring annual savings of £19,000. Rationalisation of the buildings would deliver the service more effectively and therefore more funding would be available for early years services. This would have educational benefits for children across the city.

### 3. Recommendations

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- 3.1 Pilrig Child and Family Centre is relocated to Craigentenny Primary School and opens in August 2013
- 3.2 Information is provided to parents at Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craigentenny Primary School on the relocation and services available
- 3.3 Approval is given to plan and implement the works to be carried out at Craigentenny Primary School
- 3.4 The Pilrig Child and Family Centre building is declared surplus from August 2013 and that action be taken to dispose of the site.
- 3.5 The receipt from the sale of Pilrig Child and Family centre is being ring fenced for reinvestment into the Early Years sector.

### Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

### Links

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|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Coalition pledges</b>        | P1 Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care.   |
| <b>Council outcomes</b>         | CO1 Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed.   |
|                                 | CO2 Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities. |
|                                 | CO3 Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability have improved life chances   |
|                                 | CO4 Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy.  |
| <b>Single Outcome Agreement</b> | SO3 Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.  |

## **Appendices**

1. Proposal paper
2. Record of Public Meeting
3. Education Scotland Report
4. Consultation with Pupils



## Proposed Re-location of Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School

### 1. Introduction & Context

- 1.1 A report was approved by Education Children and Families Committee on the 9 October 2012 setting out the proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School and approval was given to undertake statutory consultation.
- 1.2 This consultation paper sets out the rationale for the proposed relocation of the service. The paper also sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.
- 1.3 Pilrig Child and Family Centre provides support for children aged 18 months to 5 years old and their families. This includes nursery provision for children aged 3-5.
- 1.4 Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 the Council are required to consult on proposals affecting the education of children and this covers children attending a nursery class. Statutory consultation under the Act is not specifically required for the relocation of children under three that attend the centre but for completeness the consultation report does make reference to the wider proposals.

#### **Format of Consultation Paper**

- 1.5 The consultation paper is divided into the following sections:

- 1 Introduction & Context
- 2 The Proposal

- 3 Pilrig Child and Family Centre - Case for relocation
- 4 Proposed Craigentinny Early Years Centre
- 5 Educational Benefits Statement
- 6 Financial Considerations
- 7 Conclusions
- 8 Public Consultation Process

Appendix 1 Site of Pilrig Child and Family Centre

Appendix 2 Location of Child and Family/Early Years Centres in  
Edinburgh

Appendix 3 Proposed Early Years Centre at Craigentinny Primary School

### **Rationale**

- 1.6 The proposed move will provide an improved educational and care environment for children in both Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craigentinny Nursery Class.
- 1.7 The additional family support services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre will be co-located with the existing Nursery Class and Primary School. This will increase opportunities for a wider range of families to access these support services.

### **Nursery Class Capacity**

- 1.8 In the consultation paper reference is made to the building capacity of the nursery, the number of nursery places that are made available through staffing allocations and the number of children (the roll) that attend the nursery.
- 1.9 Reference is made to the composition of nursery places which can be full-time (FT) or part-time (PT). Part-time places may be morning (am) and afternoon (pm). For comparative purposes, nursery places are also counted as full-time equivalents (FTE).

### **Making Representations**

- 1.10 Comments on this paper should be submitted at the latest by 5pm on **Thursday 20 December 2012** to the addresses set out in Section 8.8 of this paper. A public meeting detailed in Section 8.4, will be held as follows:

| Venue                       | Date                 | Time        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Craigentenny Primary School | Wednesday 5 December | 6 pm – 8 pm |

## 2. The Proposal

### 2.1 The proposal is that:

- **Services provided at Pilrig Child and Family Centre will be relocated to Craigentenny Primary School and called Craigentenny Early Years Centre;**
- **Craigentenny Early Years Centre will offer services from the start of the 2013/14 school year in August 2013;**
- **Children currently attending Pilrig Child and Family Centre and continuing at nursery in 2013/14 will transfer to Craigentenny Early Years Centre;**
- **Playroom space for 30 children aged 18 months to 3 years and a babyroom for up to 9 babies will be provided at Craigentenny Early Years Centre;**
- **There will be additional space for groups of parents and family activities; and**
- **Pilrig Child and Family Centre building will close when the relocation has taken place and the land and buildings will be marketed for sale.**

2.2 Transport from a dedicated minibus is currently provided to bring some children and parents to Pilrig Child and Family Centre and a similar arrangement will be put in place for Craigentenny Early Years Centre.

2.3 During the consultation period it may be necessary to start some preparation for the refurbishment of Craigentenny however if the outcome of the consultation is to retain the current services at Pilrig Child and Family Centre this work can be stopped.

## 3. Pilrig Child and Family Centre – Case for Relocation

## **Location**

- 3.1 Pilrig Child and Family Centre is situated in the Pilrig area of Leith. The centre comprises a single storey building which has two playrooms, office space and toilets. Appendix 1 provides a map showing the site and its location.
- 3.2 The Centre also has an additional temporary unit in the grounds which is used for group work and visiting services. Within the 0.12 hectare site there is an outdoor play area that serves the centre.
- 3.3 The service operates from 8am to 4:00pm and is open 52 weeks a year.
- 3.4 The Centre primarily serves children drawn from Leith, Leith Walk and Craightinny neighbourhoods and placement is agreed following assessment with parents/carers and support staff.

## **Capacity and Services Provided**

- 3.5 The centre provides a service to a maximum of 27 children. Both playrooms provide for children from age 18 months up to entry into Primary School. In October 2012 there were 24 children attending Pilrig Early Years Centre as follows:
  - 10 children aged 18 months to 3 years
  - 14 children aged 3-5 years
- 3.6 The Centre delivers targeted family support to children aged 0-8 years and their families including out reach support to children accessing pre-school education in local nursery classes and Primary Schools across the area.

## **Suitability**

- 3.7 Pilrig Child and Family Centre is constrained by its size and only a limited range of facilities can be provided due to the small building. A new Early Years Centre opened at Fort in 2010 and this provides an extensive range of facilities which includes a one door approach for families. This includes a service for nursery aged children, wrap around care and support for parents particularly when undertaking training schemes or entering work.
- 3.8 Fort Early Years Centre lies some 1.3km north of Pilrig and serves a similar area.
- 3.9 Appendix 2 provides a map showing the location of Child and Family/Early Years Centres in Edinburgh which provide additional support to children and their families. This shows that there are a cluster of Centres in north Edinburgh but that coverage around Craightinny is more limited.

## **Building Condition and Previous Works**

- 3.10 A survey carried out in 2009 rated the Child and Family Centre as having an overall condition 'B' - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration consistent with its construction date and use.

## **Future Building Investment and Public Accessibility**



- 3.11 Repair and maintenance needs over the next five years are estimated to be in the order of £100,000. However, due to limited budget availability, works would be restricted to those repairs required to keep the property wind and watertight and to ensure health and safety.
- 3.12 Additional funding would be required to improve public access to the centre and make the building Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

### **Operational Costs**

- 3.13 The two main costs of running a Child and Family Centre are staffing costs and service costs (such as rates, heating and lighting). All staff would transfer with no savings. Savings would be made on the annual building costs which are £19,000.

## ***Rationale for the Relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre***

- ***Improving the educational environment for children and their families.***
- ***The small building and site does not provide enough space to deliver a full range of Early Years Services.***
- ***The capacity of the centre (27 children) is among the lowest of the Early Years Centres.***
- ***The new site will have more modern facilities. The refurbished playroom will positively enhance all children health and wellbeing. The facilities will be more accessible for children with additional support needs.***
- ***Transitions between 0-3, to pre-school and the early stages of primary will be improved and this will support children's learning.***

## **4. Proposed Craigentenny Early Years Centre**

### **Location**

- 4.1 Craigentenny Primary School is located to the east of Edinburgh city centre in the Restalrig/ Craigentenny neighbourhood. The school is a two storey brick built building dating from circa 1935. The school is set within generous grounds.

- 4.2 Appendix 3 shows the location of the school and where the nursery class is currently located within the school.
- 4.3 Appendix 2 shows the other Child and Family/Early Years Centres in Edinburgh that cater for children and the proposed Early Years Centre at Craigentenny would provide a more balanced coverage across the city.

### **Craigentenny Primary School Capacity and Roll**

- 4.4 Craigentenny Primary School is assessed as being a 14 class capacity with a working capacity of 420 places that can support an annual intake of 60 children. Additionally, the school runs two special language classes which are not counted as part of the capacity.
- 4.5 The provisional school roll for September 2012 is 175 giving an occupancy rate of 42%. Since 2006 the school roll has stayed below 200 children and the occupancy has remained less than 50%. For 2012 the school is operating with 8 classes so that there are six unused classes. However the P1 intake of 46 for 2012/13 was more than double the normal average which is usually around 20.
- 4.6 Within the Craigentenny catchment there is a history of pupils successfully making out of catchment placing requests and it is expected that this pattern would continue if places are available at surrounding schools.
- 4.7 Although primary school rolls are due to rise citywide in the period to 2019, the school is only expected to require 12 classes to cater for peak demand. This still leaves available space to deliver an Early Years facility.

### **Craigentenny Nursery Class**

- 4.8 Craigentenny Nursery has a capacity of 40 (FTE) which meets current demand (see Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Provision of Places and Roll at Craigentenny Nursery**

| Nursery Class | Building Capacity (FTE) | Provision of Pupil Places 12/13 |           |     | Roll (August 2012) |      |     |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------------------|------|-----|
|               |                         | Part Time                       | Full Time | FTE | Part               | Full | FTE |
| Craigentenny  | 40                      | 60                              | 8         | 38  | 54                 | 8    | 35  |

- 4.9 The nursery comprises two classrooms and support space. There is generous space within the nursery and ready access to children's toilets. The outdoor play area is readily accessible from the nursery.
- 4.10 It is proposed that the existing nursery would remain and that the children from Pilrig Child and Family Centre would be integrated into the existing nursery but with the additional support that they receive at Pilrig Child and Family Centre.

### **Building Condition**

- 4.11 A survey carried out in 2010 rated the primary school and nursery as having an overall condition 'B' - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration consistent with its construction date and use.

## **5. Educational Benefits Statement**

### **Introduction**

- 5.1 This section considers educational benefits that would flow from the proposal to relocate early years provision from Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny. The relocation will enable us to extend the service to children under three years of age and will include babies.

### **The likely effects of the relocation of early years provision from Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Early Years Centre**

#### ***Children at Affected Child and Family Centre and Nursery Class***

- 5.2 It is proposed that the children attending Pilrig Child and Family Centre in 2012/13 and continuing on for 2013/14 will transfer to Craigentenny Early Years Centre. This is estimated to affect 9 children. Other options can be explored with individual families.
- 5.3 Pilrig Child and Family Centre caters specifically for children and families who have been referred. Relocation will allow the children to mix in a larger nursery class and this should help children make better transitions to Primary School.
- 5.4 Family support could be accessed by families across the early stages of Primary School.

### ***Other users of Pilrig Child and Family Centre***

- 5.5 The centre does not cater for other users beyond the needs of the Child and Family Centre.

### ***Children who would be likely to attend the nursery class***

- 5.6 There will be increased local places available for babies and two year olds with the opportunity to remain in the Early Years Centre until they move to Primary School.

### ***Children attending other nursery schools and nursery classes in the council area***

- 5.7 The Council believes it can make savings by running nurseries/early year centres more efficiently. Closing Pilrig Child and Family Centre building is expected to bring annual savings of £19,000. Rationalisation of the buildings would deliver the service more effectively and therefore more funding would be available for early years services. This would positively benefit the education experience for children across the council area.

### ***Other Likely Effects of the Proposal***

- 5.8 There are advantages for children and their families receiving support within a universal setting. There will be increased opportunities to deliver parenting support groups, home visiting, out reach support to families, intensive packages of care for children to a wider range of families.
- 5.9 Early intervention is a council policy and has been proven to improve outcomes for children during childhood and through to later life. Co-location enables more integrated working to meet the requirements of *Getting it Right for Every Child*.

### ***The educational benefits from implementation of the proposal***

- 5.10 Additional support that any child at Pilrig Child and Family Centre currently receives would follow them to their new location. At primary school age, Craigentenny operates special classes should other specialist support be needed in later years.
- 5.11 Children will have the opportunity to access facilities at the school on a timetabled basis such as the gym and extensive outdoor facilities.
- 5.12 Pilrig Child and Family Centre was inspected by the Care Inspectorate in August 2010. The quality of care and support was rated “very good” and the report concluded that the centre continues to provide a valuable service to families who need support.

- 5.13 The Care Inspectorate inspected the Craigentenny Nursery Class in October 2010. The quality of care and support was rated “excellent” and the report concluded that the nursery provides excellent opportunities for children and parents to improve the quality of care. The report further stated that staff provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment, where children are highly motivated, confident and happy in their play.
- 5.14 Craigentenny Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in October 2009 as part of a follow up report but the report did not include the nursery.

### **How the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects**

- 5.15 It is expected that the main disruption arising from the proposal will be the change in location for those affected children and their parents/guardians. However, with a planned relocation at the summer holidays it means that some nursery children would be transferring onto primary school and this will reduce the numbers that are affected. It is envisaged that 9 of the 14 children currently attending Pilrig Child and Family centre will require to be placed at Craigentenny.
- 5.16 Should Council approve the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family centre support will be given to both parents and children in the transfer to the early years centre and to facilitate the assimilation of the children with other nursery children. There will be discussion with parents/guardians in respect of the relocation and what other options are available. Transport will continue to be made available where required for some children.
- 5.17 The opening times of Craigentenny Early Years Centre will be expanded to provide facilities for children and families 52 weeks per year. The hours of opening will be extended from 9.00am-3.00pm currently to 8.00am to 4.00pm. This will provide opportunities to accommodate any increase in pre-school entitlement for all children as highlighted in national legislation currently under consultation.

## **6. Financial Considerations**

### **Costs**

- 6.1 The rationale for the relocation is to improve the educational environment for children and their families.
- 6.2 The council has allocated £200,000 from the Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund to deliver this project and upgrade the early years environment by completing internal works and reconfiguration of space. This was approved by Education Children and Families Committee in June 2012.

## **Proposed Works, Redevelopment and Potential Capital Receipts**

- 6.3 If the proposals are approved and Pilrig Early Years Centre become surplus it is proposed to sell the land and building which have been valued at £300,000-£360,000 based on residential development of the site.
- 6.4 One off costs associated with closing the building (e.g. boarding up/ utility disconnections/ removals) are included in project costs. Ongoing security costs prior to sale may also be incurred.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 There is a strong case for the relocation of services from Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentinny Primary School and the main reasons are set out below.

### ***Reason in support of re-provision at Craigentinny Primary School***

- ***The learning environment for children and their families will be improved;***
- ***The refurbished centre will provide a greater range of facilities than are currently provided in either establishment;***
- ***There is capacity at Craigentinny Primary School to create an Early Years Centre;***
- ***The quality of care and support at Craigentinny Nursery has been rated as being excellent by the Care Inspectorate;***
- ***Co-location enables more integrated working to meet the requirements of Getting it Right for Every Child; and***
- ***Net annual savings from the closure are estimated at £19,000 per annum.***

### **Staffing Implications and Parent Liaison**

7.2 If the proposal is approved, there will be ongoing liaison with staff and parents to ensure a smooth transition and to minimise any disruption. All staff from the Child and Family Centre would move to Craigentenny Early Years Centre.

## 8. Public Consultation Process

8.1 It is proposed to dispose of the Pilrig Child and Family Centre building when the replacement Craigentenny Early Years Centre becomes operational. In August 2013, those children continuing with their nursery education would attend Craigentenny Early Years Centre or an alternative choice depending on discussions with parents and guardians. This section expands upon the public consultation process relating to the proposal.

8.2 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the statutory consultation requirements for the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre and the statutory consultees include the following:

1. Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education)
2. the Parent Council or combined Parent Council of any affected school;
3. the parents of the children at any affected Early Years centre or school;
4. the parents of any children expected to attend any of the affected nurseries;
5. the staff at any affected early years centres, school and trade union representatives;
6. affected community councils; and
7. affected Neighbourhood Partnerships.

8.3 The affected Child and Family Centre is deemed to be Pilrig and the affected school is deemed to be Craigentenny.

8.4 The consultation period for the proposals paper will run for over six weeks from 9 November to 20 December 2012 and the paper will be made available electronically and in paper format. A public meeting will be held in respect of the proposals at the venue listed below. Free childcare and/or translation services can be provided at the public meeting if requests for these services are made to 0131 529 2103 by 28 November 2012

| Venue                       | Date            | Time         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Craigentenny Primary School | 5 December 2012 | 6.00-8.00 pm |

8.5 At the end of the consultation period, the Council will send Education Scotland relevant documentation on the consultation process. Thereafter Education Scotland

will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal which the Council must take into account in preparing the final consultation report.

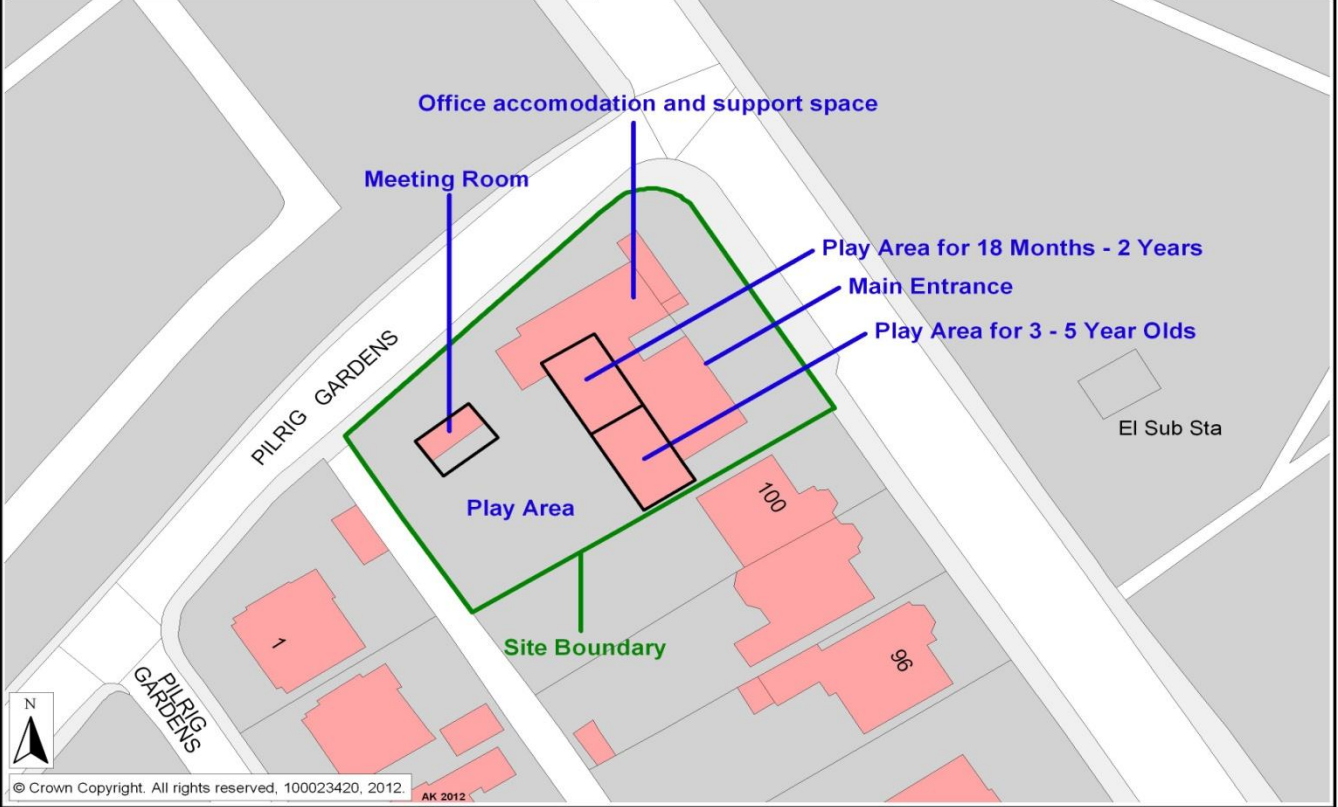
- 8.6 The consultation report will be made publicly available **at least 21 days before it is considered by the Council** and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the consultation period.
- 8.7 It is anticipated that the consultation report will be presented to a meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on 14 March 2013 setting out recommendations and seeking approval for the proposals.
- 8.8 The Council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/educationconsultations](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/educationconsultations) will contain information on the consultation. During the consultation period, any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below. Responses can also be made by e-mail to **earlyyears@edinburgh.gov.uk**. All responses to the consultation paper should be received by Thursday 20 December 2012 and addressed to the Director of Children and Families at Level 1.1

**Gillian Tee**

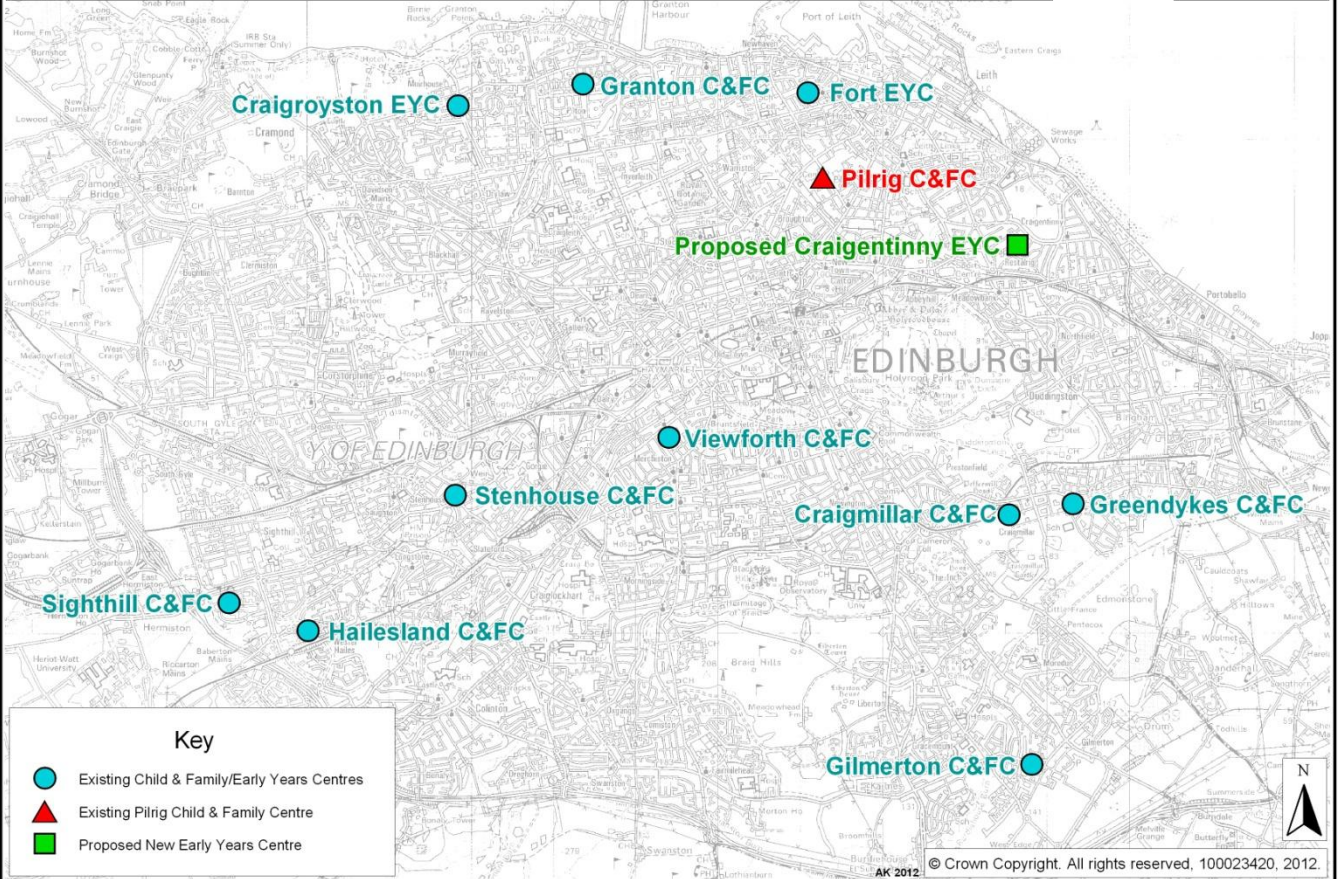
Director of Children and Families  
City of Edinburgh Council  
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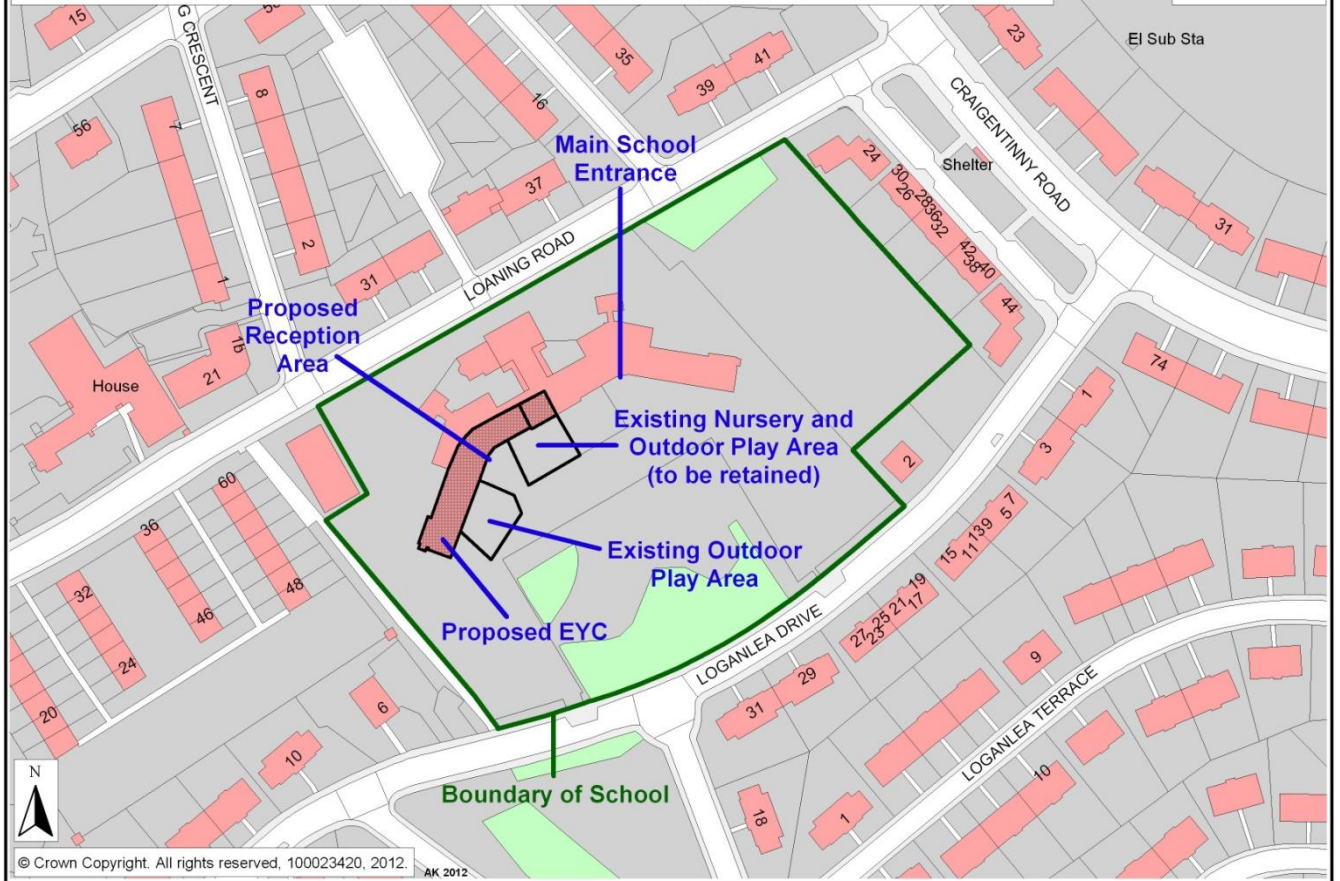
**Appendix 1: Pilrig Child & Family Centre**



**Appendix 2: Location Of Child & Family/Early Years Centres In Edinburgh**



### Appendix 3: Proposed Early Years Centre At Craightenny Primary School





## Record of Meeting

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### Proposed Re-location of Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School

#### Public meeting held on 5 December 2012, at 6.00 pm, in Craigentenny Primary School

**Present:** approximately 50 members of the public.

**In Attendance:** Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), Aileen McLean (Senior Education Manager, Early Stages), Jane Rough (Early Years and Childcare Manager).

#### 1. Introduction

Mr T Wood (former Deputy Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders Police) introduced himself and explained that he had been invited by the Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting this evening. It had been arranged by the Council as part of the consultations on a proposal to relocate the Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School. The Family Centre currently provided support for children aged 18 months to 5 years, and their families, and included nursery provision for children aged 3 to 5 years.

The Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 October 2012 had approved a *consultation paper*\* to set out the rationale for the proposal to relocate. Officers from the Children and Families Department intended to give a presentation this evening to explain the proposals and then to answer any questions or take comments from the audience. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to consult Education Scotland on the proposals and a representative of the directorate was also in attendance at the meeting this evening. Also in attendance was the Head Teacher of Craigentenny Primary School and the Manager of the Pilrig Family Centre.

#### 2. Presentation

Aileen McLean (Senior Education Manager, Early Stages) explained the rationale for the proposal within the context of the Council's early years strategy. At a national level, there was a growing commitment to the 'early years', with the ages of 2 and 3 years now looked on as key years in the development of a child. The Council was committed to the concept, as outlined in its approved Early Years Strategy. The quality of care was high in Council establishments, as acknowledged in the inspections by HMIE and Care Inspectorate. At present there were four Early years Centres, open on a year-round basis, and providing nursery, early years and child care services. They were able to provide a whole range of services to children under 5 years and parents. The Council wanted to increase the availability of such centres across the city.

The rationale for the proposal here was to provide an improved educational and care environment for children in both Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craigentenny Nursery Class. The additional family support services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre would be co-located with the existing Craigentenny Nursery Class and Primary School. This would increase opportunities for a wider range of families to access these support services.

### **3. The Proposal**

Aileen Mclean explained the proposals as follows -

- Services provided at Pilrig Child and Family Centre will be relocated to Craigentenny Primary School and called Craigentenny Early Years Centre;
- Craigentenny Early Years Centre will offer services from the start of the 2013/14 school year in August 2013;
- Children currently attending Pilrig Child and Family Centre and continuing at nursery in 2013/14 will transfer to Craigentenny Early Years Centre;
- Playroom space for 30 children aged 18 months to 3 years and a baby-room for up to 9 babies will be provided at Craigentenny Early Years Centre;
- There will be additional space for groups of parents and family activities; and
- Pilrig Child and Family Centre building will close when the relocation has taken place and the land and buildings will be marketed for sale.

Transport from a dedicated minibus was currently provided to bring some children and parents to Pilrig Child and Family Centre and a similar arrangement would be put in place for Craigentenny Early Years Centre.

Gillian Tee (Director, Children and Families) added that she felt very positive about an opportunity that presented itself here at the school to strengthen the early years provision. It would form a '0 -12 years' campus, to benefit all families and an improved educational environment for children. There was the space available here to deliver a full range of services of Early Years Services, and the finance would be available to deliver the project in full. The Council was committed and do what was necessary to realise the ambitions for the school. In the longer term, a co-location on the site with Health Visitors and other specialist services, was envisaged.

#### **4. Questions and Comments -**

Tom Wood, as Chairman, then invited questions or comments from the audience - firstly from parents with children at the school. Questions, taking these in groups where possible, and the answers from the Council officers, in summary, were as follows -

**Question 1** – In regard to the benefits which you have stated will accrue – are these likely to be seen within the School or just be for the Family Centre? Would the Family Centre benefits be just for the parents in the early years centre or be for all families? How many children would go to the Primary School? What was to be re-furbished in Craigentiny?

**Answer** – Staff in the Early Years Centre will be able to work with any of the families in the school, to offer them additional support. Parents may have issues with the children at different stages in their early years or at school and the parents themselves may have a support need at certain times. There will be opportunities to gain support with parenting as required. The Manager of the Centre and the Head Teacher would work closely together. The EYC would be a very integral part of the school, providing advice for parents, with easy access to services.

**Answer** (Head Teacher) There could be families in need at any time in the school - one of the problems previously was the time delay in getting referrals on to other agencies – we sometimes weren't in a position to offer immediate support. One of the positive benefits of this proposal would be a better analysis of any support needs and the more direct links to outside agencies.

**Answer** - On the transfer, we do not know exactly at this stage how many children will transfer on to the Primary School – some may choose to go to other schools. On re-furbishment of Craigentiny, we are looking to improve the access for disabled

people, by the front door. There would be a receptionist and business manager in the front office, and an Early Years officer; there would be re-furbishment of other rooms (currently used by the nursery) and which would be available for toddlers; plus a classroom on ground floor to become a baby-room. There were two other rooms upstairs – for additional office space and meeting rooms.

**Q2** – Coming from a background in specialist support to children myself – my question is related to children with emotional needs. A worry is that their behaviour can be unpredictable, for a range of reasons. I would like to know whether the additional support will be ‘mainstream’? We also don’t know the numbers involved as yet - how can we be re-assured the school will be adequately protected?

**Answer** – In the EYC there are some children with emotional needs – who are currently well supported – the new provision will incorporate all of the existing provision and be strengthened further by the amalgamation and the higher numbers of staff across the school – a pool of increased staffing and resources, available to all the children and their parents.

This support may be mainstream for the children, it will depend on their circumstances. Children will apply to the centre from across the catchment area – some from the Pilrig area will go to other schools. Looking at the current rolls and where the children were living, we do not envisage a high increase in numbers at Craigentenny. They will be well supported; the capacity is there to work with them.

**Q3** – On the specifics of staffing – will the extra support be *teaching* staff or *other specialist* staff? Where is the money for this support to come from? I am concerned to know how the pupils will be supported ‘further up’ the school – the question of ratios of staff to pupils needing support – it is my experience that children with emotional needs can often display signs of distress when placed in a mainstream class.

**Answer** There will be the combined resources from the existing support. At the EYC, the family centres have a higher ratio of staff to pupils than in mainstream – one adult to every three children – all Early Years officers are qualified. We also work with outside specialists – from Lothian NHS, for example, to supplement the skills.

Some 60% of the children currently at the Pilrig Family Centre come from this (Craigentenny) catchment area and we don’t expect a significant increase in terms of numbers. We don’t know exact numbers at this stage and whether a higher proportion will come into the mainstream classes of the school.

**Q4** It can't just be about classroom space – there are needs for 'additional' space for the school in its workings?

**Answer** (Head Teacher) The additional space in the school will stay unaffected. At the moment, there was quite a lot of extra space in the school e.g. the music room and nutrition room was infrequently used – we are confident there will be plenty of space remaining, outside of classroom space.

**Q5** About the transfer of resources – currently, we don't know the percentages of children involved – I am a bit wary of support package allocations – there needs to be a clarified sum. Can we please be re-assured that we are getting it right for all the children?

**Answer** – The Family Centre makes an assessment of all the children on an individual basis - there is an 'audited hours' assessment for all the children as required. The children make a good transition in general. The support systems are also there for parents – it is really useful to be able to discuss issues and offer advice on support packages for the children or/and their parents.

**Q6** In the future, if you sell the Pilrig building, what happens if many children move into this area? For example, look to Portobello High School, where all the land was sold off and then it was found to have been a mistake, by not allowing for expansion?

**Answer** (G Tee, Director) – There are different areas in the city with different pressures – there are 5,000 spare places across the school estate but some schools are under pressure with places at a premium. The Council is presently intending to expand five primary schools, against a background of pressure on the roll in some areas. We therefore need to be able to allocate resources to where the needs are and you are correct to say we need to plan ahead, for the next 10 to 20 years. Here, at Craigentenny, we want to strengthen the early years provision. The concept of an EYC gives a lot of scope for cover, with the increased flexibility, and support for parents, and longer term scope for co-location with health services. We find that parents are asking for services to be together. We have the scope here to start off an exciting development, it can't be done at once but we hope to be able to do so over a number of years.

**Q7** Regarding the capacity of Craigentenny, will the school still retain sufficient classrooms to be able to cope with 'out of catchment' children - in 5 years time, there may well be a much higher intake, requiring twin intakes – can the school accommodate for this?

**Answer** - Craigentenny has 22 classrooms plus other smaller rooms. Looking ahead over 7 years, the school would be able to manage 13 classes – it had the scope to cater for twin intakes at P1 level. There would be two intakes this year – the school could cope with a two-stream intake over future years. The school roll, with all other schools, is kept under review, as part of annual forecasting by Children and Families.

**Q8** What exactly was the main driver for this change- is it the sale of Pilrig, to raise capital – or the improvement of the education experience? Craigentenny had been operating with an under-capacity for a good number of years, it is well known.

**Answer** – The opportunity provided by the circumstances at the school – the space to make improvements, and an opportunity to develop the early years concept. The school is 40 per cent unused at present and the Council was looking to see where we can improve the provision, the educational experience - we look to where we want to have better provision. There was scope at Craigentenny to develop the concept, with the right conditions for funding being in place and the physical scope to made accommodation changes. We would like to see it being a centre of excellence for 0-12s. The Council had a strategy to plan for more Early Years Centres, with work begun for example at Royal Mile and Oxfords Primaries and at Craigmillar Community High School. Queensferry Primary School now had co-location of an early years centre with the primary school and was probably the closest model to what was being proposed for Craigentenny.

**Q9** My problem is not realising exactly what a ‘Family Centre’ would entail? This is the issue of most concern to parents. We are not sure what concerns there might be – are there any risks surrounding the issues – for example on the security of the children at the school, any risks of contact from outside influences that are not present at this time – there may be higher concentrations of families with problems or a crisis at times.

**Answer** (Early Years Centre Manager) - There are vulnerable children present in every school. I have worked in a Family Centre for 26 years, and there are behaviour norms and policies to govern these. It is a very positive experience. Parents come and drop off children in the same manner and the security is similar to the school. The systems work well. As said, in every school there will have children who are vulnerable or need help, and the centre resources are geared to this.

**Q10** - As regards numbers, we don't have accurate forecasts on the numbers involved. We feel the report has omitted to cover these aspects and has given no indication of possible detrimental effects on our children, on children in P1, from the merger.



We are concerned at the potential implications – whether things will be brought into the playground, whether our children will be exposed to new risks, or somehow intimidated.

**Answer** (G Tee, Director) – We are hearing the points and the concerns that the parents are raising this evening and will require to show that they have been addressed once we report to the Council in March. A fair proportion of the children who attend the Pilrig Family Centre come from this catchment area, and therefore would be expected to come to Craigentenny Primary as the local school – so there is not an expectation of a large number of additional pupils arising as a result of the proposals. The Council has a strategy for the early years provision, we believe it is a very positive approach and that it will improve the educational experience for the children and also for families. The Queensferry Primary development is a good model and I agree it would be helpful if parents here could see it in action – I am very happy to make an arrangement to take parents to Queensferry, to visit the centre, to see the work in practice.

**Q11** (Former Councillor) – Most parents need help at some stage in their lives, whether to do with their children's education or their health. I have my children here and am most supportive of the concept. There were good examples of the model working elsewhere. Glasgow had taken a notable lead on integration projects of this kind – they found it evident that the more that support was seen to be available, then the more people came forward to ask for that support. The local communities benefited from the integration. It had also been happening in Edinburgh, through a recent voluntary project, and the Ribble Project was currently working on a 'peer mentoring project' in the high school. The Family Centre was a commendable development and to be supported.

**Q12** I back up what was earlier said in that I feel the consultation document has insufficient information about what the Early Years Centre would do. My concern was that certain schools had a not very good reputation so parents would decide to send their children elsewhere – the same thing could happen here. Since this proposal had come to light, a number of parents had not enrolled their children for nursery or were holding off from P1 registration. It was an unknown, as to how the school would change. The explanations this evening had been helpful to parents – but more information needed to be given out by the Council – to feed back to other parent groups.

**Q13** The school's efforts on integration here had been fantastic – in the past we might have had issues with bullying etc but some great progress has been made in Craigentenny. There was a good case for family centres. However, I think the report is too 'one-sided' – the possible drawbacks of co-location are not explained yet there must be negative aspects. So, people may conclude that some aspects

are being hidden. The school is good but some parents are still undecided. The Council needs to help parents to promote their school – some things, for example the ‘bars’ on the school to the front – need to be removed and other work to improve the appearance.

**Q14** I reinforce what has been said about family centres being good but not always explained - how it fits in a co-location with the primary school. Some parents can be suffering from problems, sometimes involving alcohol, substance abuse, etc., and we are concerned that it shouldn't affect the children in the school. We want to know how it will be managed and not impact on the community.

**Answer** (G Tee, Director) – We are hearing your comments on this aspect and we will do more to balance the general benefits to the school, as well as the Family centre, when reporting in March. As a Council, we have allocated £200,000 for this project, to improve the school, including the physical aspects of the building. We are striving to achieve fewer, but better, buildings across the city. Your comments regarding promotion of the school image are noted. Once we have the feedback from the consultation period, the final report to the Council will go through all the issues. The elected members need to be re-assured all the issues have been addressed. We are listening to the points being made.

**Answer** (Head Teacher) – There had been similar types of concerns expressed here over whether integration would cause difficulties, when two autistic children were placed in the school; they had not materialised at all and now it would be hard to imagine without them, so well integrated were they.

**Q15** – On the Baby Centre – will there be any issues of noise, that is to say babies crying, to affect the rest of the school?

**Answer** – This isn't a problem - in our experience - the babies don't really cry much, with the adult support; rather, it is more of a new dimension added to a school, to have the babies adds to the warmth and interest of a school, and the children seem fascinated having them around.

**Q16** – We agree on the necessity of managing the school estate; also, on integration – the earlier we start these things off, the better for society. But, in Education, there is a history of a failing on integration, it has never been supported properly. It has to be demonstrated that the potential is there to support and that the budget is put in place. It requires the financial commitment if it is to work.

**Answer (G Tee, Director)** – As an authority, we want to see fewer, better, buildings.

We need to take opportunities to shift resources to best advantage. But it is absolute that the intention here is that we feel can make the children's education better. On integration and inclusion, in Edinburgh we have taken a balanced view – sometimes it will be support within mainstream classes and in other cases it will involve specialist classes with additional support. On the budget, any savings will transfer in full – and the £200,000 will be invested in this project. We are looking at nursery education in general in the city, we may need larger days or increased cover over holidays. There may be opportunities for parents to buy extra care – to see if it's cost effective.

**Q17** – You mentioned that not every child at the school is in the catchment area?

**Answer** - Parents have a right in law to make requests for out-of-catchment places – therefore schools can have pupils from out of catchment areas – and the reverse of course applies – dependent on places being available in the school. In areas of rising populations, the scope for non-catchment places is lessened – and this is a trend that is growing in many parts. As the number of primary age children increase, school rolls will become fuller and in the future we will see more and more communities fall back to their catchment schools.

**Q18** – There is a lot of outside space at this school – will it be retained?

**Answer** – The head teacher here is keen to develop the playground. The areas will be retained and we will attempt to improve on the present situation. The head teacher will continue to be responsible for the school – with the 0-3 years being looked after by the Early Years Manager.

**Q19** – Regarding out of catchment appeals – I had applied for another school but been unsuccessful. Since enrolling here at Craigentenny, my son has settled in well and made good progress. However, the school for whatever reason does not have a great reputation, plus the external appearance was not good and was off-putting to some parents. If the Family Centre was to come here, there is a danger the image could be further affected. I am also concerned over capacity and whether it can cope with two P1 intakes if needed.

**Answer (G Tee, Director)** – The ideal would be to have local schools for local children serving their local community. The fact of rising rolls will produce that situation over time. On the importance of appearance – we are trying to do that here – to produce money to invest in the school. If additional money comes from a sale of Pilrig – then we can try and re-invest in the school. We wish more services in and

around the school. On reputational issues – we will invite you to look at the Queensferry Primary School centre, I think this will greatly assist in allaying concerns, the Queensferry model is very good.

**Q20** We would want re-assurance for parents on safety in the school, as the proposals will bring a lot of additional adults into the school area. Also, will we lose the parents room?

**Answer** – The Family Centres all have the same policies regarding security: Doors are locked, and there are staff assigned responsibility for security. It would be the same policies in the new provision.

**Q21** I would just like to reiterate support for the concept of the Family centre – I wasn't aware that there could be a negative perception of it at all – we need rather to take it out to people and let them know about the added value for the school.

**Q22** I am not sure why it was decided that the Family Centre should be allocated to Craigentenny rather than the Royal High Primary?

**Answer**– A proportion of the children currently at Pilrig come from this school's catchment area. The nursery education at both Pilrig and Craigentenny was previously assessed by the Inspectorate as 'very good' and 'excellent'. With the transfer of staff we should be looking at a good additional resources for this school – we should be able to improve on what we have at the moment.

## 5. Conclusion

Tom Wood, in concluding the meeting, thanked the audience for the questions and points made this evening. These were being recorded and would be submitted with the report to go to the Council on 14 March 2013. Nothing would be decided until that meeting of the Council when all the facts would be put before the elected members of the Council. The consultation period would continue until 20 December 2012 and further submissions would be welcomed during this time.

\*(Note: download the Consultation Paper at:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/9020/consultation\\_on\\_the\\_proposed\\_re-location\\_of\\_pilrig\\_child\\_and\\_family\\_centre\\_to\\_craigentenny\\_primary\\_school](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/9020/consultation_on_the_proposed_re-location_of_pilrig_child_and_family_centre_to_craigentenny_primary_school) )

### Consultation proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council

#### Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal to relocate services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School and establish Craigentenny Early Years Centre

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council proposes to relocate services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School and establish Craigentenny Early Years Centre from August 2013.

1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at the public meeting held on Wednesday 5 December 2012 at Craigentenny Primary School 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; and
- visits to the site of Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craigentenny Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the centre; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people 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 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. The consultation included an invitation for written submissions and a public meeting held at Craigentinny Primary School on 5 December 2012. The council did not seek the views of children affected by the proposal at Craigentinny Primary School.
- 2.2 Those attending the public meeting and the small number who responded to the council in writing as part of the consultation process raised a number of issues in relation to the proposal. These related to the practicalities of how the proposed new centre would operate, its location, the purpose of an early years centre, the reputation of the primary school and any future increased demand for school places.
- 2.3 Parents from Pilrig Child and Family Centre were positive about the proposal. They felt that the relocation of services to Craigentinny Primary School would offer children an improved learning environment with better space and facilities available for both children and their families. They were also positive that the head of centre and staff from Pilrig Centre would be transferring to the proposed new provision and they were reassured that there would be some continuity in the transition process. They raised a few minor concerns about whether any future reduction in numbers would impact negatively on the services the centre would provide and also about the additional noise particularly in the outdoor area at breaks and lunch time.
- 2.4 Parents from Craigentinny Primary School had a number of concerns about the proposal. They were unclear about the additional benefits the proposal would offer to the children attending Craigentinny Primary School and they did not think that the proposal made this sufficiently clear. They felt that they did not have enough information about the nature of the services likely to be offered by a child and family centre and that they needed greater information and reassurance on the impact this change may have on their child's education and on the local community. Parents also felt that it may also have a detrimental effect on the reputation on the school in the community.
- 2.5 Overall, staff from both Pilrig Child and Family Centre and Craigentinny Primary School were positive about the proposal. They felt that the new provision would offer benefits especially in relation to the building and space available. They were also positive about the provision for babies and the opportunities this would offer for improved transition throughout the early years and school stages. Staff from Craigentinny Primary School were very positive about the wider range of staff skills and resources that would be offered that would be of benefit to children and their parents in the school. Staff from both establishments raised reasonable

concerns about how the needs of the most vulnerable children aged three to five years and their families would be supported especially given the larger number of children in the nursery class and changes in staff ratios.

- 2.6 Children at Craigentenny Primary School were positive about the proposal. They felt that there would be more people using the school and that this might help the numbers of children attending the school. They also felt that it would help improve the school's reputation in the local community. They were also positive about children being able to come to the school as a baby and continuing their education to the age of 12. They felt that it would help fill up many of the empty spaces in the school. They were also very positive about new staff coming to work in the school.

### **3. Educational aspects of the proposal**

- 3.1 Pilrig Child and Family Centre is situated in the Pilrig area of Leith. The centre comprises a single storey building and has two playrooms, small office areas, a staffroom and toilets. The centre also has a temporary unit which is used by parents, visiting services and for group work. The building was assessed in 2009 as having an overall condition B – performing adequately but showing minor deterioration consistent with its construction date and use. Overall, the building is not fit for purpose. Both playrooms are small and there is significant water ingress in areas of the building. The heating and ventilation system is inadequate and means the building is very cold in the winter and hot in the summer. The centre has a very good garden area which is well used by children and staff. The council sets out in its proposal that the cost of repairs and maintenance to the building would be around £100,000 and that budget limitations mean that this would be restricted to keeping the property wind and watertight. The council has also set out how it can make savings which would make more funding available for the early years services across the council by relocating the provision.
- 3.2 The proposal sets out a range of educational benefits in relation to the children and families who would be supported by the new centre at Craigentenny Primary School. The proposal sets out clearly the range of benefits for children and their families in an improved learning environment. The new provision has spacious playroom areas and space for a range of other activities to take place and for other professionals to work. In addition, children would also benefit from access to the facilities available in Craigentenny Primary School, for example access to the gym hall. The proposal would allow a greater range of facilities to be offered which would benefit both the children and families accessing the centre and those who attend the school. The council's proposal also sets out potential benefits which relate to the range of services that would be provided in this universal setting. Co-location of the centre within Craigentenny Primary School would offer greater opportunities for integrated working amongst a range of professionals, for example across the early years centre, nursery class and early stages of the school and also working with others, for example, health and social services.

- 3.3 The council proposes that children currently attending Pilrig Child and Family Centre who are aged three to five, will attend the nursery class in Craigentenny Primary School. It recognises that there will be a need to support children in this new environment. However, the council needs to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on these children and their families arising from a possible reduction in support due to larger numbers of children, changes in staff ratios and the lack of available staff to support parents and families.
- 3.4 Whilst the council's proposal has set out the range of benefits for those children and their families attending the centre, it now needs to set out more clearly the benefits for those children attending Craigentenny Primary School. In doing so, it needs to provide greater information and reassurance to parents of children attending Craigentenny Primary School. In addition, the council should also seek the views of children attending Craigentenny Primary School who are affected by this proposal. Parents expressed concerns about the lack of information on the range of services likely to be offered by a Child and Family Centre. The council needs to consider how it can provide greater information and reassurance to parents of children attending Craigentenny Primary School.
- 3.5 The council has set out clearly how it intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects arising from the proposal. In addition, it needs to consider the short timescale it has given itself for implementation of the proposal. This includes the renovation works that will be required at Craigentenny Primary School and any disruption that this may cause.

#### **4. Summary**

- 4.1 Overall, the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to relocate services provided by Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School and establish Craigentenny Early Years Centre offers a range of clear educational benefits, particularly to those children and families who would be supported by the new centre. The council now needs to consider the wider benefits for those children and families affected who attend Craigentenny Primary School. The range of benefits that would arise from improved accommodation and facilities are clear and the greater use of available space in Craigentenny Primary School would benefit the new centre, the school and also help the council achieve best value by addressing the issues of under capacity.
- 4.2 The proposal needs to set out more clearly how the council will ensure there is no detrimental impact on those children and their families who will transfer from Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Nursery Class that may arise from a possible reduction in support due to larger numbers of children, changes in staff ratios and the lack of available staff to support parents and families. The council also needs to ensure careful transition planning for children with additional support needs.
- 4.3 Parents of children attending Craigentenny Primary School have raised a number of concerns as detailed at 2.4 above. The council now needs to take steps to provide parents with more detailed information, clarification and reassurance



about both the nature of the children's centre and also about the benefits for their children attending Craightinny Primary School. In taking forward this proposal, the council also needs to consider how it can best gather the views of the children attending Craightinny Primary School.

- 4.4 In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to ensure that the necessary renovation works can be completed within the short timescale.

**HM Inspectors**

**Education Scotland**

**January 2013**

**Craigentinny Primary School P3-7 Consultation Monday 28 January 2013**

90 pupils participated 55 (approx) male and 35 (approx) female. 4 (visible) bme pupils.

**1. When I was at Nursery I went to:**

| <b>Response</b>            | <b>Number</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Craigentinny nursery class | 69*           |
| Pilrig C&FC                | 7             |
| St Ninian's                | 0             |
| Other                      | 30            |
| Don't know                 | 1             |

\* some children attended a C&FC then came to our nursery so put up their hand for both.

**2. I've heard about the proposal to relocate Pilrig Child and Family centre (before today)**

| <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Not sure</b> |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 32         | 58        |                 |

**How have you heard about it?**

- Letter to parents - 11
- From teachers - 1
- Read about it in Evening News - 2
- Saw it on Facebook
- My mum/dad was at a meeting about it - 8

**3. I think if Pilrig Child and Family Centre relocate to the school it will make a difference to me**

| <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Don't know</b> |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 17         | 26        | 47                |

**Will make a difference because:**

- May have family that will use it.
- It might encourage more people to come to our school
- Help toddlers learn about our school.
- There will be more people in the building
- Be more noise!

**Won't make a difference because:**

- May hardly see them.
- If you don't have any family using it you may never see children in it.

**4. I think if Pilrig moves into the school it will make a difference to this area where we live**

| <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Don't know</b> |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 26         | 15        | 49                |

**Will make a difference because:**

- If you have family / friends using the Centre you might see them after school.
- The area will be busier with more families.
- It will mean there is a place to take your baby.

**Won't make a difference because:**

- We might not even notice extra people.

**Pupil Comments and Questions**

We asked the pupils if they had any questions about the proposed closure. Their questions were:

- Will we get to go and see the children?
- Will they play in the playground?