



Scotland
National Day Nurseries Association

*Brighter thinking
for early years



Principles of Partnership Working – March 2021

In September 2018 NDNA Scotland and COSLA agreed partnership principles regarding the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to support positive working relationships between local authority and partner providers.

It is the aim of the Scottish Government to reintroduce the statutory obligation in December 2020 for local authorities to deliver 1140 hours ELC, with a view to this happening in August 2021. Revisiting the partnership principles at this point will maintain and strengthen relationships between all parties working towards delivering 1140 hours ELC. These principles will ensure that we all work together to meet the needs and rights of all children at the centre of ELC.

We are therefore inviting you to adopt these partnership principles as good practice.

We all agree that first five years of a child's life being of utmost importance and we all agree to work together to ensure that we the undersigned are happy to work towards the following principles:

- Clear guidance in relation to expectations on both sides of the partnership
- There should be a recognition of views and needs of all parties, with the needs of children and young people at the very centre of ELC delivery
- There is a recognition that all parties are committed to funding follows the child and the provider neutral model where any provision as long as it is of high quality is of equal importance
- There should be transparency in terms of decision making by both local authorities and providers which impact on service delivery
- The local democratic processes covering accountability for decisions around ELC provision will be clearly set out
- All employers providing the funded entitlement on ELC will meet the latest version of the national standard requirements
- Regular meetings between local authority and funded providers with clear actions agreed where appropriate
- Local authorities and funded providers identify a key contact person for partnership matters. Any changes to this should be communicated in a timely manner
- Local authorities and funded providers should develop an agreement on the provision of training and sharing good practice to support the delivery of high quality ELC in their area
- Mutual respect for the skills, knowledge and expertise held by all parties.



These organisations have all endorsed these Partnership Principles