

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Gaelic Committee – 18 February 2010

Agenda Item	
Report No	

0-3 Childcare Provision Review Outcomes

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides an update to Members on the progress of the review of 0-3 Gaelic Medium provision in Highland. The report also highlights to Members the support and services that are available to families from the two main providers in Highland:

TAIC (formerly CNSA) and Care and Learning Alliance (CALA)

Included within this report is information and figures on the geographic areas covered by each provider: **Appendix 1 TAIC** groups and **Appendix 2a CALA** groups.

This report links to the following outcome of ‘**Strengthening the Highlands**’ and ‘What we will do for children and families’:-

- Continue to develop Gaelic Medium Education in pre-school and primary schools as well as expanding Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector.

1. Background

- 1.1 In August 2009, the Gaelic Committee recommended that a review be carried out on 0-3 provision within the Highland Council area and that more specific detail was required, regarding the number and location of groups for 0-3's.
- 1.2 In Highland, the 0-3 sector, is supported by two main umbrella organisations, namely TAIC, (formerly CNSA), and Care and Learning Alliance (CALA).

2. Providers

- 2.1 TAIC is a voluntary sector provider with charitable status, working with a network of member groups to provide Gaelic services and support to families, mainly in the pre-school sector, who are interested in learning Gaelic and passing the language on to the next generation.
- 2.2 TAIC works with parents and extended family members, encouraging the growth of Gaelic in the home and community through a variety of groups, e.g.
 - Bumps and Babies/Altram;
 - Parent is Paiste playgroups;

- Croileagan playgroups for 2 and 3 year olds;
 - Croileagan Partner centre for 3 & 4 year olds , currently 4 in Highland
 - Gaidhlig san Dachaigh classes; and
 - Total Immersion Plus,(TIP) Gaelic Language acquisition courses.
- 2.3 TAIC, currently has a network of approximately 30 “Parant is Paiste” (parent and toddler), and croileagan (2 & 3 year olds) spread across Highland (see **Appendix 1**), the Council funds TAIC to employ the services of a Development Officer and to administer grant funding to groups struggling with for example hall rents etc.
- 2.4 The role of the Development officer is to offer support to TAIC’s member groups through the delivery of training, quality assurance, information, guidance, funding, advice and networking opportunities. The officer also supports committees with a wide range of issues, e.g Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- 2.5 The Care and Learning Alliance (CALA), is a voluntary sector umbrella organisation with charitable status that works to provide a broad range of childcare and family support services. They offer support to voluntary groups providing child care and early education opportunities to parents, take a lead in promoting high standards of practice and promote learning through play and activities.
- 2.6 Through its family support services, CALA employs the services of 6 toddler facilitators, across Highland, see **Appendix 2a and 2b**). These workers currently offer support to more than 80 parent and toddler groups. Their remit is to provide support to the voluntary committees and assist them to run positive play and well-being activities, promoting for example, Birth to Three and provide activities to support “Play @ Home” and healthy food.

3. Early Years Review

- 3.1 We are also awaiting the recommendation from the recently completed Early Years Review, carried out by the Scottish Government and Bord na Gàidhlig.

The final report and recommendations were due to be completed by July 2009. This will be important in defining the way forward in the 0-3 sector in Highland.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 Mapping provision in this sector has been gathered by contacting TAIC, CALA, committees and play groups around the Highland area. This information has been gathered by:-

- making phone calls to committee contacts;
- using Scottish Childcare Website (CHIS);
- contacting Gaelic organisations and officers;
- e-mails;
- following up leads from various contacts, 3-5 provisions; and
- community websites /notice boards.

- 4.2 The mapping of provision in this sector has proved to be challenging and time consuming, due to the information not being held in a central point and that information held by umbrella organisations is in some cases out of date.
- 4.3 This mapping exercise is near to completion and will provide details of when groups are meeting, venues, contacts etc. This will enable us to identify where there are gaps in provision.
- 4.4 Visits were made to 30 playgroups, sometimes with development officers and toddler facilitators.

5 Initial Findings

- 5.1 Initial findings in the review indicate that it is crucial to have Gaelic speakers in parent and toddler groups supporting Gaelic language. In order for Gaelic to thrive in the 0-3 sector, it is essential that we have Gaelic speakers as an integral part of parent and toddler groups to lead on for example the use of Gaelic songs, rhymes, stories and Gaelic language acquisition, through using Cluich@Taigh (Play@Home) and play activities.
- 5.2 In many of the Gaelic parent and toddler, across Highland, this is not the case and consequently parent and toddler groups/playgroups are struggling and in some instances, very little Gaelic is being used. The employment of Gaelic play leaders is cost prohibitive and currently there is no funding stream that meets this need.
- 5.3 Clearer links and communication also require to be strengthened between the Gaelic 0-3, parents and the 3-5 pre-school sectors.

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to:-

- 6.1 note and comment on the contents of this report; and
- 6.2 agree a full report on a sustainable model of Gaelic medium provision for 0-3 year olds be taken back to Committee, following more detailed discussions with service providers, Bord na Gàidhlig and relevant umbrella organisations.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 8 February 2010

Author: Mary Morrison, Childcare & Family Resource Officer (Gaelic)

APPENDIX 1

Area/Town	Name of group	0-3 Parant is Paiste	2-3 Cròileagan	3 Cròileagan/Sgoil- araich	Total	Notes
CSER						
1	Thurso	Rionnagan Beaga Inbhir Theorsa P&T	6		6	
2	Thurso	Cròileagan Inbhir Theorsa PC		15	15	
3	Tain	Cròileagan Bhaile Dhuthaich	5		5	
4	Bonar Bridge	Cròileagan a' Chaolais	18		18	
	Total		29	0	15	44
RSL						
5	Dingwall	Ceuman Beaga P&P	8		8	
6	Dingwall	Mathan Beaga/Cròileagan		10	10	
7	Dingwall	Cròileagan Inbhir Pheofharain PC		13	13	
8	Gairloch	Cròileagan Ghearrloch	9		9	
9	Ullapool	Cròileagan Ulapul	6		6	Not running at present
10	Applecross	Cròileagan A' Chomraich		1	1	After school club
11	Plockton	Parant is Paiste a' Phluic	5		5	
12	Roybridge	Rionnagan Beaga a' Bhraigh	9		9	
13	Roybridge	Sgoil Araich a' Bhraigh PC		4	4	
14	Fort William	Cròileagan a' Ghearasdan	9		9	
15	Fort William	Grianach	10		10	
16	Glencoe	Casan Beaga Clen Comhainn	5		5	
17	Arisaig	Cròileagan Arasaig	10		10	No Gaelic Playleader
18	Morar	Cròileagan Morar	10		10	
19	Acharacle	Cearcall Ath Tharracaill	9	5	14	
20	Portree	Rionnagan Beaga Phortrigh	20		20	
21	Portree	Cròileagan Phortrigh	6		6	
22	Broadford	Cròileagan an Ath Leathann	6		6	
23	Sleat	Cròileagan Shleite	12		12	
24	Dunvegan	Rionnagan Beaga Dhun Bheagan	6		6	
25	Staffin	Rionnagan Beaga Stafainn	0		0	Closed
	Total		140	15	18	173
INBS						
26	Inverness	Cròileagan Inbhir Nis PC	0		0	Closed
27	Nairn	Buidheann Paisdean Inbhir Narann	15		15	
28	Nairn	Cròileagan Inbhir Narann PC		7	7	CALA Managed
29	Culloden	Cròileagan Cuil Lodair	0	0	0	Closed
30	Tomatin	Cròileagan Tom Aitainn	6		6	
31	Newtonmore	Cròileagan Bhaideanach	0		0	Closed ?
	Total		21	0	7	28
	Grand Total		21	1	4	245

CARE AND LEARNING ALLIANCE
 FAMILY SUPPORT
PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS
October-December 2009
SUMMARY OF INVOLVEMENT

APPENDIX 2b

No of Groups supported		No of Children		No of Families
Total Number of Groups Supported	Total Number of Visits this term	Total Number of Children involved in the project	Total number of families involved in the project	
16	80	335	274	NORTH
31	113	471	381	WEST
39	107	695	576	EAST
86	300	1501	1231	TOTALS