

Mayfield Early Learning Centre (ELC) Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is Speech and Language Communication (SLC) being moved to outreach?

A. The closure of the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision which is currently hosted at Mayfield Nursery School, and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

Q. Why is the nursery going under the leadership of St Lukes PS which is denominational, as most of the children who attend the nursery transition to Mayfield PS?

A. In designing the school estate, it is important to balance the range of provisions within each establishment. The proposed new Mayfield Primary School will have a new additional support needs (ASN) provision. The proposal to establish the non-denominational ELC at St Luke's ensures both schools provide an educational service beyond that of mainstream classes supporting collaboration and collegiate working across the campus. All early learning and childcare in Midlothian are non-denominational, even if the setting is in a denominational school and there are no catchment areas for ELC provisions.

Q. Will the changes not add more pressure onto the Headteachers/staff?

A. Mayfield ELC would be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the early years setting are carried out. The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children adhering to Care inspectorate guidelines around Safer Staffing.

Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions, and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ELC setting. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.

The proposed Mayfield ELC setting will be led and managed by a dedicated Early Years Depute Head Teacher under the overall leadership of the Head Teacher at St Luke's RC Primary School

Q. What will happen to the Sure Start building?

A. The building will be demolished by Summer 2025 but will remain operational up until that point.

Midlothian Council will work with Midlothian Sure Start, who currently operate in the building, to explore the buildings nearby.

Q. The SLC provision has benefitted and been an invaluable support to so many children, how can Midlothian Council ensure that the same level of access will be available and provided when it moves to outreach?

A. The education ASN team have explored best practice models operating in other local authorities to ensure that if the service moves to an outreach delivery model it will meet the needs of our children and young people. A number of local authorities operate a successful outreach model, and it will be our intent to provide an effective service.

Q. Will the current SLC staff move to outreach?

A. If, subject to the council's decision, the SLC provision closes and moves to an outreach service, transfer of staff from the current SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions, and professional associations where appropriate.