Gordon Park
Early Learning & Childcare Centre

Business Plan
October 2026 update

Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare

Business Plan

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1 Introduction:

a Who We Are

We are Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare (GPELC); a charity Early Years provider and have served the Ellon community for forty years. As an organisation we are extremely proud of who we are and what we offer.

We provide a nurturing, stimulating learning environment for children between two and five years old, from Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm during term time. We can currently cater for up to eighteen children per session and currently have 35 children attending the setting. We regularly hold a waiting list for spaces.

Our vision at Gordon Park ELC is that our entire team will strive to provide high-quality play-based learning and childcare that is fun, nurturing, safe, inclusive and keeps the child at the centre in everything we do. We believe whole-heartedly that this will enable our children to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective communicators.

Our purpose is to provide high-quality early care and play-based learning for children. We put children, and their families, at the heart of everything we do, and believe so strongly in our holistic approach. We believe that parents and carers are a child's first educator and are paramount in shaping early brain development, language acquisition, and emotional security. We therefore work in partnership with parents and carers, and where possible the wider family and community, in all we do.

Our aims are to:

-support health and wellbeing using all the wellbeing indicators to promote a healthy lifestyle and outdoor learning experiences
to create trusting relationships with our families through open respectful communication
-be inclusive, accepting and supportive of all our families where everyone's voice is valued
- encourage all children to have fun learning through play developing their curiosity

and creativity through an enabling environment

We achieve our aims by living out our values daily:

Family Nurture

Families come in all shapes and sizes. We believe in supporting families to be nurturing and helping to restore emotional connection if it has been disrupted.

Health and Wellbeing

We believe that habits formed in childhood can last a lifetime and so we are passionate about promoting health and wellbeing.

Inclusion

We are a welcoming and inclusive setting. Simply put, discrimination is unlawful and not in keeping with the aims and values of GPELC.

Learning Through Play

Learning through play has been at the core of all we do since GPELC was founded. It is fundamental to who we are, and it helps our children to make sense of the world around them. Through play children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments.

Rights Of Children

We are a Rights Respecting School, working towards Silver Level. The difference that this makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community, because

- children are healthier and happier
- children feel safe
- children have better relationships
- children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

b Our Project and Summary

We are seeking to secure the long-term lease of Castlepark Community House, Craigievar Crescent, Ellon as we are currently in temporary accommodation.

The necessary building renovation works are estimated to take six months from gaining building access. The capital cost for the work is approximately £70,000, which will be funded through targeted grant applications and community donations. These applications are fully prepared for immediate submission upon approval of our Community Asset Transfer. The

renovation works will be carried out by qualified local tradespeople who have already surveyed the site and committed to undertaking the project.

Primary stakeholders and delivery partners for this project include Aberdeenshire Council, Care Inspectorate, grant funding bodies, the wider Ellon community, as well as our members.

2. Organisation, Management and Partnerships

a) Legal Status, Aims, and Catchment Area

GPELC operates as a self-sustaining registered charity under the legal structure of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) under charity number SC006527. Our primary catchment area spans the town of Ellon and its surrounding rural Aberdeenshire communities.

Our core aims are to support child health and wellbeing, foster trusting relationships with families, promote total inclusion, and deliver high-quality early learning through play. Please see our full constitution which can be found in Appendix A.

b) Current Services and Project Track Record

We currently provide a nurturing, stimulating early years environment for up to 35 local children aged two to five, operating Monday to Friday, 9am–3pm during term time.

Over our 40-year history in Ellon, GPELC has demonstrated exceptional resilience and project delivery capabilities. Most notably, when severe building infrastructure issues forced us to vacate our long-term home of 38 years immediately, our staff and Management Committee at the time successfully executed an emergency transition into our current temporary accommodation. This complex move was handled seamlessly; our staff minimized operational disruptions so effectively that the children settled into the new environment quickly and happily. This proven track record confirms our organisation's capability to manage large-scale transitions and property assets responsibly.

c) Governance, Decision-Making, and Community Involvement

GPELC is fundamentally embedded in the local community. Our governance structure relies on a Management Committee composed entirely of local parent and carer volunteer trustees.

The Management Committee: [redacted] (Chair), [redacted] (Vice Chair/Secretary), [redacted] (Treasurer), and [redacted] (Fundraising Lead) act as the governing board. They meet very regularly to review financial performance, strategic goals, and regulatory compliance.

Senior Management Team: Day-to-day childcare operations are led by [redacted] (Acting Manager). The Manager handles operational safety and curriculum delivery, reporting directly to the Committee via formal monthly management reviews.

Financial & Operational Administration: [redacted] (Accountant and Administrator) oversees strict financial reporting and day-to-day office administration. Independent fiscal oversight is provided by our Trustee Treasurer, [redacted]

Operational Staff: Our staff team consists of fully qualified, SSSC-registered, and PVG-checked Early Years Practitioners: [redacted] (full time), [redacted] (full time), [redacted] (part-time- three days per week), and [redacted] (part-time- two days per week, starting August 2026).

All staff and practitioners are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), and our service is fully registered with and regulated by the Care Inspectorate.

d) Partnerships

We already work in close partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and Care Inspectorate. At every stage of our proposed project, we will lean on these partnerships for advice, guidance, permission and regulations, as we always have.

e) Operational Policies and Insurances

GPELC holds comprehensive Public Liability Insurance as well as Buildings and Contents Insurance. Fully audited copies of our operational policies are maintained and regularly updated to reflect Aberdeenshire Council requirements. Appendix B includes our current policies relating to:

i) Health & Safety (includes Risk Assessments)
ii) Smoking
iii) Emergencies (includes Fire Safety and Emergency evacuation, Critical Incident Response)
iv) Recruitment Policy
v) Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

3. Project Background and Asset Required: our story and our vision

Having started at Gordon Park Pavilion in 1986, we were devastated when in 2024 we had to leave the site very suddenly, due to irreparable issues with the building (which is now being prepared to be demolished). Our dedicated staff team and previous committee members undertook the enormous task of establishing and moving quickly to a temporary home at Ellon Community Campus, with the children at the forefront of all decisions taken, and all credit is due to the team that the children have settled incredibly well.

Ellon Community Campus has been an excellent temporary home for us, and thanks to our amazing staff team the children settled very quickly into the new space, but for us to continue to move forward and thrive we need a much longer-term base. Our space is shared with the After School Club, and so our set up is limited and we are required to pack away everything we use daily. Crucially, this temporary setting is not financially viable as a long-term option, largely due to the cost of the rent.

After a lengthy process of site visits around Ellon, Castlepark Community House was identified by our previous Management Committee, along with the Care Inspectorate, as a suitable long-term home, and we are now looking to secure this on the basis of a long-term lease for 25 years. (Our Expression of Interest form stated 20 years, but we realised that some major funders prefer a longer tenure). Our application includes an area of outdoor space accessible from the building, to create an enclosed, safe outdoor learning area.

We believe that the lease of Castlepark Community House would not only allow us to settle in a place of our own, giving us more opportunity to achieve our aims, but to build on and develop what we already offer to our children, as well as the wider community in Ellon. The locality of the woodland area, play park, car park and being more central to the town of Ellon is something we are very excited about.

4. Proposal

a Aims, Objectives, and Targets

The primary objective of this project is to permanently transition GPELC into Castlepark Community House, allowing our organisation to flourish, and expand our childcare and community impact.

We would be working towards the following aims:

Operational Flexibility: Expanding our operating hours beyond our current 9am–3pm term-time schedule to provide flexible, wrap-around childcare options that better support working families.

Community Hub Creation: Allowing community use property outside nursery hours by renting the facility to local groups and organisations, bringing the building back to life as the only building of this nature on this side of Ellon.

Infrastructure Compliance: Carrying out essential building updates to ensure compliance with Care Inspectorate standards.

b Alignment with Aberdeenshire Council Local Priorities

We believe that this project does align well with Aberdeenshire Council's strategic vision.

Building a Sustainable Economy

By expanding our childcare capacity and extending our operating hours, we remove significant barriers to employment and training for local parents and carers. Affordable, accessible childcare keeps families in the workforce, boosts household incomes, and reduces child poverty. Furthermore, our project funnels a £70,000 capital investment directly into the local economy by hiring qualified local tradespeople to execute the building renovations.

Fostering Connected Communities

As the only civic building of its nature on this side of Ellon, we aim to transform Castlepark Community House into a vibrant neighbourhood asset. Opening the doors to external groups and organisations outside nursery hours creates a cohesive community hub. This prevents social isolation, builds local partnerships, and ensures that the asset serves a wide, inclusive demographic of Ellon residents.

Helping Residents Live Well Locally

Our holistic early years curriculum places health, wellbeing, and child development at the heart of our operations. Transitioning to this site allows us to leverage its immediate proximity to local woodlands and play parks. This drastically expands our daily outdoor learning experiences, fostering healthy lifestyles and physical activity for children between two and five years old. It embeds a culture of wellbeing right at the start of early brain and physical development.

Tackling Climate Change

GPELC is committed to sustainable environmental principles. By securing a permanent facility within walking distance of local residential areas, we promote active travel (walking and cycling) for families during the daily drop-off and pick-up routines, reducing short-car journeys in Ellon. Additionally, our outdoor and woodland learning curriculum teaches young children the value of biodiversity, conservation, and climate awareness through direct, hands-on experiences with nature.

5 Community Needs

a Location

The project will be delivered at Castlepark Community House, Craigievar Crescent, Ellon.

b Current Gaps in Service Provision

Our temporary emergency setting at Ellon Community Campus restricts our operating hours from 9am to 3pm during term time, which creates a barrier for busy family lives, and we want to be more helpful to working families.

We believe our project fills a gap in local childcare services as we are a small Early Years setting which is highly beneficial for some children

Since Castlepark Community House ceased operating as an active public space, the residential community on this side of Ellon has lacked a neighbourhood hub.

c Target Users or Visitors

Our project relies on localised user feedback to serve three target demographics:

Primary Users - children and their families

Local families requiring highly nurturing early years childcare. Moving to a permanent facility will allow us to break free from the constraints of our temporary space. This enables us to expand our operating hours from 9am–3pm to a proposed schedule of 8:30am–4:30pm, directly addressing the needs of working parents.

Intergenerational Community Members

We actively seek to include grandparents, other relatives, and local community volunteers in our learning, and through this we see many benefits for communities in creating opportunities for meaningful ways to share their skills, life experience, and wisdom with the younger generation to build a stronger community.

Local Community Groups

Regional community organisations looking for an affordable venue to rent outside of standard nursery hours.

d Quantifiable Impact

This project will directly address the immediate needs of an estimated 120+ individuals annually:

35–45 local children receiving direct, high-quality early years placements (plus any number of families on our waiting list).

70–90 parent/carer units who will benefit from extended hours to sustain full-time employment.

10-20 local senior volunteers and relatives engaged in our intergenerational community partnerships.

e Removing Barriers to Participation

GPELC actively seeks to remove socioeconomic, physical, and developmental barriers to ensure inclusion, and having our own long-term venue will help to address:

Developmental & Emotional Barriers

Over the next three to five years, we hope to be executing a strategic plan via a Robertson Trust fund grant application to fully train our staff in trauma-informed practices. We believe that this specialised training will make GPELC the first childcare setting in Ellon to be fully trauma-informed, lowering emotional barriers and providing a haven for vulnerable children.

Financial & Operational Barriers

In our temporary campus layout, we are required to dismantle and pack away all equipment daily. Gaining our own space allows us to build permanent, highly specialised indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Geographic Barriers

Securing Castlepark Community House allows families active travel (walking and cycling) to a central location. Being closer to the town will help parents who are also dropping off and collecting older siblings from Ellon schools.

f Strategic Links to National and Regional Frameworks

Our proposed move to Castlepark is, we believe, in line with broader national initiatives:

The Scottish Government's GIRFEC Framework & "The Promise"

Our planned trauma-informed training strategy and small nurturing environment support national child welfare objectives by protecting emotional security and whole-family wellbeing.

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

GPELC is currently a Bronze Level UNICEF Rights Respecting School and actively working towards Silver Level. This rights-based framework ensures that child voice, safety, and respect are embedded into our daily operational delivery.

National Outdoor Play & Carbon Reduction Strategies

We are currently in the process of securing funding to train our practitioners as certified Forest School Practitioners. We will use this training to maximise the potential of the neighbouring woodland area. To support this, we will construct an enclosed outdoor learning area featuring our own garden, allotment, and growing zone, supporting national health, biodiversity, and sustainability priorities.

6 Project, resources and funding:

GPELC Finance, Management Plan, Project Plan and Costs

GPELC Finance Overview

Gordon Park Early Learning Centre operates as a self-sustaining charity. Our primary financial commitments are fully covered by predictable, core revenue streams: private parental fees and statutory early years funding from Aberdeenshire Council for funded hours. To ensure careful financial oversight, we employ a professional accountant alongside a highly experienced grants advisor. Please see Appendix C for our three-year financial forecast.

Current Financial Context & Resilience

Since relocating from the Gordon Park Pavilion 18 months ago to the Ellon Community Campus, our rental outgoings have doubled. Despite this sudden financial pressure, our careful management of finance has ensured we have remained stable. Moving to Castlepark will stabilise these outgoings further.

Project Capital Costs & Future Income Expansion

Transition & Project Setup Costs: All immediate non-capital relocation costs will be funded through targeted applications to grant and trust bodies.

Community Hub: If our CAT is successful, we intend to slowly develop Castlepark into a wider community hub. We propose a highly accessible rental rate of £15 per hour for the main room, based on other similar venues around Ellon.

Income Projection Example: If just two local groups hire the space for two hours a week, this generates an additional £240 per month. Once we are settled in at Castlepark (assuming successful CAT) we would love to become a Community Hub, and a useful asset for the local area. This has not been included on our financial forecast because it's proposed income that would require a process of gauging community interest first. We anticipate that once the renovation work is well under way we will begin this process.

Management Plan

We will continue to manage our organisation in the same way we have done up to this point, and will consider setting up an Asset Sub-Committee: a dedicated volunteer operations group (comprising a facilities lead, the GPELC treasurer, and a community representative) to oversee daily building management, utilities, and room hire.

In addition to this we will aim to have the following in place:

Asset Maintenance & Sinking Fund

- Since all existing building issues will be fully resolved and modernised *before* occupancy, our strategy shifts from reactive repairs to maintaining a baseline of excellence:

The 25-Year Sinking Fund: Even with a newly upgraded building, components like boilers, roofing membranes, and windows have defined lifecycles. We will hope to ring-fence 10% of all monthly rental revenue into a restricted capital reserve account.

Statutory Compliance: The committee will contract local certified engineers for mandatory yearly servicing: gas safety inspections, Legionella water testing, fire alarm checks, and regular PAT testing.

Planned Asset Care: A scheduled maintenance calendar (e.g., external painting every 5 years, gutter clearing bi-annually) will be created to protect the building fabric and prevent deterioration.

Long-Term Income Model

To ensure the building remains entirely self-sustaining, we hope to utilise three distinct incomes:

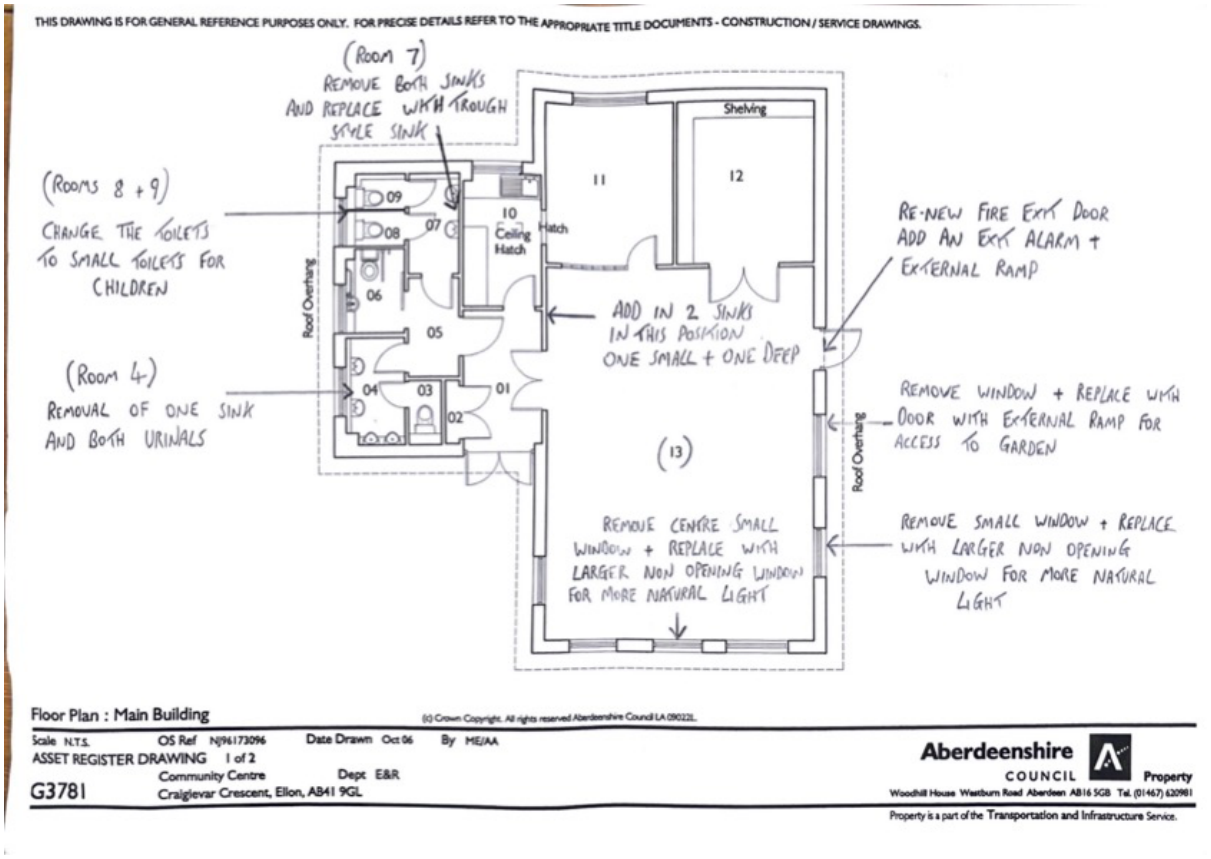
Childcare Income: Steady, predictable income generated via private parental fees and statutory Aberdeenshire Council early years funding blocks. This serves as the building's financial backbone.

Community Hub Space Hire: Main room lets priced at an affordable **£15 per hour** to keep the space accessible to local groups. This secondary revenue stream scales up over time and directly offsets the building's shared utility and heating overheads.

Community Events and Fundraising Activities: Low-cost community events run by our dedicated fundraising team (e.g., seasonal craft fayres, community café days, and uniform exchanges). 100% of these surplus profits would be put straight back into GPELC fund.

Project Plan and Costs

Some major adjustments to the building will be needed to comply with Care Inspectorate requirements. Please see below (and also in Appendix D) for the Site Plan. We have gathered quotes for the work, have a team of contractors in place ready to work together on the building, and we have matched these with funding and grants that we'd be eligible to apply for. One of our members with experience of project management of this nature will oversee the renovation work.


THIS DRAWING IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. FOR PRECISE DETAILS REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE TITLE DOCUMENTS - CONSTRUCTION / SERVICE DRAWINGS.
(Room 7)
REMOVE BOTH SINKS AND REPLACE WITH TROUGH STYLE SINK
(Rooms 8 + 9)
CHANGE THE TOILETS TO SMALL TOILETS FOR CHILDREN
(Room 4)
REMOVAL OF ONE SINK AND BOTH URINALS
Shelving
11
12
10
Ceiling Hatch
Hatch
09
08
07
06
05
04
03
02
01
Roof Overhang
ADD IN 2 SINKS IN THIS POSITION ONE SMALL + ONE DEEP
RE-NEW FIRE EXIT DOOR ADD AN EXIT ALARM + EXTERNAL RAMP
REMOVE WINDOW + REPLACE WITH DOOR WITH EXTERNAL RAMP FOR ACCESS TO GARDEN
(13)
Roof Overhang
REMOVE CENTRE SMALL WINDOW + REPLACE WITH LARGER NON OPENING WINDOW FOR MORE NATURAL LIGHT
REMOVE SMALL WINDOW + REPLACE WITH LARGER NON OPENING WINDOW FOR MORE NATURAL LIGHT
Floor Plan : Main Building
(c) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Aberdeenshire Council LA 090221.
Scale N.T.S.
OS Ref NJ96173096
Date Drawn Oct 06
By ME/AA
ASSET REGISTER DRAWING 1 of 2
Community Centre
Dept E&R
G3781
Craigievar Crescent, Ellon, AB41 9GL
Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Property
Woodhill House Westburn Road Aberdeen AB16 5GB Tel. (01467) 620981
Property is a part of the Transportation and Infrastructure Service.

Project Element	Work Details & Specifications	Approx. Cost
Plumbing & Heating Upgrades	Remove existing urinals. Install child-appropriate toilets, sinks, and cubicles to meet Care Inspectorate regulations. Install 1x adult and 1x child handwashing sink in the main playroom. Install a dedicated handwashing sink and extractor fan in the kitchen. Complete heating overhaul: gas boiler installation, underfloor heating in the main room, and radiators throughout.	£29k
Windows & Doors	Install large glass doors to create essential free-flow access to the rear outdoor learning area. Extend one small window in the main room downwards to maximize external views and natural internal light.	£15k
Enclosed Outdoor Space	Erect approximately 50 meters of secure perimeter fencing with a integrated side gate to enclose the designated outdoor learning and allotment space.	£7k
Solar Panels	Technical feasibility and structural survey currently underway to investigate solar panel installation for long-term energy sustainability.	TBC
Total Project Estimate		c£60,000* *(Plus TBC elements)*

We anticipate this work being completed within six months.

6. Risk Register (updated October 2026)

Risk Category	Risk Scenario	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigating Actions	Residual Risk	Contingency Plan ("Plan B")
Asset & Lease Liability	Hidden structural defects cause extra renovation costs before existing renovation plans even start	Medium / High	We're in the process of finding a surveyor, and will commission the survey as soon as their availability allows.	**Low / Medium**	We will be commissioning the survey to be completed before the Asset Transfer process has ended. (Any roof work will be seen to by one of our members). We would consider using our current fundraising money for this.
Early Years Compliance	Layout fails Care Inspectorate standards. Building contains undisturbed asbestos/legionella.	Low / High Low / High	Submit plans early (done). Never do anything to the building without going via Care Inspectorate first. Commission asbestos surveys and flush/chlorinate water systems as the next task after building survey.	**Low** **Low**	Redesign layout if CI aren't happy with anything. Delay other renovation work until this is sorted.
Funding to pay for renovation work	GPELC fails to be successful in grant applications.	Medium / High	Phase works. Works most essential completed first. Once building safe enough to move in, complete remaining work during school holidays. Complete all safety works first (eg electrical safety certificate, EICR). Highlight in grant funding applications that we have a planned date for implementation of Living Wage on 1.04.27	**Medium**	Remain at Ellon Community Campus for longer. Continue to apply for grants. Appeal to local businesses for support. Use a 'gofundme' appeal to the local community. Consideration is being given to an application for a Social Investment Fund through

					Foundation Scotland. We are also now in discussion with the social enterprise Wood Recyclability who will give us some new quotes for some of the work, which we anticipate to be at much lower cost.
Revenue Sustainability	Take up of nursery places falls, making lease unsustainable. Falling birth rate across Aberdeenshire (see table on next page)	Low / High	Develop further as a Community Hub (outside-hours hire). Consider after-school/breakfast/holiday clubs. Consider expanding provision to under 2s.	**Low / Medium**	Scale back staff recruitment or shift to part-time models.

7. Conclusion

We believe that by taking on Castlepark Community House we could become a bigger asset to the community than we already are, due to the flexibility and creativity it would provide for us. We are confident that this building, as well as its setting would allow the children to thrive in every way, and we know that the local community will be excited to see the building occupied and used again in such a positive way. We have a strong legacy and excellent reputation locally and are looking forwards to the future with great energy and determination.

Finally, we feel it's important to add that we will, of course, need to change our name, as 'Gordon Park' would no longer be appropriate! Our practitioners and children are working on this..... 🙂

8. Appendices

Appendix A: Constitution (attached to CAT application email)

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Appendix F: Support from local partnership organisations

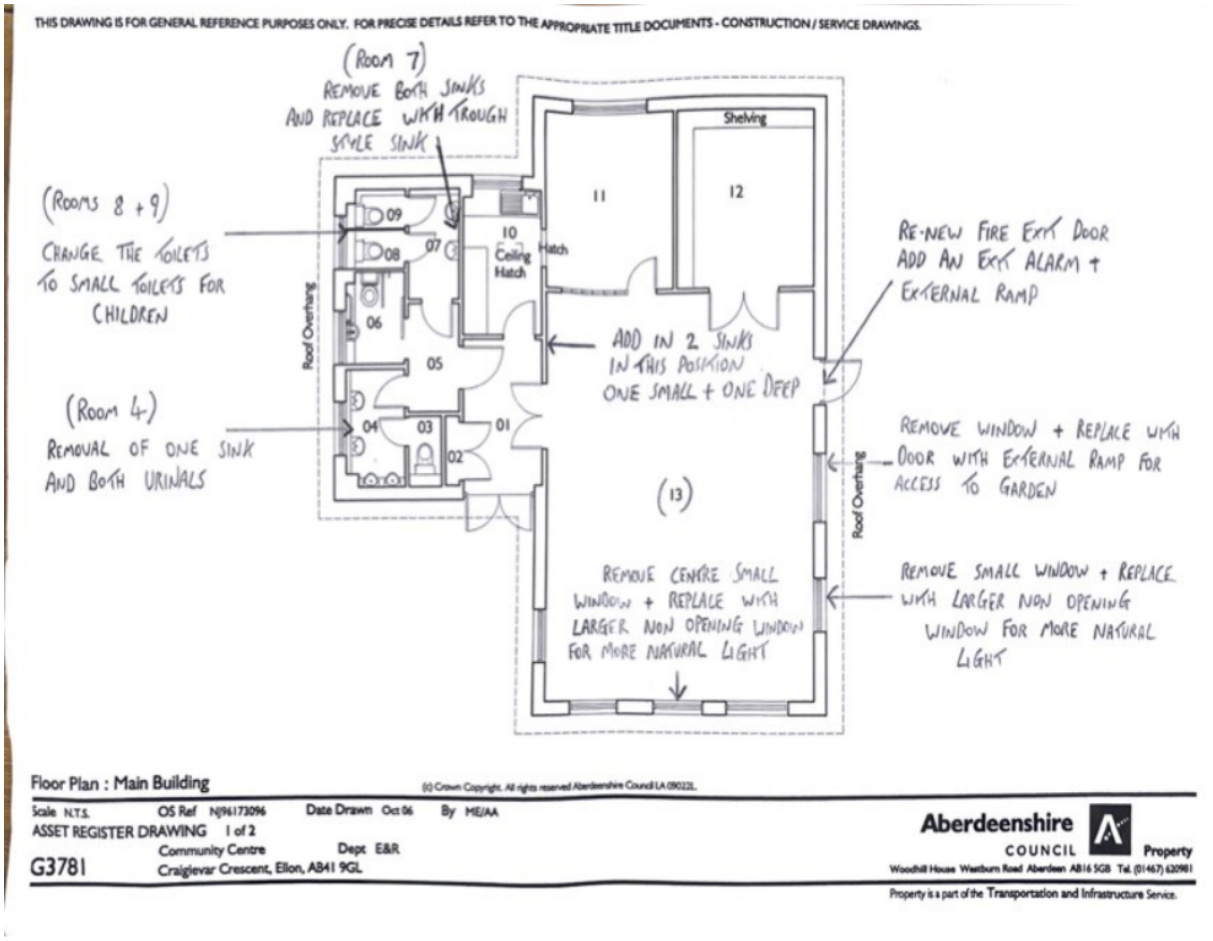
Appendix G: Info on school rolls

Appendix C GPELC Financial Forecast

Gordon Park ELC														
Income and Expenditure Forecast														
	Notes	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Total 8 mths	Notes	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27
Income (no. of weeks)		2	5	2	4	3	4	4	3			3	5	4
Funded	1	6,100	15,100	6,100	12,100	9,100	12,100	12,100	9,100	**81,800**	6	12,070	20,172	16,093
Private		1,300	3,300	1,300	2,600	2,000	2,600	2,600	2,000	**17,700**	7	2,600	4,400	3,500
Other	2	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	**2,400**		300	300	300
Total Income		**7,700**	**18,700**	**7,700**	**15,000**	**11,400**	**15,000**	**15,000**	**11,400**	**101,900**		**14,970**	**24,872**	**19,893**
Expenditure														
Wages and Staff Costs	3	7,542	7,542	7,542	7,542	7,542	7,542	7,542	7,542	**60,333**	8	9,600	9,600	9,600
Administration	5	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	**7,200**	9	927	927	927
Facilities	4	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550	**20,400**	10	900	900	900
Nursery Costs		700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	**5,600**	9	721	721	721
Total Expenditure		**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**11,692**	**93,533**		**12,148**	**12,148**	**12,148**
Net Operating Income & Expenditure		**(3,992)**	**7,008**	**(3,992)**	**3,308**	**(292)**	**3,308**	**3,308**	**(292)**	**8,367**		**2,822**	**12,724**	**7,745**
Notes														
1. Funding to March 2027 based on 89% utilisation of spaces available and Funded/Private split unchanged.														
2. Other Income assumes fundraising efforts maintained														
3. Wages and staff costs - Manager £15.50/hour and 3 x FTE at minimum wage														
4. Rent at Ellon Community Campus during term time pro rata per month £2.4k plus Phone/Broadband etc. £150/mth														
5. Assumes additional hours for P/T administrator + Finance Officer														
6. Assumes move to Castlepark is completed and maximum capacity is increased to 24. revenue increase of 33%														
7. Private fees assumed to be 21.8% of Funded Income														
8. Increase in capacity will require additional 1 FTE. All FTE will have increased wages to NLW. Assumes £21.7k fully costed per FTE and £28.4k for Mgr.														
9. Inflationary increase from April 2027														
10. Assumes move to Castlepark completed in Q1. Estimated costs pa														
Electricity and Gas		5,000												
Buildings Insurance		1,500												
Phone & Broadband		900												
Maintenance		2,000												
Cleaning		1,200												
Total		10,600												
11. Assumes capacity unchanged and 3% inflation increase in Funded income. No increase in Private Fees														
12. Assumes 3% increase from April 2028														
13. Assumes 3.5% inflation increase														
14. Additional spend on resources and trips to enhance children's experiances														

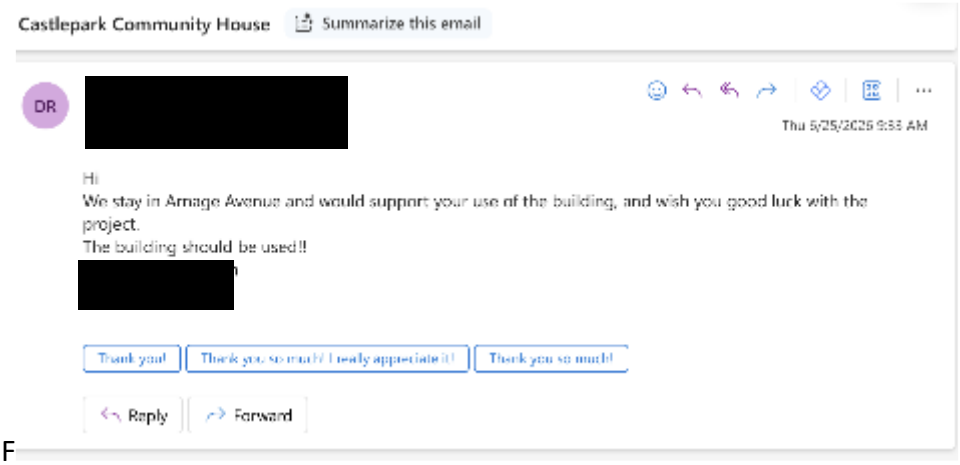
Jul-27	Total 4 Mths	Total - YE 31/07/27	Notes	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-27	Nov-27	Dec-27	Jan-28	Feb-28	Mar-28	Apr-28	May-28	Jun-28	Jul-28	Total - YE 31/07/28
-				2	4	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	5	4	-	
-	**48,334**	**130,134**	11	8,300	16,600	8,300	16,600	12,400	16,600	16,600	12,400	12,400	20,700	16,600	-	**157,500**
-	**10,500**	**28,200**		1,700	3,500	1,700	3,500	2,600	3,500	3,500	2,600	2,600	4,400	3,500		**33,100**
300	**1,200**	**3,600**		300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	**3,600**
300	**60,034**	**161,934**		**10,300**	**20,400**	**10,300**	**20,400**	**15,300**	**20,400**	**20,400**	**15,300**	**15,300**	**25,400**	**20,400**	**300**	**194,200**
9,600	**38,400**	**98,733**	12	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	**116,400**
927	**3,708**	**10,908**	13	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	**12,000**
900	**3,600**	**24,000**	13	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	914	**10,971**
721	**2,884**	**8,484**	14	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	**11,000**
12,148	**48,592**	**142,125**		**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,514**	**12,814**	**12,814**	**12,814**	**11,814**	**150,371**
(11,848)	**11,442**	**19,809**		**(2,214)**	**7,886**	**(2,214)**	**7,886**	**2,786**	**7,886**	**7,886**	**2,786**	**2,486**	**12,586**	**7,586**	**(11,514)**	**43,829**

Appendix D Site Plan

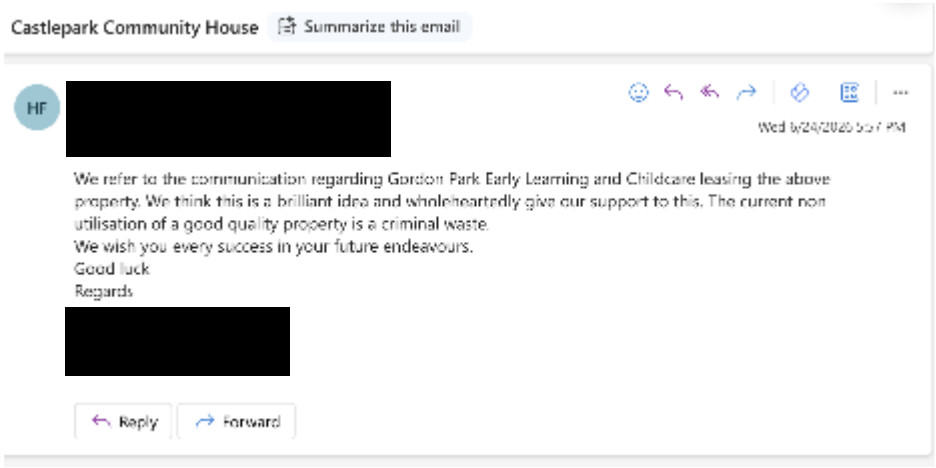


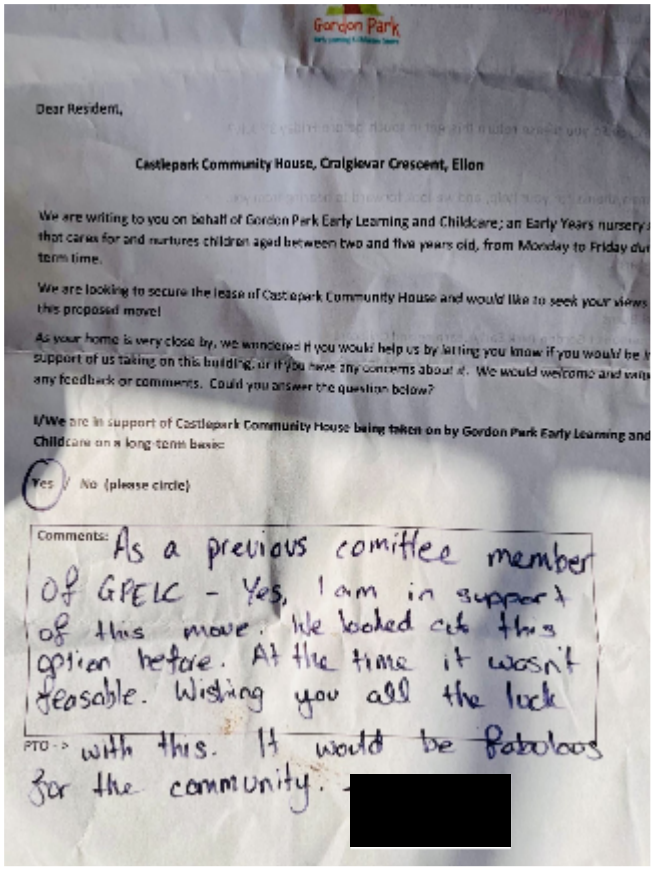
Appendix E Support from residents (houses that back onto or are situated close to Castlepark)

(Paper copies a bit crumpled because the children of the Committee helped to deliver them!)



F





Gordon Park

Dear Resident,

Castlepark Community House, Craigievar Crescent, Ellon

We are writing to you on behalf of Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare; an Early Years nursery
that cares for and nurtures children aged between two and five years old, from Monday to Friday du
term time.

We are looking to secure the lease of Castlepark Community House and would like to seek your views
this proposed move!

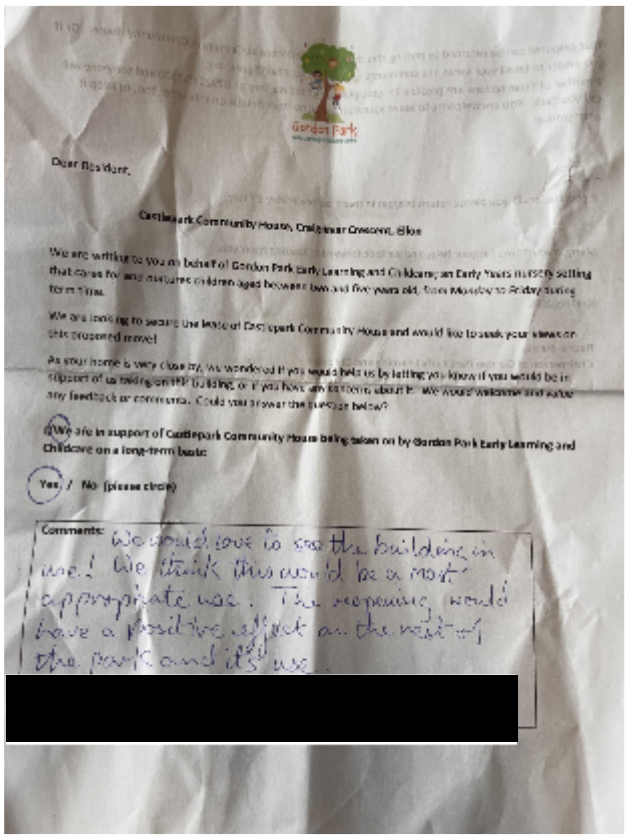
As your home is very close by, we wondered if you would help us by letting you know if you would be
support of us taking on this building, or if you have any concerns about it. We would welcome and
any feedback or comments. Could you answer the question below?

I/We are in support of Castlepark Community House being taken on by Gordon Park Early Learning and
Childcare on a long-term basis:

(Yes) / No (please circle)

Comments: As a previous comittee member of GPELC - Yes, I am in support of this move. We looked at this option before. At the time it wasn't feasable. Wishing you all the luck with this. It would be fabulous for the community. [redacted]

PTO ->



Dear Resident,

Castlepark Community House, Childwall Crescent, Ellon

We are writing to you on behalf of Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare, an Early Years nursery setting that caters for and nurtures children aged between two and five years old, from Monday to Friday during term time.

We are looking to secure the lease of Castlepark Community House and would like to seek your views on this proposed move.

As your home is very close by, we wondered if you would help us by letting us know if you would be in support of us taking on the building, or if you have any concerns about it. We would welcome and value any feedback or comments. Could you answer the questions below?

1) We are in support of Castlepark Community House being taken on by Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare on a long-term basis:

Yes / No (please circle)

Comments: We would love to see the building in use! We think this would be a most appropriate use. The refurbishment would have a positive effect on the visitors of the park and its use.

[redacted]

Appendix F Support from organisations we have partnered with

Hi [redacted]

It has been wonderful to see your children engaging in our garden spaces at Ellon Academy. They have worked hard and planted a good variety of crops and flowers. This year their potatoes, carrots and strawberries are all coming onwell!

It has also been beneficial for my own pupils to see the younger children in the garden. They have shown responsibility and care around them for them to be safe. They have also been interested to see your Gordon Park Nursery labels to know which areas you are growing in.

I would love for you to be able to continue gardening and would be happy to build on this partnership in future.

I also fully support your move to Castlepark Community House and wish you well with the application.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Follow our progress at

Eagerbunch.blogspot.com

To Whom it May Concern,
Please accept this note of support for Gordon Park Early Learning and Childcare. They have proven themselves over a long number of years to be an essential service provision in Ellon for families and children. We have had the delight to partner with them hosting events for them in our Kirk Centre and they are always a delight to work with. We have also partnered in wider service to the community through their support of our Christmas Larder appeal which helps local families make ends meet at Christmas. GPELC have demonstrated great resilience over a very difficult period having had to move venues, but through that their support of families and commitment to the community has remained evident. We fully support their application for a permanent home and watch with anticipation to see them settled.

With many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hello [redacted]

I hope you are well,

We work very closely with [redacted], [redacted] and the rest of the team at the Gordon park preschool we have done for a number of years. Working together We feel is important for the children and residents as this helps to form relationships between the two ages and is just lovely to watch and be involved with.

These relationships increase both ages motor skills, helps keep both active and encourage confidence, emotional/ physical stimulation and trust.

When the preschool was in the old building across the park from us we often went over with the residents or went to watch the sports day in the park which we all enjoyed. We haven't managed to get the residents up to the academy as its to far, however the children do an amazing job walking down to us they then have their snack here and there parents collect them from here once the visit is finished, which is how we have come to build relationships with the children's families too.

We also did a work shop with the children and residents which ran over a number of weeks called "feeling fine" which allowed the children to try weaving and wool dying with the residents, video consent was given for all the children, residents and staff as there was videos and photos taken throughout, this was absolutely amazing to watch and we all got a bit teary watching it back, especially now when you see those children have moved on to school etc and still remember coming to see the residents at Ythanvale.

Our residents look forward to the group of children coming in to visit and play games etc We have a great intergenerational group going on every week for both the residents and the children get so much out of this, when the weather is nice we are in the garden and when not so nice we are in the lounge singing, playing games, colouring in or building models etc. its important for us to be part of the community as our residents have so any memories in Ellon etc so we try to encourage this as much as possible.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Hi [redacted]

That's good to hear you are hopefully going to be getting your new/own premises, the challenges of sharing premises are not the best and certainly takes its toll on setting up and putting away each day and the forward planning, having your own place makes everything less challenging on a daily basis, allowing more time to be with the children.

Here is a wee bit about Childsmile/Me, I hope this is what your looking for.

I have been Visiting Gordon Park playgroup for 12 years as a Dental Health Support worker, during that time I have worked with various staff.
It seems a lovely playgroup and they always make me feel welcome, are doing a good job of toothbrushing.
Childsmile is a national programme funded by the Scottish Government designed to improve the oral health of children and reduce inequalities in dental health across Scotland.
It integrates dental, educational, and community systems to provide universal advice, free dental packs, and preventive care like fluoride varnish.

The programme is structured into three core components:

- **Childsmile Core:** Provides every newborn with free dental packs and dietary advice via health visitors, while encouraging early registration and routine check-ups with an NHS dentist.
- **Childsmile Nursery and School:** Supports daily supervised toothbrushing in nurseries and primary schools, ensuring children have access to adequate fluoride toothpaste.
- **Childsmile Practice:** Provides targeted preventive treatments (like fluoride varnish and fissure sealants) for children from the age of two who are identified as being at higher risk for tooth decay.
  There is a clear link between the Childsmile toothbrushing programme and a reduction in dental decay in 5-year-olds. Uptake of toothbrushing in ELC settings is closely correlated with reduction in decayed, missing and filled teeth in 5-year-olds. Supervised toothbrushing is safe and effective in Improving good oral health in children.

I hope this is what your looking for, good luck and please keep me updated if you do have luck with new premises.



Appendix G

School Roll Forecasts and Utilisation
(Taken from Aberdeenshire Council website- Cluster Review 2025)

The table below is an extract from the published 2024 based school roll forecast.

The Learning Estates Strategy states the ideal occupancy for a school is approximately 85%, although the target occupancy is between 75% and 90%. As shown below, there are no schools currently operating within this range and predicted to be in the future.

School	Capacity	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	% Cap 2024	% Cap 2029
Arnage	75	30	22	26	25	22	21	40%	28%
Auchterellon	459	344	320	301	292	268	249	75%	54%
Balmedie	484	379	403	428	442	459	483	78%	100%
Ellon Primary	345	299	301	315	319	321	323	87%	93%
Foveran	47	52	65	71	79	79	83	111%	176%
Hatton (Cruden)	155	89	87	86	84	80	79	57%	51%
Meiklemill	317	214	218	223	243	267	275	68%	87%
Newburgh Mathers	217	156	146	150	143	152	161	72%	74%
Slains	50	22	19	13	10	7	4	44%	9%
Tipperty	50	10	11	6	5	4	3	20%	6%
TOTAL	**2199**	**1595**	**1592**	**1619**	**1642**	**1659**	**1681**	**73%**	**76%**

The tables below show the utilisation of primary places within the Ellon Cluster, there are currently 2,199 places for primary provision.

Year	Capacity	No of Pupils	No of Spare Places	% to Capacity
2024	2,199	1,595	604	73%
2025	2,199	1,592	607	72%
2026	2,199	1,619	580	74%
2027	2,199	1,642	557	75%
2028	2,199	1,659	540	75%
2029	2,199	1,681	518	76%

The data shows there are currently 1,595 pupils within primary education in the Ellon cluster, with 604 available places with the cluster operating at 73% capacity. However, it is predicted that pupil numbers are set to increase to 1,681 in 2029, leaving 518 available primary places, the cluster will then be operating at 76% capacity.

Appendix G

List of grants so far:

- Muirden Energy Community Benefit Fund (applied)
- National Lottery (applied)
- Mackies (applied)
- Aberdeenshire Child Development Fund (applied)
- Morrisons Foundation Connecting Communities Fund
- Easy Fundraising Impact fund
- Granite Heart
- Screwfix Foundation
- The Aberbrothock Skea Trust
- The Mickel Fund
- Peter Vardy
- Local School Nature Grants from Learning through Landscapes
- Garfield Weston
- Network Rail Community Fund
- ABZ Propeller Fund
- BCBN
- John Lyons charity fund
- Foundation Scotland – opens 2027
- The Gordon and Ena Baxter foundation
- CAREs
- The Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust
- SSEN – Powering Communities to net zero fund
- Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund (we believe this will open again in 2027)