

**Abbey Mill Business Centre
Mile End, 12 Seedhill Road
Paisley,
PA1 1JS
0141-560-1025**

**WENDY ALEXANDER MSP
PAISLEY NORTH**

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education &
Lifelong Learning
St Andrews House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DH

15th January 2009

Dear Fiona,

University of the West of Scotland – Paisley Campus

We write about plans to close the onsite nurseries at Paisley. There are a number of issues that the staff and students feel may not have been taken into account.

The Paisley campus nursery exists because the Students Union fought very hard to have University childcare facilities provided, enabling student parents to attend University. Students can concentrate fully on their studies, in the knowledge that their child is being cared for in a safe and stimulating setting which is close at hand.

Nursing students appreciate the stability their child enjoys at nursery when the routine at home changes, as mum/dad is in placement at various locations.

International students often phone (from abroad) or visit, to check out availability of childcare before accepting a place at University. The fact that the nursery is on campus is always welcomed by students from outwith the area/country as they are unfamiliar with the local services.

The nursery is used as a training establishment by local schools, colleges and own University for Work Experience, Access to the Workplace, NC, HNC, and BA placements.

Students from outwith the area who attend late afternoon classes would be unable to collect their child from their local nursery on time. At the moment there are insufficient childcare places in this area and this situation is expected to get worse in the future. We have cases of children of students at other High Education institutions being moved from their existing pre school establishment at the bequest of the local Council.

Most private nurseries are not flexible with regards to University semesters. Any childcare place would have to be paid for, normally for 50 weeks a year, whether the child attends or not.

Many students in the University remain unaware that the nursery exists on the campus, due to the camouflage of the scaffolding.

SERVING PAISLEY NORTH

To hear more about my work in the Scottish Parliament please write to me at the above address or email at Wendy.Alexander.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Recently appointed nursery staff feel disappointed that they were not informed that their jobs may be short term, as some of them gave up secure employment to come here.

This downgrading follows the decision by Renfrewshire Council to downgrade the remaining six nursery schools, four to nursery classes and reduce the number of nursery teachers employed Renfrewshire Council from the current 39+ to 20 – a cut of 50%. Again you may wish to comment on cuts in nursery teacher numbers.

We believe others have also emailed you to express concern. Given the effect on pre-5 services for students, we look forward to your comments.

Yours sincerely,



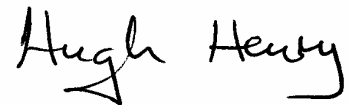
Wendy Alexander MSP
Paisley North

Wendy.Alexander.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



Trish Godman MSP
West Renfrewshire

Trish.Godman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



Hugh Henry MSP
Paisley South

Hugh.Henry.msp@scottish.parliament.uk