

## **Strategic Review of Early Years Provision in Perth and Kinross**

### **What were we asked to do?**

Perth and Kinross Council commissioned us to carry out a strategic review of early years provision throughout Perth and Kinross.

The review took place within the context of the Scottish Government's Early Years Framework which emphasises the need to improve partnership-working among early years services, and provide early intervention for children and families. We were asked to provide recommendations on how Perth and Kinross Council and its partners could provide a more integrated early years service.

How did we approach the research?

We used a range of methods to undertake the review:

- Desk research to examine key local and national policies and strategies to set the review in context.
- In-depth, face-to-face interviews with stakeholders involved in planning and delivering early years services, including representatives from the local authority and NHS Tayside, and private sector partners.
- An online survey of staff involved in delivering early years services.
- A series of consultation events with parents living in rural and urban areas.

### **What did we find?**

We found that there is a good range of early years provision in Perth and Kinross which meets the needs of the majority of families. We found evidence of high levels of support for families experiencing difficulties, a commitment to involving parents in their children's learning, and high quality support provided to childminders and childcare providers by the local authority.

We identified a number of areas in which provision could be improved, for example providing more accessible childcare in rural areas, and using early years services to link parents into other support including employability and housing.



We provided options for the future delivery of early years services in Perth and Kinross, which centred around developing local hubs providing access to all early years services in one place, which would enhance integrated working among services.