

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY PAPER, SEPTEMBER 2023

Section 1

Background

1.1

[The Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) \(Scotland\) Act \(2004\), as amended 2009](#) provides the legal framework for the provision of additional support for learning. [A National Review of the implementation of Additional Support for Learning \(ASL\) published in June 2020](#) stated that there is no fundamental deficit in the principle and policy intention of the ASL legislation, but the challenge is in translating that intention into practice.

1.2

The [Pupil Census 2022](#) figures show that there were 17,679 pupils recorded as having an Additional Support Need across all sectors in Aberdeenshire, accounting for 48% of the school roll.

1.3

Aberdeenshire council is undertaking a review of structures, systems and services that underpin the approach to meeting additional support needs. The purpose of this review is to ensure that our approach is responsive, flexible, equitable, future-fit and best value. The following recommendations have emerged from a variety of stakeholder engagement activities with school parents/carers, children and young people, school staff and other professionals.

Section 2

The current structure of support for children and young people with Additional Support Needs in Aberdeenshire

2.1

Community Resource Hubs

Across Aberdeenshire there are 9 Community Resource Hub (CRH) provisions. These provisions support children with significant and complex learning needs. Four are freestanding Special Schools, and the other five are integrated within mainstream schools. Both types of provision support the same level of need.

2.2

Enhanced Provision

Enhanced Provision Schools have an enhanced level of staffing and resources to meet the needs of children with learning, social, emotional and behavioural needs. There are 35 Enhanced Provision Schools in Aberdeenshire, the Academy and one Primary School per cluster. There are currently two Primary Enhanced Provision Schools in Fraserburgh, and it is proposed that they will be concentrated into one when the new Fraserburgh Primary is opened. Separate consultation with the relevant communities will take place in relation to this.

2.3

Mainstream Provision

The majority of additional support needs are met through targeted or universal support within mainstream school settings.

Section 3

Aberdeenshire Additional Support Needs Review Recommendations

1. Children and young people with significant and complex needs will continue to be supported by Community Resource Hub provisions. However, the number and location of the Integrated Community Resource Hub provisions will be reviewed in order to ensure they best service the needs of children and young people across Aberdeenshire. Individual communities will be consulted on recommendations that affect their area.
2. The Building Specification of Community Resource Hubs, as set out within the Accessibility Strategy, will be reviewed.
3. The Aberdeenshire Curriculum Framework for Supporting Pupils with Significant and Complex Needs will be reviewed to provide more robust guidance to schools to support target setting, tracking and monitoring of learning for pupils with significant and complex needs.
4. The Enhanced Provision model will remain, however the core principles underpinning practice across Enhanced Provision Schools will be developed in order to support greater consistency, transparency and equity across Aberdeenshire.
5. A review of the Building Specification for Enhanced Provision, as set out within the Accessibility Strategy, will be reviewed.
6. From August 2024, Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils who require Enhanced Provision level support will receive this within their local school. This will be supported through professional learning for school staff, an investment in an Outreach Service offered by Enhanced Provision Primary Schools, and ringfenced Pupil Support Assistant hours for Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils.
7. There will be a greater focus on mainstream education adapting to meet the needs of children and young people with additional support needs through the implementation in all Aberdeenshire Primary and Secondary schools of the “Child Inclusion: Research into Curriculum, Learning and Education (CIRCLE) Framework” by the end of academic session 2024-2025.
8. Core principles and professional learning will be produced to further development play-based learning in the early primary stages.
9. A suite of professional learning resources and self-evaluation tools for schools will be rolled out. This will focus on priority areas which were identified through stakeholder engagement activities. Supporting the needs of pupils with

additional support needs arising from Autism; Speech, Language & Communication Needs; Trauma & Attachment based Needs; Dyslexia; English as an Additional Language, etc.

10. Core Professional Learning will be developed for a range of staff groups working with pupils who have additional support needs.

Section 4

Online Public Consultation

Three online consultations will take place to provide the opportunity to share your views on the recommendations outlined above.

These online sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams at the following times:

- Wednesday 4 October, 10.00 – 11.00am - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 4 October, 7.00 – 8.00pm - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday 5 October, 2.00 – 3.00pm - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Further details on these consultation sessions can be found on [Engage Aberdeenshire](#)