

the **MORAY** council

www.moray.gov.uk

Additional Support for Learning Act 2004

PARENTAL NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Additional Support for Learning *Where are we now?*

Additional support needs apply to children or young people who, for whatever reason, require additional support, long or short term, in order to help them make the best of their education. This not only includes children who have a disability but also children whose education is affected by health, family problems, emotional difficulties, caring for a relative etc.

To meet this aim, all services that support children and young people such as Education, Health, Social Work and other agencies have been working together to develop policy and practice to ensure that Moray has been able to implement the Act within the two year timescale set by the Scottish Executive.

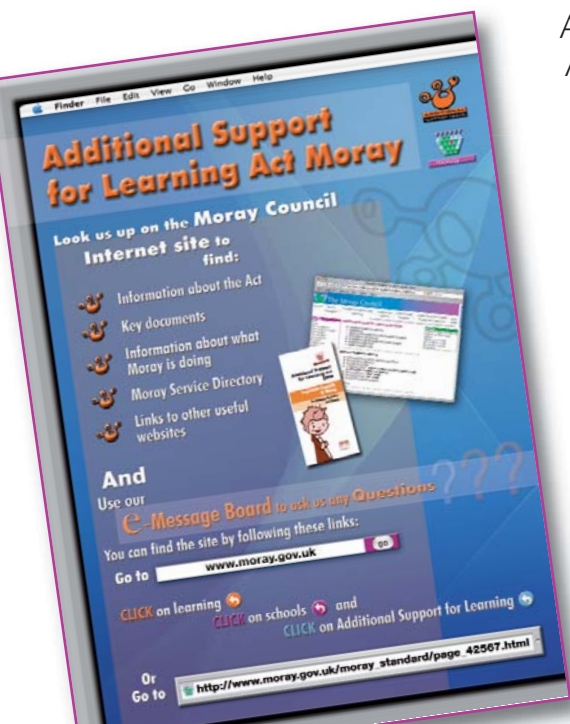
The Act should be fully implemented by November 2007 and we are pleased to report that much of the initial work has been completed to the satisfaction of HMI who visited Moray in January. However, making sure that all services are working together to meet the individual needs of all children and young people is not a quick and easy task and there is still much work to do. The work already done to implement the Act here in Moray is therefore seen by staff as the basis of much more inter-agency work in the future.

The Additional Support for Learning Act *Helpful Information for Parents and Carers*

A full range of information, guidance and support relating to the Additional Support for Learning Act can be found on the Moray Council Website using the following links:

www.moray.gov.uk click on **learning**, then click on **schools**, then click on **Additional Support for Learning** then click on **Additional Support for Learning Act 2004**

As well as finding the policy and guidelines used in Moray to implement the Act and local contact details, you'll find useful links to other websites.



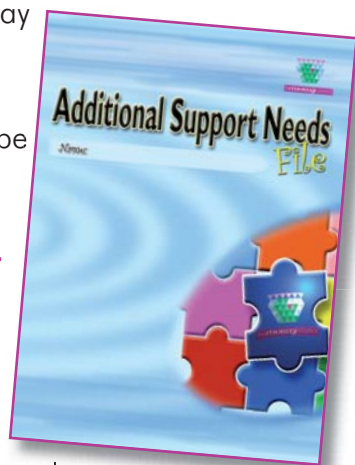
Farewell to the Record of Needs

When the Additional Support for Learning Act was introduced in November 2005, just over 2% of children or young people in our schools had a **Record of Needs (RoNs)**. RoNs were opened when children or young people required a significant amount of support to meet their educational needs.

Over the next few months RoNs will be phased out. However, there will be no direct statutory replacement for the RoN as the criteria for the new **Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP)** will be different. Indeed, only a small proportion of RoNs will be transferred into CSPs.

As a result of this, Moray has taken the decision that most existing Records of Needs will be transferred into a new document called an **Additional Support Needs File**.

This file will contain relevant information about a young person's additional support needs. This includes:



- ❖ A list of key people involved with the child / young person
- ❖ A brief chronology listing significant events
- ❖ A section detailing what the child / young person's additional support needs actually are.
- ❖ A section for other plans and protocols (where necessary)
- ❖ The **Individualised Educational Programme (IEP)**. An IEP is reviewed regularly. It details long and short term educational targets and provides some detail about how these targets will be met.

Parents should receive a copy of any completed files.

In cases where a significant amount of multi-agency support is needed to meet a young person's needs, a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) may also be required. Where it is needed, the CSP will also be added to the Additional Support Needs File.

The Additional Support Needs File will ensure that the planning processes for all children who had Records of Need will remain broadly similar.

Files will also be opened for children and young people who require significant levels of support but were too young to be considered for a Record of Need.

Establishing if a CSP is Required

Where a child or young person has previously had a Record of Needs, information relating to the criteria for Co-ordinated Support Plans, will be gathered by either the Educational Psychologist or the school at the annual review meeting. This information will then be considered by the CSP Monitoring Group who decide whether the criteria for opening a CSP are met.



For further information, please contact:

Alan Dunsire, Quality Improvement Officer
with responsibility for Additional Support Needs
email: alan.dunsire@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563174

or

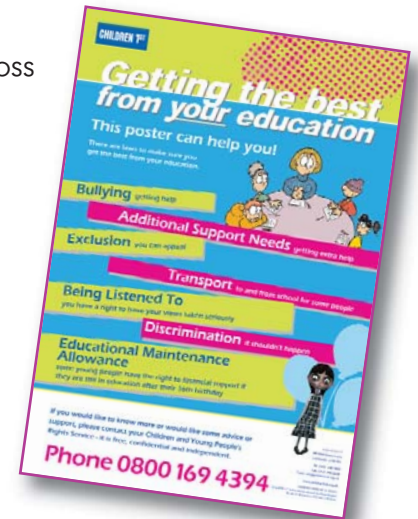
Educational Psychology Service
tel.no: 01343 550999

Information for Children, Young People and their Families

In the past couple of months this poster has been displayed in schools across Moray.

The poster lets pupils know about the Children's Rights Service and what it can offer young people in Moray. The Service is independent and confidential.

As well as giving advice on rights, the Service supports children and young people to have their views about matters that affect them heard – **this could be about level of support, a problem with bullying or a behaviour issue for example.**



If your child has to go to a meeting about an aspect of their education it may feel quite daunting for him/her despite the best efforts of the adults attending to minimise this. It is important that young people's views are heard along with everyone else's. The Children and Young People's Rights Worker can help young people to prepare their thoughts for meetings and can also support them during the meeting if they wish.

Moray Council is publicising the Service through posters in every school to encourage children and young people to use the Service if they feel they need this type of advice or support.

If you would like to know more about the Children's Rights Service you can contact:

Beth Fraser, Children's Rights Worker, CHILDREN 1st
email: beth.fraser@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 569188

Accessing the Views of Children and Young People

There was a realisation that the report forms for children and young people to express their views at review meetings were not suitable for a range of pupils who have additional support needs.

Sally Millar and Stuart Aitken from the CALL Centre, Edinburgh University have been working with parents and key staff to develop a range of toolkits to access the views of children and young people who have problems with communication. The toolkits will be gathered together to form a toolbox of resources which will be distributed across services in Moray.

Moray is also looking at developing new and innovative software to access children and young people's views and hopes to secure funding from the Scottish Executive to take this exciting project forward.



For further information about these projects contact:

Mark Elvines, Education Officer ASN
email: mark.elvines@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563632

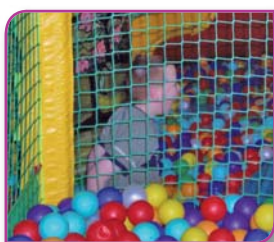
Autism in Moray

Autism in Moray (A.I.M.) is a parent led support group for people with autism, including Asperger's syndrome, and their families.



The aim of Autism in Moray is to provide opportunities to enable the sharing of information, experiences and support between our members.

A.I.M. is headed by a committee of members, who meet on a semi regular basis to organise trips, events and guest speakers. Anyone who would like to join or make suggestions to any of the committee members are more than welcome to do so.



Some of the events that we have organised in the past have included bowling, ice skating, go-karting and ceramic painting as well as summer outings to Landmark, holidays to Haven in Ayr and an annual Christmas party.



We also have monthly play sessions at Rainbow Castle in Elgin, on the last Saturday of every month from 5.30pm-6.30pm. We would welcome anyone who would like to pop in for a chat about what we do during these sessions.

Autism in Moray welcomes any new members. We also welcome any new ideas and ask you to share with us what you feel would be beneficial to meeting your needs.

If you would be interested in joining or you would just like more information about what we do then you can contact:

Catriona Paterson-Craib, Secretary
email: autisminformay@googlemail.com
tel.no: (01343) 559482

Parental Involvement: The New Law

The Scottish Parliament has recently passed a new law -

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.

Why has a new law been passed?

The Act aims to modernise and strengthen the framework for supporting parental involvement in school education and to help parents be:

- ❖ involved with their child's education and learning
- ❖ welcomed as active participants in the life of the school
- ❖ encouraged to express their views and to work in partnership with the school

What do schools have to do under the new law?

- ❖ take account of the parental involvement strategy in their annual improvement plans
- ❖ set objectives for the involvement of parents within their improvement plans

What does Moray Council have to do under the new law?

- ❖ promote the involvement of parents in school education
- ❖ prepare a strategy for parental involvement
- ❖ promote and support the establishment of a Parent Council in every school

What is a Parent Council?

It is a group of parents from one school selected by all the parents from their school to represent them.

What will happen to other parent groups?

This will very much be a matter for individual schools to decide but a Parent Council may take on the duties currently undertaken by School Boards and those currently undertaken by PTAs or Parent Associations.

How is the Parent Council to be formed?

- ❖ all parents/carers with children at a school comprise the Parent Forum for that school
- ❖ all the detailed decisions about who should be on the Parent Council and what it should do rest with the Parent Forum
- ❖ a national template has been devised to help Parent Forums make decisions about Parent Councils
- ❖ Moray Council has prepared advice to complement the national template and to enable each Parent Council to become established

What will Parent Councils do?

There will be considerable flexibility for each Parent Forum to determine the role of its Parent Council, but there are likely to be 4 main areas of work:

- ❖ supporting the school in its work with pupils
- ❖ representing the views of parents
- ❖ promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school providers and the wider community
- ❖ reporting to the Parent Forum



When will this take effect?

Virtually all the elements of the new Act will take effect on 1 August 2007. A draft Moray policy should be available by August 2007.

The setting up of Parent Councils is likely to take place in May/June 2007, so that the councils are in place at the start of the new school session - on 21 August 2007.

How will I get more information on this?

A Moray Council Strategy Group of staff, parents and agency workers has been set up with part of its remit being to ensure that good communication links for staff and parents are established and maintained.

In addition, it is very likely that most school communities will opt to hold one or more awareness raising evenings so that the Parent Forum for your school can start giving some thought to how it wants its Parent Council to be set up. If your school already has a School Board or a PTA, one or both of these bodies may well be planning some awareness raising.

Parent information sessions have been presented across Moray by John Trodden QIO during Jan/Feb 2007

Useful websites:

www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk
www.parentnetworkscotland.gov.uk
(Tel: 0131 555 6780)

For further information about the Parental Involvement Act please contact:

John Trodden QIO

email: john.trodden@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563289

Transition Planning Guidelines

Moray is in the process of reviewing its Transition Guidelines to make sure that all children and young people across the authority get the support they need when moving on at different stages in their lives. The key transition times for children and young people are from home to pre-school, from pre-school to primary school, from primary school to secondary school and from secondary school to post-school.

If you have any comments you would like to make about Transition, the working group would be happy to hear from you. Please contact:

Moira Downie,

Development Officer ASfL

email: moira.downie@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563332

ELKLAN in Moray

ELKLAN is a course which provides training for those who support children with speech and language difficulties in the classroom.

The purpose of the course is to

- **enhance the understanding of the nature of speech and language difficulties and the impact these difficulties can have on learning in the classroom**
- **develop strategies & methods to support the children.**

In 2005 in Moray, six teachers from Educational Support Services and seven speech & language therapists trained as ELKLAN tutors so that they could deliver the course 'Speech & Language Support in the Classroom'.

From February to May 2006, two pilot courses were held to train Special Educational Needs (SEN) Assistants and Auxiliaries.

Twenty-nine participants from the Moray Associated School Groups (ASG) took part in the courses.

The training took place in Forres and Elgin with each course lasting ten weeks, from 3.00 - 5.00pm weekly and coursework by the participants being required on a weekly basis.

Following the course, ELKLAN trained assistant and auxiliary staff are working in the following schools:



Aberlour, Applegrove, Beechbrae, Botriphnie, Hythehill, Kinloss, Lhanbryde, New Elgin, Pilmuir, Rothes, Lossiemouth High School

Feedback from participants at the end of the course was very positive with participants reporting change to their working practices.

Currently the ELKLAN tutors team is trained to deliver:

- ❖ Speech & Language Support in the Classroom (primary age range)
- ❖ Under 5's Speech & Language Support

Further ELKLAN modules are available in:

- ❖ Supporting children with ASD
- ❖ Supporting children at Secondary School

The team would also be interested in a course suitable for parents to undertake.

Benefits of ELKLAN

- ❖ Collaborative working
- ❖ Supporting a "Team Around the Child" approach
- ❖ Multi-agency working
- ❖ Skill mix between Health and Education
- ❖ Enables, empowers and share skills
- ❖ Builds confidence
- ❖ Encourages sharing of information
- ❖ Improved outcomes for all children - especially for children with speech and language difficulties
- ❖ Encourages a shared language across professional teams
- ❖ Encourages reflective practice
- ❖ Open to all teachers and auxiliaries
- ❖ Locally based support for children, which in turn supports inclusion
- ❖ Meets the needs of Additional Support for Learning (ASfL)

For more information about ELKLAN please contact:

Ann Duff or Elaine Wilson, Language Support Early Years, Beechbrae Education Centre, Elgin
tel.no: 01343 557921

or

Vicki Mackinnon or Jane Fox,
Speech and Language Therapy
Dept, Spynie Hospital, Elgin
tel.no: 01343 567275



Moray Training Resource

“Young lives – getting it right?”

Donnie Macleod and Brenda Frier from the Centre for Inclusion and Equity in Education, and Eyleine Media (who developed the Scottish Executive’s ASfL Training DVD together) have been working with Moray to develop our own training DVD. This is due to be launched near the start of next year’s academic session.

Extensive filming has taken place at a variety of venues across Moray. This filming features parents, children and young people and the full range of staff from all agencies who work with children, young people and their families.

The DVD illustrates the experiences of a range of children, young people and their families and the many forms of support and good practice which already exist in Moray. For each film section, Donnie and Brenda have developed workshop training materials to ensure that everyone is fully aware of existing policy and procedures to “get it right” for our children and young people.

Though called a training DVD, it is not just for staff. The DVD will have sections which will be of interest to all, including children, young people and their families.

Grateful thanks go to all children, young people and their families as well as staff who have made the filming of the DVD possible. They have made a valuable contribution to ensure that all our children, young people and their families are well supported.

For further information about the DVD please contact:

Moira Downie,
Development Officer ASfL
email: moira.downie@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563332



Additional Support for Learning Gypsy Travellers Working Group

In line with the Additional Support for Learning Act, where it states that it is our duty to support all children and young people, staff from services across Moray and others who have an interest or experience in supporting Gypsy Travellers, have formed a group to support young Gypsy Travellers who do not attend school. This group is supported by Karen MacMaster, Development Officer from Highland Council, who has a great deal of experience in supporting Gypsy Travellers to access learning.

The group aims to support young Gypsy Travellers by:

- ❖ listing learning opportunities already available in Moray which can be accessed by young Gypsy Travellers
- ❖ developing awareness amongst Gypsy Travellers about learning opportunities available to young people in Moray
- ❖ providing a simple route to learning
- ❖ providing support to access learning opportunities which meet the needs of Gypsy Travellers
- ❖ developing awareness of Gypsy Traveller culture within schools and amongst the general public

Moray Information Bus

Using the Moray Information Bus, Graham Noble from the Gypsy Traveller Education Information Project, supported by Health Improvement staff, has been visiting a Gypsy Traveller site in Elgin on a regular basis to access young people who are not in school. So far, several young people and their families have come forward asking for support.

Celebration of Gypsy Traveller Culture, Moray Thursday 14th June, Inchberry Hall near Mosstodloch

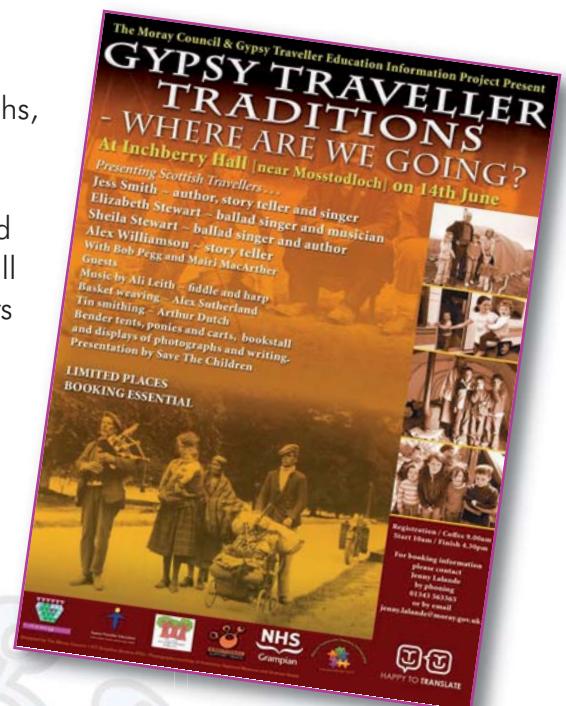
The working group, with the help of Arts Development and Milne's Local Neighbourhood Forum, held a Gypsy Traveller Event - *GYPSEY TRAVELLER TRADITIONS - WHERE ARE WE GOING?* The programme for the day featured well known authors, singers, story tellers, and craftsmen from a Gypsy Travelling background. Young people were also involved in the event including pupils from Lhanbryde Primary School. Photographs, books and other literature were also on display then too.

As well as Gypsy Travellers, others invited to attend included staff working with children and young people from across all services, other Council Services and any interested members of the community.

If you would like to know more about support for Gypsy Travellers

Please contact:

Moira Downie, Development Officer ASfL
email: moira.downie@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563332



For general Information about any of the articles in the newsletter or information about the ASfL Act please contact:

Moira Downie, Development Officer ASfL
email: moira.downie@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563332

For particular queries about ASfL in Moray please contact the named co-ordinator for Moray Council:

Alan Dunsire, QIO ASN
email: alan.dunsire@moray.gov.uk
tel.no: 01343 563 174

