



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
8 MARCH 2017**

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS CONSULTATION

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the findings from the Additional Support Needs (ASN) Consultation and to request approval to go to public consultation on the draft ASN Strategy.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III C (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as Education Authority within the terms of relevant legislation with regard to nursery, primary and secondary education.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) considers and notes the report on the ASN Strategy consultation; and**
- (ii) agrees to delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to progress to public consultation on the draft ASN Strategy as set out in paragraph 3.12 of this report between 13 March 2017 and 8 May 2017 with a final report being presented to a future meeting of Children and Young People's Services Committee.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As was stated in the report to this Committee on 22 June 2016 (para 25 of the minute refers), a review of ASN provision and services across Moray was planned. There is a need to firstly identify and then prioritise areas for action within ASN across Moray's learning environments. The creation of the ASN Strategy is the first step in this process. Action plans which give more detail about how this is to be achieved will be written once the final strategy is adopted.

- 3.2 The aim of the development of an ASN strategy is:
- To identify principles and structures that make the most effective and efficient use of resources to meet the needs of pupils with ASN and, in doing so achieve the best outcome for them.
- 3.3 In May 2016 Head Teachers were informed at a briefing session about the purpose of the consultation and how it would be undertaken. A timeline was issued at that point which indicated that the consultation phase would be finished by the end of December 2016. The consultation was completed within the identified timescale.
- 3.4 Information was made available via schools, in the press, on social media and on the Moray Council website. Parents/Carers were invited to complete the parent/carer survey, which was available online or as a paper copy. 364 surveys were completed. In addition, some schools consulted with parents/carers as part of their own consultation. There were responses from 2 Parent Councils and 4 Parent Council representatives attended the consultation sessions. A collation of the responses to the parent/carer consultation is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.5 As can be seen from **Appendix 2** responses were more positive than negative in all areas. Meeting pupil needs was scaled from 0 (not at all) to 5 (fully) with 81% giving rating of 3 – 5 and 16.4% giving rating 0 – 2. Only 10% of respondents identified that a special school in Moray would best meet the needs of pupils with severe and complex needs.
- 3.6 In addition to the survey eight public consultation events were held in November and December 2016. They were held in each Associated School Group (ASG) area – four in the afternoon and four early evening. These were open to any interested parties including family members and partnership agencies. The sessions were run and facilitated by Moray Council staff.
- 3.7 Sessions were attended by a total of thirty eight family members and twenty stakeholders. Each session was evaluated at the end with all responses apart from one, scoring consultation process as ‘good’ or better.
- 3.8 Further consultation sessions were run for all Head Teachers, Principal Teachers (ASN), Elected Members, Education and Social Care Departmental Management Team (DMT)/Senior Management Team (SMT).
- 3.9 A proforma (**Appendix 3**) was also sent to partners e.g. Allied Health Professionals, tsiMORAY, so that they could share their views if they were unable to attend any of the consultation events.
- 3.10 Each ASG was asked to submit a collation of the responses from individual schools and groups. Six were received.

- 3.11 Each consultation session and ASG were asked to identify three top priorities for improvement. The collation of these appears as **Appendix C** of **Appendix 1**. These priorities will form the basis of the ASN strategy.
- 3.12 The most common priorities identified were:
- Staff development and training
 - Funding model/process
 - Resources
 - Relationships/communication
 - Interagency work/localised support
 - Establish centres of excellence for specific ASN
 - Equal access to quality provision – enhanced provision purpose
 - Assessing and identifying need
- 3.13 In order to take this forward, a working group comprising central officers and school staff was established to develop a draft strategy for consultation. The draft strategy appears as **Appendix 1**. This draft ASN strategy will be available for public consultation by the end of March 2017. It is hoped that the final, approved version can be in place from August 2017. It is anticipated that the strategy will cover a ten year period with a wide range of actions required to meet the identified aim. It will have an action plan developed to identify how we will achieve the stated aims and will be subject to annual review.
- 3.14 Currently Scottish Government are developing guidelines on the presumption of mainstream education in Scotland which will be consulted on in due course. This will inform future work in Moray.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and Moray Corporate Plan 2015 - 2017

The contents of this report relate to Moray 2026 Priority 2 – ‘Healthier Citizens’ and Priority 3 – ‘Ambitious and confident young people’.

(b) Policy and Legal

The report outlines how the Council is consulting on the future delivery of services in respect of the Additional Support for Learning (ASfL) legislation and the aims of Education and Social Care Service Plan 2016 – 19. Legal Services will consider the draft strategy during the public consultation period and any legal issues identified will be included within the future report to Committee.

(c) Financial implications

It is anticipated that the cost of the consultation exercise will be £1,500 allowing for postage, printing, translation costs and the hire of meeting venues. The cost will be met from the ASN budget.

(d) Risk Implications

Failure of the Council to approve the consultation and fulfil its statutory duty in relation to providing additional support in Moray to those children and young people who require it there is a risk of parents requesting out of area placements and potentially raising actions against the Council at the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising directly from this report

(g) Equalities

The proposals within this report are aimed at improving the current additional support needs service. This is expected to promote equality of opportunity for children with additional support needs. A full equality impact assessment will be informed by the consultation and be presented with the final draft of the strategy.

(h) Consultations

Education Senior Management Team, Katrina McGillivray, Senior Human Resources Adviser, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing), Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer and Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to approve a formal public consultation on the draft ASN strategy as described within this report.

Author of Report: Pat McLennan, Inclusion Manager
Background Papers:
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