



17th June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware of the recently launched ASN REVIEW, the purpose of which is to ensure the ongoing quality and consistency of support for all children and young people in Renfrewshire who have additional support needs. The proposal is to support children in their local area by meeting their individual needs in the best way possible. An outline of the Review is included with this letter.

One of the key areas of the Review is engagement and we have committed to engage with staff, parents, carers and pupils who come within the scope of the Review and make sure that their voices are heard.

You are invited to come along and take part in a session that aims to listen to what you have to say and gather your views, your hopes and any concerns you may have in relation to the Review. Parents and carers are a key voice in this Review and yours is welcomed and valued.

There are two evening sessions which you can choose to attend:

Venue	Date	Time
Gleniffer High School	Monday 24 th June 19	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Johnstone High School	Tuesday 25 th June 19	6:00pm – 7:30pm

Please confirm your wish to attend by emailing the session detail of your choice to asnreview@renfrewshire.gov.uk or by dropping a text to 07483 393532

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon McKinlay".

Gordon McKinlay
Head of Schools
Renfrewshire Council



March 2019

Renfrewshire Council

Review of Additional Support Needs provision

Introduction

Here is some helpful background on the review of Additional Support Needs provision. It includes information on what is happening, what we want to achieve and some answers to questions you may have. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at asnreview@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

What is the review?

The objective of the Additional Support Needs (ASN) review is to develop and implement an improved model of Additional Support Needs provision within Renfrewshire.

The individual needs and interests of children and young people with Additional Support Needs are at the heart of this review.

This is the biggest review of ASN provision for more than 20 years. We want to provide the best possible education and support for children and young people with additional support needs within their community.

The review does not cover additional support needs schools.

Consultation with parents and staff is taking place over the coming months. We will keep parents and staff informed about the timescales for implementation and expect this to take place over a number of years. There are no changes that directly impact on children anticipated at this time and we will keep staff and parents informed about future timescales for implementation.

Key points:

- We want every child in Renfrewshire to flourish and to fulfil their potential.
- We want children and young people with additional support needs to be better supported to learn in their community by making sure the right resources are available locally.
- A new locality model is being proposed that would see children receiving support within one of four areas.
- Within each locality, resources would be allocated to allowing specialist staff to work with staff within mainstream schools and nurseries as well as in a number of inclusion hubs. This would mean children being supported within their local school or nursery and attending inclusion hubs in their local area if they needed further enhanced support.
- Staff in bases and specialist teams will have a key role in shaping the new model. Parents of children with ASN will also have a key role in shaping the new model through a programme of parental engagement and consultation meetings and events

This consultation and engagement will take place in the coming months and this will inform the design of the new model. There are no changes that directly impact on children anticipated at

this time and we will keep staff and parents informed about future timescales for implementation which we expect to take place over a number of years.

What the review will do

The objective of the ASN review is to develop and implement a new model of Additional Support Needs delivery within Renfrewshire where:

All children with Additional Support Needs will –

- have their support needs identified as early as possible within their education journey.
- have access to the most appropriate support for their needs as close to home as possible.
- have access to skilled ASN staff within both mainstream and specialist learning environments.
- experience smooth transitions between early years, primary and secondary schools.
- Be able to benefit from being part of an environment where they can flourish and be part of a wider community.
- be educated in an environment which supports them to achieve.

Questions and Answers

How long will this review take?

Staff in bases and specialist teams will have a key role in shaping the new model. Parents of children with ASN will also have a key role in shaping the new model through a programme of parental engagement and consultation meetings and events.

There are no changes that impact directly on children planned at this time. Following consultation with parents and staff we will keep you informed about any future changes however, we expect full implementation to take place over a number of years.

When will the changes take place?

There are no changes that impact directly on children planned at this time. Following consultation with parents and staff we will keep you informed about any future changes however, we expect full implementation will take place over a number of years.

How it will affect me? How will I know what's happening?

We will be directly communicating with those affected by this review and want to keep people updated as the review progresses. We will be carrying out a programme of engagement and consultation with staff and parents in the coming months and this will inform next steps. No child will be disadvantaged as a result of this review. As is already the case, the needs of each child will be considered on a case by case basis as every child is different.

Will my child be returned to mainstream?

If your child is already in a base, then no. Going forward, the needs and interests of each child, will be reviewed in the same way as they are currently. Children who are assessed as required to be educated in a specialist base will continue to receive this support in the new model.

What will this mean for my child?

The model will be developed following consultation with staff and parents. The model for the new arrangement is yet to be developed and will be informed by consultation and engagement with parents and staff. Throughout the review our main focus is to enhance and improve the learning and wellbeing of all children in existing base provision. Children who are assessed as required to be educated in a specialist base will continue to receive this support in the new model.

Is this about savings?

No. This is the biggest review of Additional Support Needs provision (not including additional support needs schools) for more than 20 years and we want to ensure we are reflecting best practice, being as efficient as we can be, whilst ensuring that the individual needs and interests of the children are met in the best way through an improved service.

What are the benefits for staff?

Staff in bases and specialist teams will have a key role in shaping the new model. Parents of children with ASN will also have a key role in shaping the locality model through a programme of parental engagement and consultation meetings and events.

The review will provide enhanced development and training for staff with career progression opportunities.

We also want the new model to provide better opportunities for all staff (ASN and mainstream) to work together and develop their skills and share best practice.

The new model will support the collaborative decision making of Headteachers with regards to the allocation of ASN resources and in line with the principles of school empowerment of giving more decision-making powers to headteachers.