

Every Child is Included: Policy into Practice Additional Support for Learning Network News



Education Services

April 2015 - Issue 10

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the tenth issue of Glasgow ASL Parents' Network News.

We know that additional support needs is a very wide area – and there is a lot going on in Glasgow - so if there is something you would particularly like more information about in a future edition of Network News, please let us know. All the contact details are on the next page.

The aims of Network News remain the same; we want to provide you with the opportunity to:

- get regular and reliable information about what Education Services are doing about additional support for learning
- link up and communicate with other parents whose children have additional support needs
- ask questions and receive answers about additional support in Glasgow
- get news about national and local developments relating to additional support.

Network News is going out directly to over 100 parents and carers. We know that is a very small number of those who have children with additional support needs attending Glasgow schools, but we hope it will continue to grow. Please pass it on to anyone you think may be interested. We are also sending it out through schools and early years centres and we're going to put it online. If you don't see copies of Network News in the school your child attends, please ask the Headteacher to make it available to everyone.

You can access this and previous editions of Network News by downloading them from the Glasgow City Council website www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8627

Our core parents group – The ASL Parents' Forum - is still meeting regularly. At these meetings we discuss - in a very informal way - any particular concerns or interests the parents/carers raise.

Contact details for core group parents/carers are also on the next page.

This tenth issue of Network News is being sent to:

- all those parents already signed up to the Network
- all Glasgow schools, establishments and services
- Psychological Services
- our partner agencies; health and Social Work Services
- voluntary organisations

Network News will only support parents/carers and families if it does the job you want it to do. Please let us know what you think about it. All our contact details are listed on the next page.

Yours,

Margaret McKinlay
Area Education Officer
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PLANNING PATHWAYS

In the last edition of Network News, we told you about some changes to the process by which we plan pathways for children and young people who have significant additional support needs.

Since that issue went out we have had three meetings of the City Inclusion Group. The first meeting considered referrals by schools for children in specialist schools coming up to points of transition. The second looked at those referrals for a change of pathway that came from mainstream schools. The third considered those children currently in P6 in specialist schools as we want to ensure we begin planning for transition as early as possible.

After the first two meetings letters were sent out to all parents and carers to inform them of the decisions taken by the City Inclusion Group. These decisions were informed by assessment information from the school and from Educational Psychologists and, where appropriate, from partners in other agencies. All referrals contained statements about parents'/carers' views. We think, however, that this is something we want to strengthen for next year.

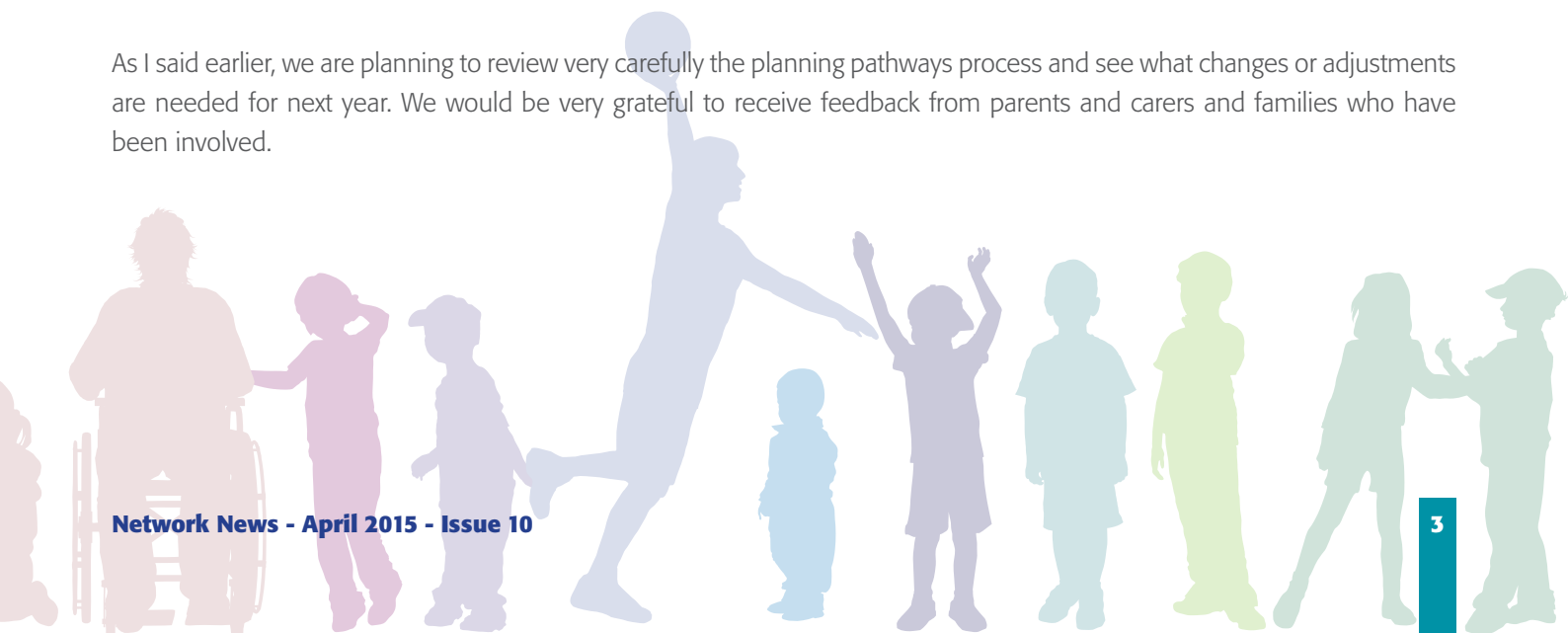
Now that letters are out many young people are beginning the next stage of transition and we want to wish them well.

Some parents and carers, however, did not agree with the recommendation made by the City Inclusion Group. These parents/carers contacted us directly and, in every case, a core group of City Inclusion Group members carefully re-examined the information submitted with the referral. In some cases additional information was submitted. The City Inclusion Group chair has also met with families who were keen to discuss decisions together.

We think that the new approach to planning pathways has given us more flexibility and has helped ensure that children's needs are at the centre of the process. In almost all cases, where parents/carers asked for reconsideration of the submission, we were able to reach agreement.

In the few cases where we have not reached agreement, parents/carers are able to make placing requests to the school of their choice and these requests will be responded to within the framework of the placing request legislation.

As I said earlier, we are planning to review very carefully the planning pathways process and see what changes or adjustments are needed for next year. We would be very grateful to receive feedback from parents and carers and families who have been involved.



NEW ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING PROVISION

Our strategic planning for inclusion is aiming at providing more flexibility for families, children and young people. The recent opening of specialist support provision as part of mainstream schools has been very successful and the feedback we are receiving from everyone involved has been extremely positive.

In addition to our long-established language and communication resources in primary and secondary schools, we now have additional support provision in:

- John Paul II Primary School
- Lourdes Primary School
- St Albert's Primary School
- Barmulloch Primary School
- Lourdes Secondary School
- Whitehill Secondary School
- King's Park Secondary School
- John Paul Secondary School

and Enhanced Nurture support in:

- Lochend Secondary School
- Cleveden Secondary School

and Enhanced Nurture in Miller Primary School.

All of these supported provisions are staffed in the same way as separate, specialist schools. The aim is to provide children and young people with well-planned and appropriate support and provide, where and when it is appropriate, opportunities for real integration with peers.

In the next edition of Network News, we can tell you more about our other Additional Support for Learning provision.



Current Developments

PARENTS' CONFERENCE

We are planning another conference for parents/carers of children who have additional support needs this autumn. Responding to what you have told us, we are going to invite all parents/carers along.

We thought that you might like the Conference to concentrate on the ways children are being supported in mainstream schools and on the Wellbeing Assessment and Plan.

We'd be glad to get your feedback on this proposal.

POLICY UPDATE

We are currently working on the update to our policy on inclusion – *Every Child Is Included – Getting It Right In The Nurturing City*

We need to update the policy to reflect changes in the law as a result of the Children and Young People's Act, and some of the developments in Glasgow.

The Core Group of Additional Support for Learning parents/carers have been informally discussing some of the thinking underpinning the policy update.

The updated policy and its associated guidance booklets should be ready to go online this summer.

REMINDER - ASL Parents' Guide

In a previous edition of Network News we told you that we had recently completed a guide for parents of children and young people who have additional support needs. You can access this guide online at www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10279



Questions and Answers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, INFORMATION?

While specific questions about your child need to go directly to the Head of School/Centre he or she attends, we are very happy to publish general questions that may be of interest to other parents/carers here in Network News – and we can do so anonymously. It's also good if we can include comments or suggestions that other parents/carers may find helpful. Quite often, when we meet parents/carers at conferences and other events, they tell us about the successes their children have had and about support that has worked out well. It would be encouraging for other parents/carers if you were prepared to share stories like this, as well as concerns, through Network News.

You can email questions, suggestions, comments to Yvette Duffy (see contacts) and we will include them in the next issue of Network News.

Similarly, if you have any news or information that you think would be helpful to other parents/carers and families, please let us know and we will include these too.



News and Information

Getting It Right For Every Child - update

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on detailed guidance that supports parts of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act is a new law that will give children, young people and their families extra support and will encourage everyone to talk about children's wellbeing using the same words. The consultation on the guidance is due to run until 1 May. It is mainly aimed at the people who support your child – including parents' organisations – but individual parents/carers are welcome to get involved if they wish. You can take part in the consultation via this link: www.gov.scot/publications/2015/02/1851.

SPECIAL NEWS

This will be my last edition of Network News as I am retiring at Easter. Your new contact at Education Services will be Colin Crawford, Area Education Officer. I've really enjoyed working with all the Glasgow families I've been in contact with over the years and want to send you all my very best wishes for the future.

Yours

Margaret

If you want to be added to the direct mailing list for Network News, please email Yvette Duffy – see Contacts list on Page 2.

Next Edition - Planned for May 2015

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