Renfrewshire Council

Review of Additional Support Needs (ASN) Provision

Introduction

Here is some helpful background on the review of Additional Support Needs provision (ASN). 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 only if it is appropriate and meets the needs of the child. 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 children with additional support needs. 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 Head Teachers with regards to the allocation of ASN resources and in line with the principles of school empowerment of giving more decision-making powers to Head Teachers.