

Appendix 17: Partner Agency Engagement Notes

Partners Online Meeting – 9 October 2025

23 Attendees

Officers Present

- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion (Chair)
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager

Purpose of Meeting

To outline the Enhanced Provision proposal, respond to questions from partner agencies involved in Team Around the Child planning, and gather professional feedback as part of the statutory consultation. This session forms part of the wider consultation process, alongside public meetings, staff sessions, and written submissions.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The current Enhanced Provision budget (approx. £3.1m) is protected; this is not a savings exercise.
- Enhanced Provisions currently provide Stage 3 support in 15 mainstream primary schools.
- Increasing demand means the current model cannot meet future needs; the proposal seeks to extend enhanced support to all primary schools.
- Children currently attending Enhanced Provision will not be required to move school.
- If a family requests a move and the school is prepared, funding and staffing will follow the child.
- Implementation would be phased, planned and informed by consultation feedback and Education Scotland's independent review.
- Stage 4 specialist provisions are unchanged and not part of this proposal.

Key Questions Raised by Attendees and Officer Responses

- Has a Children's Rights Impact Assessment been carried out?
 - Response: An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been started and will be completed following consultation analysis. Screening would determine whether a CRWIA is required.
- How are transport providers being engaged?
 - Response: Transport teams have been invited to participate in the consultation. Transport continues for children who remain in Enhanced Provision. Any future transition would be phased and planned.
- How will specialist staff follow children if they move?
 - Response: If a family requests a move and the transition is agreed, staffing resource follows the child and joint planning supports continuity.
- How will school environments be adapted?
 - Response: Adaptation needs are recognised and additional funding is available. Implementation would be phased and guided by audit and readiness.
- Are schools ready to deliver this?
 - Response: Readiness varies. Professional learning, coaching and transition planning will support schools to build capacity.

- How will Stage 3 requests be managed during transition?
- Response: A March Enhanced Support Panel will continue, considering enhanced support and/or EP where appropriate. Schools can also request resource earlier where needs are identified.

Tone and Engagement

Discussion was professional, reflective and collaborative. Partners emphasised continuity, safeguarding specialist expertise, and ensuring transitions are carefully planned. Officers acknowledged uncertainty and emphasised the phased and needs-led nature of any change.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently attending Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- Support remains needs-led and agreed through Team Around the Child planning.
- Staffing and resource follow the child where a move is requested and appropriate.
- Stage 4 specialist provisions remain unchanged.
- Adaptations and training will be planned with partners.
- Transport continues for children remaining in Enhanced Provision.
- Education Scotland will independently review consultation feedback before any decision is made.

Closing

Officers thanked attendees and confirmed that feedback will inform the consultation report and implementation planning. Attendees were encouraged to submit final written feedback through Participate+ before the consultation closes.