

Appendix 12: Public Meeting Notes

Braes High School – 16 September 2025

73 Participants signed up to attend via Participate+

Officers Present

- Jon Reid, Director of Education Services (Chair)
- Deborah Davidson, Head of Education (Early Years, Primary & ASN)
- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager

Purpose of Meeting

To explain the proposal relating to Enhanced Provision (EP) in Falkirk Council primary schools, respond to questions, and gather feedback as part of the statutory consultation.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The Enhanced Provision budget (approx. £3m) is protected.
- The proposal is not a savings exercise.
- No child currently in an Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- The intention is to extend enhanced support to all schools, so children do not need to leave their local community to access it.
- How children access Enhanced Provision (full-time, part-time, regulation time) will continue to be based on individual need.
- Any movement of children would only occur where the family wishes it, the child is ready, and the receiving school has appropriate supports in place.
- If a family chooses a move, resource follows the child to ensure continuity of support.

Key Questions Raised by Parents & Carers and Officer Responses

- Fear that children will be forced back to mainstream
- Response: Officers stated clearly that there will be no forced movement and no deadline for change.
- The written proposal does not make this clear
- Response: Officers acknowledged this and committed to provide wording to explicitly reflect this.
- Concerns about staffing capacity in mainstream schools
- Response: Officers explained that implementation will be phased, with training and resource allocation based on assessed need.
- Worry that support in Enhanced Provisions will be diluted
- Response: Officers stated that Enhanced Provision environments and staffing remain where children require them.
- Fear that support may reduce over time based on past experience
- Response: Officers acknowledged trust concerns and said trust must be built through practice, not statements.
- Transport concerns if children remain in Enhanced Provision
- Response: Transport will continue for children who remain in their current placement.

Engagement

Parents expressed concern, particularly regarding trust and risk of losing established support.

Officers acknowledged this directly and committed to clearer written reassurance within updated consultation materials.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently in an Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- There is no deadline for change and no group movement.
- Small-group/low-stimulation environments remain where required.
- Staffing remains based on assessed needs, not dilution.
- Transport remains for children who stay in current placements.
- Consultation is genuine; no final decision has been made.

Closing

Officers encouraged continued participation in the consultation and confirmed that Education Scotland will review all engagement before any final recommendations are made.

Denny High School – 17 September 2025

17 Participants signed up to attend via Participate+

Officers Present

- Deborah Davidson, Head of Education – Early Years, Primary & ASN (Chair)
- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager
- Kenny McNeil, Strategic Service Manager (Education)
- Lauren Shanks, ASN Adviser
- (Also in attendance: Paul Wilcox, to support publishing of survey information)

Purpose of Meeting

To explain the proposal relating to Enhanced Provision (EP) in Falkirk Council primary schools, respond to questions, and gather feedback as part of the statutory consultation.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The Enhanced Provision budget is protected; this proposal is not a savings exercise and is separate from wider ASN/Learning Estate work.
- EPs will continue. The aim is to replicate EP-style enhanced support across all 47 primary schools so families can access support locally.
- Children will continue to access EP/EP-style support in flexible ways (full-time/part-time, regulation time, etc.).
- No child currently in an EP will be required to move. There is no deadline or group movement.
- Resource follows the child only if/when a family chooses a move and the receiving school is ready. There is no front-loaded redistribution.
- EP staffing is reviewed annually in line with pupil numbers, as is current practice.
- Slides used at the meeting will be published; written clarifications and FAQ updates will follow.

Key Questions Raised by Parents & Carers and Officer Responses

- Will children currently in EP be required to return to their catchment school?

- Response: No. There is no forced movement and no deadline. Children can remain in their current EP if that is what meets their needs.
- The written proposal does not clearly state that children can remain.
- Response: Officers acknowledged this and committed to issuing a written clarification, publishing the slides, and updating the FAQs to make this explicit (proposal paper itself not being reissued).
- Is this really about budget savings (parents cited council budget papers)?
- Response: Officers reiterated this EP proposal is not a savings exercise and is distinct from the wider ASN/Learning Estate work.
- Will Enhanced Provisions eventually close / will support be diluted by spreading staff?
- Response: EPs/EP-style provision remain; the model is to replicate enhanced support in every school. No immediate spread of EP resource - resource remains where pupils remain. If a child moves, resource follows the child; core ASN allocations exist in all schools.
- What if a child's catchment school cannot provide the correct support or an appropriate space?
- Response: Then the child does not move. Placement decisions remain needs-led, and no transition would take place until the environment, staffing and supports are in place.
- How will transitions be managed if a family chooses to move a child?
- Response: Transitions would be planned and gradual, in partnership with families, and reviewed.
- Do schools have space for bases and adaptations? What about accessibility?
- Response: Officers referenced capacity work with headteachers and stated that most schools have suitable spaces; adaptations are funded as required. Accessibility is addressed through the Council's Accessibility Strategy and needs-led adjustments.
- What about transport, including circumstances where the parent cannot transport the child?
- Response: Existing transport continues for current EP placements. Within policy, ASN transport can be authorised where needed even within catchment.
- Are staff just being spread thinner, and when will teachers be trained?
- Response: Workforce development to include ASN CPD, use of Scottish Government training funds, and coaching/modelling (not just online). Officers noted the prior deployment of 22 inclusion teachers and a plan to audit training gaps and support whole-staff upskilling, while acknowledging workload pressures.
- Will all survey questions be made available (given branching logic)?
- Response: The final paper will hold the full set of survey questions so parents can see every question route.
- Teacher numbers/hiring and class impact if more pupils return to catchment?
- Response: The authority holds required class-teacher ratios, with enhanced staffing in primaries (including probationers and ASN allocations). If pupils move, resource follows to bolster the receiving school's supports.

Engagement

Parents expressed strong concern around areas of trust, potential dilution of support, and perceived contradictions between "black-and-white" written wording and verbal assurances. Officers acknowledged these concerns, confirmed that written clarification and FAQ updates will follow, and emphasised gradual, needs-led implementation with family partnership.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently in EP will be required to move, no deadline and no group movement.
- EPs/EP-style small-group/low-stimulation environments remain where required; there is no requirement to integrate where this would not be supportive.

- No front-loaded redistribution: EP resource remains in situ unless a family chooses to move; if a child moves, resource follows the child.
- EP staffing reviewed annually in line with numbers (as currently).
- Transport: current EP transport continues; ASN transport may be authorised within policy for catchment placements where needed.
- Consultation is genuine: Education Scotland will independently review all evidence: papers (including ES report) go to Council Executive in February before any recommendations/decisions.
- Transparency commitments: slides to be published; written clarification and updated FAQs to be issued; full survey question set to be made available.

Closing

Officers thanked families for their contributions and confirmed that feedback will be included in the consultation report and reviewed by Education Scotland. Families were invited to continue engaging via Participate+ and the Education Services mailbox, and to raise individual circumstances with officers after the meeting.

Online Public Meeting – 23 September 2025

27 Participants signed up to attend via Participate+

Officers Present

- Deborah Davidson, Head of Education – Early Years, Primary & ASN (Chair)
- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager
- Frances Lawson-Tennyson, Quality Improvement Officer – ASN

Purpose of Meeting

To explain the Enhanced Provision proposal, respond to questions raised by parents and carers, and gather feedback as part of the statutory consultation.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The Enhanced Provision budget is protected; this proposal is not a savings exercise and is separate from wider ASN / Learning Estate work.
- Children who are currently settled in Enhanced Provision will not be required to move. There is no deadline for change and no group or automatic transitions.
- The proposal seeks to extend EP-style enhanced support to all 47 primary schools to improve equity of access.
- Children will continue to access flexible support, including full-time EP, part-time EP and regulation time.
- Resource follows the child only if/when a family chooses a move and the receiving school is prepared. There is no front-loaded redistribution.
- Implementation would be phased and based on workforce development, training, and ensuring suitable environments are in place.
- Officers confirmed they will issue written clarification and update FAQs so that key assurances stated in meetings are reflected in the consultation materials.

Key Questions Raised by Parents & Carers and Officer Responses

- Will children currently in EP be expected to return to their catchment school?

- Response: No. There is no automatic movement and no timeline requiring change. Children may remain in their current EP if they wish to and it is the place which meets their needs.
- We are concerned that support will be reduced over time.
- Response: Officers acknowledged trust concerns and stated that change would be gradual, based on need, and reviewed. Stability for children already in EP remains a priority.
- Will Enhanced Provisions close?
- Response: EPs/EP-style provision continue. The proposal extends the model; it does not remove it.
- What if the catchment school cannot meet a child's needs or does not have space?
- Response: Then the child does not move. No transition occurs until environment, training and staffing are ready, and the family agrees.
- Will staff be spread thinly across more schools?
- Response: No. Staffing remains need-led. If a child stays, resource stays. If a child moves by family choice, resource follows the child. EP staffing continues to be reviewed annually as at present.
- Will small-group/low-stimulation spaces still be available for children who need them?
- Response: Yes. Children who require a full-time small-group environment will continue to have access to it. There is no requirement to transition to mainstream.
- What about siblings?
- Response: Siblings will not be separated as a result of this proposal. Stability of relationships remains a core consideration.
- Will transport continue?
- Response: Yes. Transport continues for children who remain in EP. If a child moves to catchment by family choice, transport may change, though ASN transport can be authorised within policy where needed.
- Do parents retain the right to challenge placement decisions?
- Response: Yes. Parental rights under the ASL Act (2004) remain unchanged, including mediation and other routes.
- Is the outcome already decided?
- Response: No. Education Scotland will independently review the consultation and can require Council to revise the proposal if concerns are not properly addressed.

Engagement

Parents expressed concern centered on trust, stability and not losing established support. Officers acknowledged these concerns and emphasised needs-led planning, family partnership, and phased implementation, and confirmed that written consultation materials will be updated to reflect these assurances.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently in Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- No deadline and no group movement.
- EP/EP-style environments remain where children require them.
- No front-loaded redistribution; resource remains unless a family chooses a move.
- Transitions only occur with family agreement and when the receiving school is prepared.
- Siblings will not be separated as a result of this proposal.
- Transport continues for children who remain in EP; ASN transport may be authorised where needed.
- Parental rights under the ASL Act remain unchanged.
- Education Scotland will independently review the consultation and can require revision before any decision.

Officers Present

- Deborah Davidson, Head of Education – Early Years, Primary & ASN (Chair)
- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager
- Jenny McNeil, ASN Team
- Lauren Shanks, ASN Team

Purpose of Meeting

To explain the proposal relating to Enhanced Provision (EP), respond to parent and carer questions, and gather feedback as part of the statutory consultation.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The proposal is not linked to savings; the Enhanced Provision budget is protected.
- Enhanced Provision currently operates in 15 primary schools; the proposal seeks to extend access to all 47 primary schools to improve equity.
- Enhanced Provision is a structured, sensory-informed, relationship-based small-group model within mainstream schools.
- If approved, implementation would be phased, supported by workforce development, environment planning, and family partnership.
- Children who are currently settled in Enhanced Provision will not be required to move.
- Placement decisions will continue to be based on individual need, through the Staged Intervention Framework.

Key Questions Raised by Parents & Carers and Officer Responses

- The written document does not make it clear that children will not be moved.
- Response: Officers acknowledged this and confirmed children currently in Enhanced Provision will not be required to move. Written materials have been clarified with regards to this.
- We are worried support could gradually reduce over time.
- Response: Officers stated that the Enhanced Provision environment remains available for children who require it. The proposal is about expanding access, not reducing support.
- What if the child's catchment school is not ready to support them?
- Response: Then the child does not move. Transitions only occur when the environment is prepared, staff are confident, and the family agrees.
- Schools are already stretched so how can they manage this?
- Response: Implementation would be phased, with a focus on workforce development, coaching, and planning.
- Will staff be taken away from existing Enhanced Provisions to support other schools?
- Response: No. Staffing follows the child, not the building. Support remains where the child remains.
- Some schools do not currently have space for a small-group base.
- Response: A transition would not take place until a suitable space exists and is appropriately equipped.
- Will children lose the stability they have finally achieved?
- Response: No. Children who require Enhanced Provision remain in it. There is no expectation to transition unless it is right for the child.
- Is there a point where children must move on?

- Response: No. There is no time limit or automatic move back to mainstream or to the catchment school.
- Will transport continue for children who remain in Enhanced Provision?
- Response: Yes. Transport continues while the child requires Enhanced Provision.
- What about siblings and relationships?
- Response: Siblings will not be separated as a result of this proposal. Stability is a key consideration.
- Do parental rights to challenge placement decisions remain?
- Response: Yes. All rights under the ASL Act (2004) remain unchanged.
- Does Education Scotland meaningfully influence the final outcome?
- Response: Yes. Education Scotland independently reviews the consultation and can require changes before any final Council decision is made.

Engagement

Parents expressed concerns regarding stability, clarity and trust. Officers acknowledged these concerns and committed to strengthening written consultation materials to clearly reflect the position discussed in meetings.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently attending Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- There is no timeline and no expectation of automatic transition to mainstream or catchment schools.
- Enhanced Provision environments remain available for children who require them.
- Transitions only occur when the environment is ready and the family agrees.
- Staffing follows the child to ensure continuity of support.
- Transport continues while the child requires Enhanced Provision.
- Parental rights under the ASL Act (2004) remain unchanged.
- Education Scotland will independently review the consultation before any decision is made.

Closing

Officers thanked participants for attending and confirmed that feedback from the session will be included in the consultation report. Officers remained available for individual questions at the end of the meeting.

Grangemouth High School – 1 October 2025

53 Participants signed up to attend via Participate+

Officers Present

- Jon Reid, Director of Education (Chair)
- Deborah Davidson, Head of Education – Early Years, Primary & ASN
- Kerry Drinnan, Quality Improvement Manager – ASN & Inclusion
- Kirsty Ferguson, ASL Project Manager
- David Wells, Educational Services Adviser / ASN Team Support
- Paul Wilcox, Communications

Purpose of Meeting

To explain the Enhanced Provision proposal, respond to questions raised by parents and carers, and gather feedback as part of the statutory consultation. This was the final of six public meetings.

Officer Summary of Proposal

- The Enhanced Provision budget (approx. £3m) is protected; this is not a savings exercise.
- Enhanced Provisions currently exist in 15 schools, supporting children with varying levels of need.
- The proposal seeks to extend enhanced support across all 47 primary schools to ensure more equitable access.
- Children currently in Enhanced Provision will not be forced to move, and support arrangements will remain in place.
- If a family chooses to move a child to their catchment school and it is appropriate, funding and staffing would follow the child.
- Implementation would be gradual and based on environment readiness, staff training, and family agreement.

Key Questions Raised by Parents & Carers and Officer Responses

- Why do you say this is about children being in their communities when some children only feel safe in their current Enhanced Provision environment?
 - Response: Officers stated that the aim is to ensure that safe, relationship-based environments are available in all schools to reduce the stress of accessing support. No child will be required to move if that environment is needed where they are.
- If Enhanced Provision is the model you want, why not simply create more of them?
 - Response: Officers explained that the proposal aims to expand the model of enhanced support rather than limit it to a small number of designated schools.
- What about staffing ratios? Some Enhanced Provisions operate with one adult per four children.
 - Response: Staffing continues to follow assessed need. Enhanced staffing levels would continue where children require intensive support, though delivery may look different depending on school context.
- What does this mean for children currently in mainstream who need more than is there now?
 - Response: The proposal aims to build enhanced-support environments in all schools so children can access the support they need without requiring an EP placement.
- Will every staff member receive appropriate training?
 - Response: A phased programme of professional learning and school-based coaching is planned to build capacity and confidence across the workforce.
- How can the budget support enhanced provision in 47 schools when some EPs already struggle for staff?
 - Response: Officers explained that EP funding is combined with existing ASN resource funding that already supports needs across all schools. The proposal changes the delivery model, not entitlement.
- Can you guarantee that children who require a full-time EP environment will maintain access to that space?
 - Response: Yes. Children who require a full-time small-group environment will continue to access it. No child will be moved to mainstream to free space.
- Will existing EPs still exist in schools that currently have them?

- Response: Yes. The physical spaces, resources and staffing structures remain for children who require them. They may be described as enhanced support but the function is unchanged.
- What safeguards ensure this does not lead to gradual reduction in support?
- Response: Placement decisions and entitlement are protected under the ASL Act. Education Scotland will scrutinise the consultation and final proposal.

Engagement

Parents expressed concern about stability, staffing, safety and long-term guarantees. Officers acknowledged these concerns and reiterated that no child will be required to move and that support will remain needs-led and agreed with families.

Key Assurances Stated

- No child currently attending Enhanced Provision will be required to move.
- There is no expectation or timeline for movement back to mainstream schooling.
- Enhanced Provision environments remain available for children who require them.
- Staffing and resources follow the child where a move is requested and appropriate.
- Transitions only occur through Team Around the Child planning and with family agreement.
- Transport continues for children who remain in Enhanced Provision.
- Parental rights under the ASL Act remain unchanged.
- Education Scotland will independently review consultation feedback before any decision is made.

Closing

Officers thanked participants and confirmed that feedback from this session will be included in the consultation report to Education Scotland. Families were encouraged to submit final written feedback via Participate+ before the consultation closing date.