

Additional Support Needs (ASN) Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I share my views on the proposals?

Attend the public meeting in person or a virtual drop-in session online, details of these are available on the website www.eastlothian.gov.uk/asn-consultation. Complete the online survey, you will find a link on the website above, or send in written comments by post to [Your School Name] ASN Consultation, East Lothian Council, Resources and People Services, John Muir House, Brewery Park, Haddington EH41 3HA

2. Will there be an opportunity for families and learners to shape the design?

The consultation is all about gathering views of learners, parents, carers and the wider community. There will be public meetings, pupil voice sessions in school, parent council engagement and drop-in sessions that will run throughout the consultation period to give stakeholders as much opportunity as possible to express their views and ideas and for the Council to gather as much rich information as possible. However please note, we are not planning to build a brand-new building for the provision, therefore there will be limits to the flexibility of the design.

3. How will the Council monitor the impact of the new ASN provision on the wider school community?

We already continually monitor the data within each of our schools on a monthly basis, such as attendance figures, exclusions and attainment of all learners in the school community. We do not foresee a major impact on the figures given the relatively small proportion of ASN pupils compared to the mainstream.

4. How do projected costs of the proposals compare to the cost of out of authority placements?

Out of authority placements are varied, the level of support that an individual child or young person needs will impact the cost of that placement. In addition, transport costs, residential and respite needs also vary and contribute to the overall cost of that placement. Generally, the cost of a placement in East Lothian is around half to a third of the cost of an out of authority placement. However, this is not the only consideration for this proposal which aligns with our aspiration to utilise and grow our own expertise within the Education service and for our children and young people to feel as though they belong to their community and do not need to leave the county to be educated.

5. Why is the number of children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) increasing?

The trends we are seeing in East Lothian are being seen at a national level and beyond. Our definition of ASN is inclusive and covers a wide range of additional support needs. That definition ranges from a need that may be temporary, such as a bereavement, to a severe, complex and enduring need. There are several

factors contributing to this and its hugely complex, however contributing factors to the increase have been identified nationally, such as:

- Increased assessment and identification of need by professional educators, social workers and medical professions.
- Medical advances leading to increased neo-natal survival rates.
- Sociatal factors, such as the cost-of-living crisis, mental health issues, and experiences during and post covid.

6. How would the proposed ASN provision be staffed?

We have a well-established staffing model in our existing ASN provisions which we would implement in any future ASN provisions we establish. The head teacher of the school leads overall, but is supported by a dedicated depute head teacher who has day to day responsibility for leading the provision. The existing ASN provisions have a higher staffing ratio.

7. Would there be any be any benefits to the wider school?

We do not aspire to have stand alone special schools due to inclusion, and what we have found works best in practice is a provision within a mainstream school. This enables learners within the ASN provision have access to mainstream learning and peers and mainstream learners have access to expertise of specialist staff and facilities within the provision when they need it. This benefits the wider school community, promotes inclusion and best meets the needs of all learners.

8. Why have you chosen our school?

In our experience, an ASN provision works best when there is a minimum of 4 classes. Analysis was undertaken to identify schools within our learning estate that had multiple classrooms available, were suitable for a provision, located on the ground floor, with access to outside space, and in a locality that had no ASN provision already.

9. How will places be allocated in any future ASN provision?

Unlike mainstream primary and secondary schools that have a defined catchment area, which allocates places to a school based on your address, ASN provision places are not allocated based on catchment. Places are allocated by the Education Resource Group who meet every 6-8 weeks to consider referrals for specialist ASN provision and make decisions about where individual pupils will be placed. They take into consideration several factors, including geographical location, when deciding how best to meet the individual needs of that child or young person. Pupils living in a locality without ASN provision will therefore not be at a disadvantage.