

Scottish Borders Council

New Additional Support Needs Provision in Earlston

13th September 2016

Welcome

Introductions

Outline of the Public Meeting

- Wider Context within Education DM
- Current spectrum support provision CR/SF
- New provision CR
- Educational Benefits CR
- Statutory Consultation Process DM
- Question and answer session SA

Inclusion for All

Standards in Schools Act 2000 - presumption of mainstream with recognition that the needs of some children and young people are best met through specialist provision.

Importance of an individualised approach ; our ethos and attitude are critical to 'getting it right' for every child ; impact upon the family

Aim-Inclusion for All

For all our pupils, together we will:

- Create an ethos of achievement for all pupils within a climate of high expectation.
- Value a broad range of talents, abilities and achievements.
- Promote success and self-esteem by taking action to remove barriers to learning.
- Counter conscious and unconscious discrimination that may prevent individuals, or pupils from any particular groups, from thriving in their education.
- Actively promote understanding and a positive appreciation of the diversity of individuals and groups within society.

Aim-Inclusion for All

We need:

- the right environments-both in mainstream and ASN provision- flexible, responsive to the range of learners' additional support needs
- to reduce travel time as much as possible
- highly skilled and trained staff in a range of needs such as: autism, sensory impairment, complex and profound needs, complex and severe needs, dyslexia , dyspraxia, nurture and attachment
- pupils, parents and staff sharing positive attitudes, confidence, aspiration, understanding and values which celebrate diversity
- Learning Pathways and improved outcomes for all learners

Current Spectrum Primary Provision in Scottish Borders

We currently have 2 Spectrum Support primary bases in Scottish Borders.

One is based in Innerleithen and one is based in Hawick.

Each base provides a specialist supported learning environment for our young people.

Across the two provisions we currently have 13 pupils who all have a shared placement with their own local school.

New provision in Earlston

- A specialist resource with a strong focus on developing excellence in Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- A new modern purpose built environment recognising sensory needs of young people
- Facilities designed to support learning e.g. soft play
- A safe enclosed outside area with easy access
- A building which will offer flexibility for after school activities, parent networking or to create opportunities to provide a bespoke learning package for an individual child

School Status

The reasons for classifying Earlston resource as a school are:

- It affords the provision a greater status
- This is a stand alone provision which is not integral to a school building
- A clear management structure based in the school
- More likely to be recognised by local and national groups and bodies

Educational Benefits

- A purpose built learning environment
- No change half way through learning for young people
- A central location allowing equity of access
- Staff continuing to develop excellent practice by sharing skills with each other and the wider teaching network
- Being based in a small village allows children to begin to develop independence and life skills
- Opportunities for learning and work experience for pupils from Earlston High School

Statutory Consultation- the proposals

The Council is seeking public comment and response on :

- The proposal to discontinue the spectrum support classes at St Ronan's Primary School and Wilton Primary School
- The proposal to establish a new ASN school in the village of Earlston

Should these proposals be accepted and implemented , a new ASN school will be established ,named and located in the village of Earlston

Statutory Consultation- the process

- On-line consultation at www.scotborders.gov.uk/asnschool
- Meetings with staff, pupils and parents
- Public meetings - record questions and answers; build up a FAQ and update after the public meetings finish this week, responding to any omissions or errors highlighted
- Education Scotland then look at proposal paper and other relevant information including a summary of the public meeting and any written responses.
- Education Scotland meet stakeholders and complete an independent report which will focus on the Educational Benefits of the proposal.
- SBC prepares and publishes a consultation report.

Questions and comments

- Please state whether you are a member of the public, a parent , a member of staff- for recording of stakeholders' views
- Note the staff recording the meeting