

Every Child is Included: Policy into Practice Additional Support for Learning Network News



Education Services

October 2013 - Issue 6

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the sixth issue of Glasgow ASL parents' Network News. This is the first issue of session 2013-2014 and there has been a lot happening. Everyone was delighted with the continued improvement in examination results in Glasgow this year. As well as tracking the overall exam results, we monitor very carefully the results of vulnerable groups of young people, including those who are looked after and those who have additional support needs or English as an Additional Language. We were also delighted that, across the city, attendance has continued to improve as has the percentage of young people moving into positive destinations after leaving school. We think Glasgow schools are becoming even better at including and supporting young people.

This session the aims of Network News remain the same; we want to provide you with the opportunity to:

- get regular and reliable information about what Education Services are doing about additional support for learning
- link up and communicate with other parents whose children have additional support needs
- ask questions and receive answers about additional support in Glasgow
- get news about national and local developments relating to additional support.

Network News is now going out directly to over 100 parents and carers. We know that is a very small number of those who have children with additional support needs attending Glasgow schools, but we hope it will continue to grow. Please pass it on to anyone you think may be interested. We are also sending it out through schools and early years centres and we're going to put it online. If you don't see copies of Network News in the school your child attends, please ask the Headteacher to make it available to everyone.

You can access this and previous editions of Network News by downloading them from the Glasgow City Council website www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8627

Our core parents group – The ASL Parents' Forum - is still meeting regularly. Their contact details are below.

This sixth issue of Network News is being sent to:

- all those parents already signed up to the Network
- all Glasgow schools, establishments and services
- Psychological Services
- our partner agencies; health and Social Work Services
- voluntary organisations

Network News will only support parents and families if it does the job you want it to do. Please let us know what you think about it. All our contact details are listed below.

Yours,

Margaret McKinlay
Area Education Officer
Education Services, Glasgow City Council



Contact Details

Key contacts in Glasgow City Council Education Services:

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ASD Conference

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) PARENTS' CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 2013

On 11th September 2013, in response to parental requests, we held a conference for parents of children with autistic spectrum disorder, including communication difficulties. John Butcher, Head of Inclusion, opened the conference and welcomed the over 90 people who came along. There was a range of workshops provided and feedback on almost all of them was very positive. One of the speakers at the conference was a young woman with ASD who spoke about her experience. Many parents said they found this session particularly interesting and helpful. Parents said as well that they enjoyed being able to meet and talk to each other.

Here is some of the feedback parents gave us:

"I liked the introduction – it gave me a lot of information about how my child fits in to the overall structure of provision."

"The communication workshop was very good."

"The lunch and welcome were fabulous and there was a good range of workshops."

"There should have been more time – I felt it was very rushed."

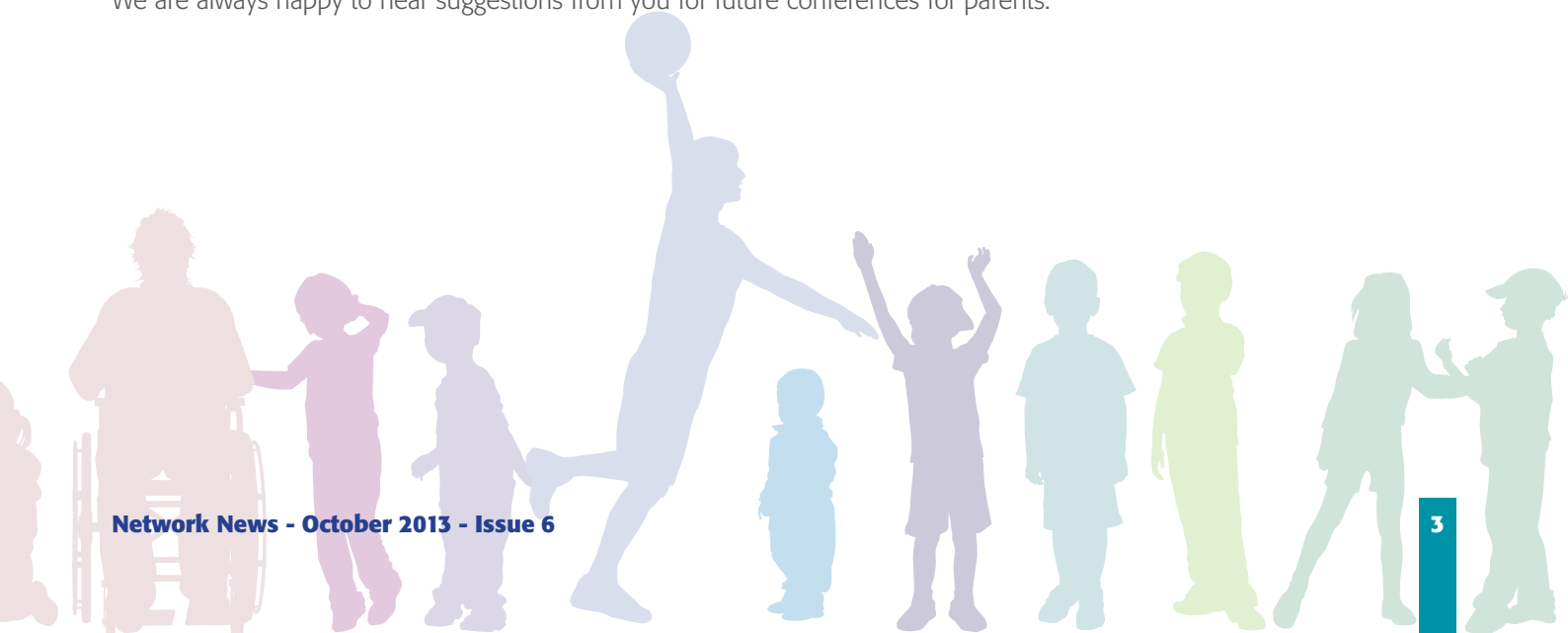
"I really enjoyed learning more about parents' rights and meeting parents who had similar issues."

"It would have been better if there were more discussions."

"This is a new chapter for me - great info – mega thanks to everyone."

On 22nd October 2013 we are running a conference for kinship carers which has been publicised through social work services. Later this year we are hoping to run a parents' conference on dyslexia and we intend to repeat the ASD conference as so many people were keen to come along. We will give you information about these in later editions of Network News.

We are always happy to hear suggestions from you for future conferences for parents.



Current Developments

CURRENT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT IN GLASGOW EDUCATION SERVICES

Towards the Nurturing City

In the last edition of Network News we told you about the work we are taking forward to ensure that all our schools are nurturing and inclusive places for children and young people. Our nurture training officer is currently working with our educational psychologists to plan and deliver training for all staff in the principles of nurturing schools.

Discussion among the Core Parents' Group

At the last meeting of the Core Group of parents who come to discuss ASL issues with officers, there was a general feeling that we weren't yet good enough in Glasgow at communicating with parents about ASL developments. This arose particularly from discussion about consultation in relation to the proposed merger of Ashcraig Secondary School and Milton School and the relocation of St Oswald's Secondary School. Parents felt that they didn't have a clear enough view of how these proposals fitted in to Glasgow's overall strategic development and how they would improve the ways in which we meet the needs of children and young people.

The views the parents expressed were communicated to the ASL Strategic Development Group and it was agreed there that we would look again at how we can communicate more effectively with parents about developments and strategic planning.

ASL Parents' Guide

We recently completed a short guide for parents about ASL in Glasgow. This guide is with our Graphics and Communications section right now and will be going online very soon. We'll give you details of how to access it in the next edition of Network News.



Changes to SQA rules about the provision of readers and scribes in examinations

Some parents have been expressing concern about changes made by the SQA to their rules about when young people with additional support needs may be supported by readers and scribes in exams.

In schools, there should always be a clear plan in place about the support each young person needs in examinations. This plan is based on experience over the years of how the candidate performs in exams in different subjects. The plan should be agreed and discussed with both the young person concerned and the parents/carers.

It is important that schools encourage young people to be as independent as possible in taking examinations and developments in technology in recent years have made this a little easier.

The information that follows is provided by Margaret Glasgow, who heads our Dyslexia Support Service. It reflects the SQA's current position. We hope you find it helpful.

Literacy is an essential component of the National 3 and National 4 English and Literacy units. In order for pupils to be successful in these subjects, pupils must be able to work independently. Scribes are still available for all other subjects and for other parts of the Literacy and English units. It is therefore important to ensure that all assessment material is made as accessible as possible for pupils, without compromising the integrity of the qualification.

Teachers from secondary Support for Learning departments and English departments in Glasgow schools have been working in collaboration with teachers from Glasgow Dyslexia Support Service and the SQA. They have been looking at assessment materials for the National 3 and National 4 units and making adjustments to the layout and presentation of the material for the literacy components. These exemplars are now available to teachers on the SQA website.

A leaflet has been produced by the SQA which contains further information and answers to frequently asked questions. The leaflet is also available in Gaelic and there are audio versions of both. A short video animation has also been produced and all are available on the SQA site at www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/67310.html



Questions and Answers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, INFORMATION?

While specific questions about your child need to go directly to the head of the establishment he or she attends, we are very happy to publish general questions that may be of interest to other parents here in Network News – and we can do so anonymously. It's also good if we can include comments or suggestions that other parents may find helpful. Quite often, when we meet parents at conferences and other events, they tell us about the successes their children have had and about support that has worked out well. It would be encouraging for other parents if you were prepared to share stories like this, as well as concerns, through Network News.

You can email questions, suggestions, comments to Yvette Duffy (see contact list) and we will include them in the next issue of Network News.

Similarly, if you have any news or information that you think would be helpful to other parents and families, please let us know and we will include these too.



News and Information

The Ear Foundation sent us the following information about two forthcoming courses which will be of interest to parents of children who have a hearing impairment

We are running a Cochlear Implant Information Day for families and adults who are considering getting a cochlear implant, and would be extremely grateful if you could pass on this information to anyone you know who would benefit from this day. For further information you can visit our website www.earfoundation.org.uk/families/family-events-and-facilities/cochlear-implant-information-day

Many thanks for your help and support!

Cochlear Implant Information Day

Saturday, 30th November 2013

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm, **Cost:** £10.00 per person

Come and join us at The Ear Foundation in Nottingham for our Cochlear Implant Information Day for Families and Adults. The day will start at 10.00am and will finish at 4.00pm; with refreshments provided throughout the day and a buffet at 12.30pm.

- Do you or your child have a severe or profound hearing loss?
- **Would** you like to know more about what is involved?
- Are you considering a Cochlear Implant for yourself or your child?

This one day course takes you through the journey from Assessment to Surgery to Rehabilitation to Outcomes. With the opportunity to speak to other people with cochlear implants at various stages of their journey.

For more information or to book a place please contact Rachel Lightfoot:

Rachel Lightfoot, Administrator

Phone 0115 942 1985, Email rachel@earfoundation.org.uk, Website www.earfoundation.org.uk

We are running a BAHA Information Day for families and adults who are considering getting a Bone Anchored Hearing device. For further information you can visit our website www.earfoundation.org.uk/families/family-events-and-facilities/bone-anchored-hearing-system-information-day

BAHA Information Day

Saturday, 23rd November 2013

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm, Cost: £10.00 per person

Come and join us at The Ear Foundation in Nottingham for our BAHA (Bone Anchored Hearing Device) Information Day for Families and Adults. The day will start at 10.00am and will finish at 4.00pm; with refreshments provided throughout the day and a buffet at 12.30pm.

- Do you or your child have a severe or profound hearing loss?
- **Would** you like to know more about what is involved?
- Are you considering a Bone Anchored Hearing Device for yourself or your child?

The day will be packed with information about the journey from assessment to surgery, rehabilitation to practical outcomes. There will be the opportunity to speak to others with Bone Anchored Hearing Devices at various stages of their journey. For more information or to book a place please contact Rachel Lightfoot:

Rachel Lightfoot, Administrator

Phone 0115 942 1985, Email rachel@earfoundation.org.uk, Website www.earfoundation.org.uk

...and Enquire sent us news about two interesting guides they have recently produced for children and young people...

One is for looked after children and young people and the other is for pupils who are unable to attend school.

We've included below a short summary of the guides and links to download them from our website. We are also happy to send hard copies to those who would like them.

Getting the right help in school – Two new guides from Enquire explain young people's rights

Getting the most out of education can be difficult if you are looked after or struggling to be in school. That's why Enquire has produced two news guides to help young people understand their rights to support in school.

'What happens when you can't go to school?' will help young people understand their rights to get support so they can carry on with their learning even when they are not at school. The guide considers a number of reasons young people might be away from school including being ill, caring for a family member, being excluded, home schooled, from a travelling community or a refugee.

'Extra Help at School when you are looked after' will help looked after pupils understand their rights to extra support and what that support might be. It explains how they can be involved in making decisions about their learning and the planning that should be in place for them as they prepare to leave school.

Created with help from children and young people, the guides are an essential tool for all those working with young people who aren't in school or who are looked after. Short and easy to read, like all Enquire's resources, it has been accredited by the Plain Language Commission. The guides can be used as a teaching resource for a whole class or with individual pupils. Both guides can be downloaded from our website at enquire.org.uk/yp/ypg-what-happens-when-you-cant-go-to-school.pdf and enquire.org.uk/yp/ypg-extra-help-at-school-when-you-are-looked-after.pdf or you can email us at info@enquire.org.uk and we will send you copies.



Education Scotland sent us information about the Parent Participation Project which is particularly relevant to the parents of children who have disabilities

For Scotland's Disabled Children (fSDC) is a coalition of over fifty organisations and groups who provide services for, and support the families of, children with disabilities. The Parent Participation Project is funded by the Scottish Government to support parents of disabled children in having more of a say in the policy matters that affect them and their children. The project is carrying out three surveys between 2013 to 2014.

The Survey 1 report for this for Scotland's Disabled Children project has now been published.

Click below to read the report:

www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/fSDCSurvey1ReportFINAL.pdf

If you would like to know more about this parent participation project, please contact Marion Macleod by email mmacleod@childreninscotland.org.uk or phone 0131 222 2435.

If you want to be added to the direct mailing list for Network News, please email Yvette Duffy – see Contacts list on Page 2.

Next Edition - January 2014

