

#### **EE14. Specialist Education for Additional Support Needs in Primary and Secondary Schools**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing proposals to expand provision for Additional Support Needs (ASN) in primary and secondary schools.

The report referred to a review of ASN undertaken between 2015-2017 which identified a growing number of children and young people with additional support needs in all areas. National and local pupil census data was also provided which indicates a rise in the number of children with ASD and ASN.

Information was provided on the current specialist provision within Falkirk Council establishments for pupils with ASN and ASD. Accommodation expansion to these was not feasible due to the nature of the schools sites, and in order to maintain a balance between mainstream and specialist provision school numbers.

Three primary and two secondary schools had been identified, which have the physical space to accommodate expanded provision to meet the needs of children and young people with specialist needs.

The Education Executive was advised that due to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, it would not be possible to report to the November meeting. The report on the outcome of the consultation would be considered at the January meeting.

#### **Decision**

##### **The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) a statutory public consultation on opening specialist classes in 3 mainstream primary schools and 2 mainstream secondary schools which do not have social and communication difficulties and Autism provision. The specific schools are detailed in paragraph 4.2 and 4.4 of the report;**
- (2) the consultation document detailed in appendix 1 of the report;**
- (3) that the Director of Children's Services prepares a report for the January 2018 Education Executive which will summarise the outcomes from the consultation and make recommendations for the Education Executive to consider and agree next steps.**