

EE5. Autism Spectrum Disorder and Language and Communication Support Bases Developments

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided a further update on proposals for the development of the expansion of provision for children and young people who have social and communication difficulties including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and, the options which have been considered to meet their needs.

The report provided information on the existing additional support facilities within Falkirk Council for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and ASD, which have a greater population than originally planned. In order to both meet the increased demands and reduce the number of children attending these existing provisions in future, an increase capacity for ASD provision is required in other geographic areas. Statutory consultation had taken place in 2017 in relation to the proposed expansion.

To enable children with ASN to be educated as close to their home and community as reasonably possible, whilst meeting their educational support needs, Easter Carmuir's Primary School and Larbert High School had been identified for expansion. Both establishments will require internal work to develop the learning spaces to accommodate the new resources. Details of additional staff requirements and staff development proposals were also set out.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to increase capacity for Autism Spectrum Disorder provision by creating specialist classes within Easter Carmuir's Primary School and Larbert High School from August 2018, and**
- (2) that Children's Services undertake further work to assess the impact that the current expansion plans would have on the need to provide further specialist classes in the future.**