

The background of the slide features a large, light blue outline of the Northern Territory coat of arms. It includes a crown at the top with four stylized flowers, a shield in the center divided into four quadrants (containing a cross, a kangaroo, a ship, and a tree), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

# **AGENDA ITEM**

**7**

## **INCREASING CAPACITY IN SPECIALIST PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: INCREASING CAPACITY IN SPECIALIST PRIMARY EDUCATION  
FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS**  
**Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 29 MARCH 2016**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Education Executive on the challenges faced by Children's Services in relation to a growing number of primary aged children requiring specialised adaptations to their curriculum, high levels of personal care and careful control of the physical environment;
- set options and propose recommendations to address the challenges in the short term; and
- propose recommendations to address future capacity challenges across the early years and school estates.

**2. CURRENT CAPACITY AND ROLLS WITHIN PRIMARY ASN SUPPORT BASES**

2.1 The ASN primary support bases are attached to 3 mainstream primary schools and have the undernoted capacity/rolls:

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Pupil Roll 2015-16</b>
Ladeside Primary School	The Base	30	31
Maddiston Primary School	TimeZone	24	24
Kinnaird Primary School	Thistle Wing	24	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>

The children who attend these bases are unable to be accommodated within a mainstream setting due to:

- their complex mental, physical and medical needs that require specialist teaching and care;
- a need for an extensive range of support equipment, e.g. tracking and hoists, communication aids, etc;
- delivery of cost effective access to partner agencies, e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, etc.

### 3. FUTURE ROLL/DEMAND PROJECTIONS

#### (i) Short Term

With 8 P7 pupils leaving the sector and 27 pupils identified currently as requiring placement we need to create capacity to meet the needs of the additional 19 pupils from August 2016.

#### (ii) Medium to Long Term

The service faces a significant challenge as the number of children who require a place in an ASN Base is likely to rise due to:

- more families moving into the area as a result of new build family housing development/migration coming onstream;
- the number of pre-school children in partnership nurseries or those who are not yet registered with us, yet who may have significant additional support needs and are not known to the service;
- older children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) whose mainstream educational placements may break down;
- advances in neo-natal medical interventions and paediatric science and care.

Over the next 5 years we could see the demand rise significantly:

Current Demand	2015/16	79 (actual)
<u>Future Demand</u>	2016/17	98 est
	2017/18	113 est
	2018/19	128 est
	2019/20	140 est
	2020/21	150 est

Note: The above estimates are based on Pre-Five Community Assessment Team (PREFCAT) projections - linked to rising trend.

### 4. LIMITING FACTORS

Having assessed the possibility of expanding on each of the current sites the following was concluded:

#### (i) Ladeside Primary School

Having already expanded the capacity within the school within the last 5 years, there is no scope to expand it further, unless it was via an extension.

#### (ii) Maddiston Primary School

Although expansion of the school is being planned for future years there is scope on site to provide additional modular accommodation currently.

(iii) Kinnaird Primary School

With expansion of the school being planned in the next 2 years and the current site already accommodating several modular classroom units there is no space for onsite expansion currently.

In view of the above Maddiston Primary School is the site most suited to providing onsite expansion.

## **5. WAY FORWARD/PROPOSALS TO EXPAND ASN BASE CAPACITY**

5.1 To meet the increasing demand, Children's Services propose to increase capacity in time for the August 2016 intake through two initiatives:

- expanding the ASN base provision at Maddiston Primary School;
- creating a new facility but utilising existing unused space at Carrongrange School.

(i) Expand the ASN Base within Maddiston Primary School

- This will consist of modular accommodation to provide additional ASN capacity to support up to 6 pupils. This means minimal disruption and continued connectivity for the children in the TimeZone.
- A modular unit will be relocated during summer 2016 from Weedingshall (as the Mariner Support Service relocate to the Focus School site) to the grounds of Maddiston Primary School, providing the additional capacity.

(ii) New Facility at Carrongrange

- Three classrooms and additional access to ancillary areas, have been identified in the current Carrongrange building.
- This provision will meet the needs of those children who will particularly benefit from physiotherapy programmes including water-based activities.
- The building is already fit for purpose but would require some investment to alter and adapt classrooms and provide suitable adaptations to meet the needs of primary pupils with severe and complex needs.
- This facility could also be expanded further to meet the requirements of children in future years.

Note: Developing and locating all the additional provision at Carrongrange is not preferred due to the need for a number of children to gain access to and be alongside their mainstream peers, which can be achieved by having a 6 place base in Maddiston.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

(i) Staffing (Revenue Cost)

- The staffing ratios required to meet the needs of ASN children are specified within national policy (Yellow Book). This stipulates the maximum Adult:Pupil ratio for such ASN settings as 1:2.5. In practice the ratio will be lower than this as the number of classrooms is a key factor.

- It is estimated that we will need the following additional staff to meet those children's needs:

4 FTE teachers (1 to cover each of 4 classrooms)

8 FTE SFLAs

**12 FTE Total**

- The cost of this in 2016/17 estimated to be £175k.

(ii) Transport (Revenue Cost)

- The exact costs have still to be assessed as it will depend on what parents accept moves to alternative bases.
- In some cases this may mean children being in a base that is nearer their home.
- The cost of this will require to be met from within the Service's 2016/17 budget.
- Additional costs would have had to be incurred in any case if we had sufficient spare capacity in our ASN Primary bases, as the ASN roll/demand increases.

(iii) Opportunity Cost of Not Providing Internal Service

- If we do not increase our ASN capacity to meet the needs of these **19** children we would face the prospect of having to provide their educational needs within an external placement.
- The estimated annual cost of one such external ASN placement would be approximately **£50k** per annum including transport.
- It therefore meets best value principles that the most cost effective solution is to meet the ASN needs of these children within our own schools.

(iv) Capital Costs

The undernoted works would be required to be carried out during summer 2016:

- Relocate our existing modular classroom out from Weedingshall (Mariner Support Service) to Maddiston Primary School.
- Undertake the necessary internal alterations and provide the ASN adaptations within the classrooms at Carronrange.

Although more detailed work is required on this to enable estimates to be received Children's Services estimate that this work would cost **c£100k**.

This cost can be met from Children's Services 2016/17 agreed Capital Budget (school demographic pressures) and by utilising some planning gain monies which are available for use at Maddiston Primary School.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 That the Education Executive:**

- (i) note the pressures Children's Services face in meeting the educational and social needs of rising numbers of children with severe and complex additional support needs.**
- (ii) agree to the proposals put forward by Children's Services to meet the needs of those children in August 2016.**
- (iii) ask the Director of Children's Services brings further reports to Education Executive that considers:**
  - options associated with meeting the long term needs of pupils with severe and complex ASN**
  - options to address primary school capacity issues; and**
  - options to address secondary school capacity issues.**

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**Director of Children's Services**

**Date: 16 March 2016**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL