

EE48. INCREASING CAPACITY IN SPECIALIST PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the challenges faced by Children's Services in relation to the growing number of primary aged children requiring specialised adaptations to their curriculum, high levels of personal care and careful control of the physical environment. The report set out proposals to address the challenges in the short term and to address future capacity challenges across the early years and school estates.

Information was provided on the current capacity and rolls within primary ASN support bases. The total capacity provided by facilities at The Base, TimeZone and Thistle Wing was 78 places. The pupil roll for 2015/16 was 79. There was a net increase of 19 pupils from 2015/16 to 2016/17 who required specialised support to best meet their needs.

The Service proposed that to increase capacity in time for the school session beginning in August 2016 that two initiatives were introduced:

- i) expanding the ASN base provision at Maddiston Primary School (TimeZone), and
- ii) creation of a new facility, utilising existing unused space at Carrongrange School.

It was estimated that an additional four FTE Teacher posts and eight FTE Support for Learning Assistant posts would be required to meet the increased level of demand. The cost for 2016/17 was estimated to be £175,000.

To relocate an existing modular classroom from Weedingshall to Maddiston Primary School and undertake the necessary internal alterations within classrooms at Carrongrange a cost of c£100,000 would be incurred. This would be met from the Children's Services Capital Budget (school demographic pressures) and utilisation of planning gain monies available for use at Maddiston Primary School. Work would be carried out during the summer of 2016.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the pressures Children's Services faces in meeting the educational and social needs of rising numbers of children with severe and complex additional support needs;
- (2) agreed the proposals put forward by Children's Services to meet the needs of those children in August 2016, and
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services bring further reports to Education Executive that consider:
 - 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.