

Additional Support for Learning Update on Activity

Summary and Recommendations

This paper provides an update on activity to progress the joint COSLA and Scottish Action Plan for implementing the recommendations made in Angela Morgan's Review of Additional Support for Learning Implementation.

This paper invites Board Members to:

- i. Discuss and provide feedback on progress

References

Previous reports:

- 20-10-02 Item 09 Children and Young People Board Paper
- 20-05-22 Item 09 Children and Young People Board Paper
- 20-02-21 Item 03 Children and Young People Board Workplan
- 19-11-15 Item 03 Children and Young People Board Paper
- 19-10-04 Item 01 Children and Young People Board Workplan
- 19-08-09 Item 01 Children and Young People Board Workplan
- 19-05-10 Item 03 Children and Young People Board Workplan

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activity to progress the joint COSLA and Scottish Government Action Plan for implementing the recommendations made in Angela Morgan's Review of Additional Support for Learning Implementation.

Current COSLA Position

2. The Deputy First Minister set up an independently chaired review of Additional Support for Learning, founded on the continued commitment to the presumption of mainstreaming and to ensure that children and young people's additional support needs are met. Scottish Government and COSLA agreed that Angela Morgan would chair the review, and that the Chair would report to COSLA and Scottish Government.
3. The Chair presented her [Report](#) to COSLA and Scottish Government on the 28th of February 2020. The Children and Young People Board discussed the Report in May 2020 and agreed that COSLA officers and Scottish Government officials should develop a draft action plan for implementation. The Joint Action Plan was agreed by the Board in October 2020.
4. The Action Plan outlines a major role for the Additional Support for Learning Implementation Group (ASLIG) in progressing this work. ASLIG is chaired by a third sector representative and membership includes ENABLE, COSLA, Scottish Government, ADES, ASPEP, Education Scotland, the EIS, UNISON, Children in Scotland and National Parent Forum of Scotland.
5. Angela Morgan said that following her review, there must be a mechanism put in place to allow progress against the recommendation to be reported and scrutinised. This should be developed in partnership with ASLIG. A progress report should be produced and reported to Scottish Ministers and COSLA one year after the publication of the report and its recommendations. The joint COSLA and Scottish Government Action Plan noted that in light of Covid-19, such a report would be produced in October 2021.

What is changing?

6. Following on from the initial series of meetings held by ASLIG the following update has been developed for the Chair to communicate to interested parties, this should be viewed as an initial update on activity, it is not the Progress Report which has been committed to, that will be produced in October:
 - The Additional Support for Learning Implementation Group (ASLIG) is fully focused on driving forward the implementation of the recommendations made by the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Review . The Group does not underestimate the significant impact that the pandemic has had on all children and young people, their families and the professionals who support them. That is why ASLIG have prioritised progressing the actions that were set out in the [Additional Support for Learning Action](#)

Plan. Whilst Covid-19 has had an impact on how we are able to take this work forward, progress is being made, and will continue.

- The ASL Review was clear that children and young people's participation, co-creation and collaboration is key to ensuring that additional support for learning is implemented effectively. It highlighted the need to strengthen support and structures for listening to their views. ASLIG fully endorses this approach and the actions set out in the Action Plan to realise this ambition. We recognise the benefit it will bring in supporting the improvement of the experiences of children and young people with additional support needs and support their right to express their views, feelings and wishes.
- The focus has been on working with Young Ambassadors for Inclusion to support their development of a national overarching vision statement for success in learning and education for children and young people who have additional support needs. This will be published shortly.
- Work has been progressing to agree robust implementation and outcome measures set against each recommendation in the action plan to monitor and drive progress against the actions to be reported later this year.
- A measurement framework is being developed seeking to value and increase visibility of the diverse range of achievements that children and young people achieve and develop a mechanism to ensure that these are fully recognised and celebrated.
- Other measures set out in the ASL Action Plan continue to be progressed. This includes the work of short-life working group which has been established to review the use of co-ordinated support plans. The group is considering the key issues and barriers to effective implementation of the legislation related to CSPs and will work collaboratively to address and overcome them. They will report their findings to ASLIG to inform next steps."

Proposed COSLA Position

7. Members are asked to discuss and provide feedback on the update. COSLA Officers will continue to work with ASLIG to progress the Action Plan and further updates to the Board will be provided.

Next Steps

8. ASLIG will continue to take forward the Action Plan and produce a report for COSLA and Ministers in October 2021, all actions in the Action Plan will not be met by then, so the report will also provide indicative timescales for further future progress.

May 2021