
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	22 April 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/30/2025/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach Head of Education	Contact No:	01475 712891
Subject:	Update Report: Future of Additional Support Needs Specialist Provision		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ☐ For Decision ☒ For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update members on the report taken to committee in January 2025 on the future requirements of ASN provision from August 2025 and beyond.

1.3 There is an increasing level of need amongst our learners which requires support from specialist teaching within specialist provisions. As a result, the number of places required in current specialist settings is increasing for August 2025, requiring the service to increase places at both Craigmarloch and the All Saints Communication and Language base. Stella Maris places at Notre Dame High School have increased over the previous academic years and as reported separately, a consultation has been completed regrading a new secondary provision Clydeview Academy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:

- note the content of the report and update on progress with planning for ASN provision for August 2025
- note that further work in relation to an options appraisal is being carried out relating to ASN provision from August 2026 onwards.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Education Service takes an inclusive approach to supporting and meeting learners' needs. The service follows national policy in relation to Additional Support for Learning, including the presumption of mainstreaming for pupils. There are a number of different specialist services across Inverclyde which support meeting the range of learners' needs, however some children and young people benefit from specialist teaching methods.
- 3.2 The Education Service offers outreach services such as Inverclyde Communication Outreach service (ICOS), the English as an Additional Language service (EAL), the Visual Impairment Service (VI), Hearing Impairment Service as part of the Garvel provision (HI) and the outreach service linked to NEST as part of Lomond View Academy to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- 3.3 The specialist Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Provision in Inverclyde Council currently consists of Craigmarloch School, Hillend Children's Centre, the Communication and Language Base (CLB) at All Saints Primary School, the Stella Marris provision at Notre Dame High School, Lomond View Academy and the Garvel provision to support deaf learners at Moorfoot Primary and Clydeview Academy.
- 3.4 Over the last four years the Education Service has gradually increased capacity within the existing ASL specialist provision as the number of learners requiring places in specialist provision has increased. This has seen the opening of the Onesery (nursery / P1) at Craigmarloch, the adaptation of internal spaces at Craigmarloch and across the campus in order to create new learning spaces, and the opening of a fourth class at the All Saints CLB in August 2024.
- 3.5 The rising numbers of learners who require support through a specialist placement has been an identified risk as part of the service's risk register for a number of years and features as part of the Council's Corporate Risk Register.
- 3.6 In October of each year the Education Service's Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum (ASNMF) requests referrals from all education establishments for pupils who may require specialist provision for the following school session.
- 3.7 Prior to October 2024 officers from the service began to scope out the numbers of pupils who would require specialist settings with senior leaders, including carrying out contextualised assessment of pupils to be clear on the right provision that would be required. This intensive work has identified that there is a further increase in the numbers of learners who will require specialist support.
- 3.8 In order to meet these needs across the sectors, work will need to be carried out to enhance and extend existing specialist provision, as well as opening new provision, initially within the secondary sector.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 An initial options appraisal has been carried out by officers to identify the best options open to the service to meet this rising need for August 2025. This process has identified the best options to meet the rising level of need. As a result, the service is taking forward the following for August 2025:

1. Extend the capacity of Craigmarloch School on the current site by seeking options to create new learning spaces at the campus, including the Enterprise Centre. This is to meet an increased number of pupils requiring to enter the Onesery in August 2025.
2. Open a 5th class at the CLB at All Saints for August 2025, ahead of carrying out a further options appraisal and potential consultation in order to open a second CLB in another primary school for August 2026.
3. Open a second secondary based ASN provision, similar to Stella Marris, at Clydeview Academy, for August 2025.
4. The co-location of the primary NEST provision and Lomond View Academy.

4.2 Update on progress towards the delivery of the options for August 2025

A management oversight group has been established in order to monitor the progress of the works being carried out and is meeting on a fortnightly basis. The group is chaired by the Head of Education and membership includes officers from the Education Services, Property Services and IT.

Craigmarloch

Work to expand learning spaces for pupils at Craigmarloch is underway with works to alter the layout of the Enterprise Centre due to commence at the start of May 2025. A review of staffing at Craigmarloch has also been undertaken to ensure sufficient teaching and non-teaching staff are in place.

Communication and Language Base (CLB) at All Saints Primary School

From August 2025, as above, an additional class will be introduced to the CLB at All Saints. An existing learning space within the school has been identified, with limited alterations required. Appropriate additional staffing has also been assigned through the annual staffing exercise currently underway.

NEST provision / Lomond View Academy

Currently the primary enhanced nurture provision called NEST (formally Thrive) is housed at St Michael's Primary School. Previously, the fostering and adoptions / HSCP team have been based at Lomond View Academy and have now moved into the new HSCP premises at the James Watt building thus freeing up space at Lomond View. This has provided the opportunity to now move NEST to Lomond View and it will occupy the vacant space on the ground floor and collocate the provision as part of Lomond View. The move will take place for August 2025.

5.0 FUTURE ASN NEEDS AND PROVISION REQUIRED

- 5.1 Officers are currently working on projections of future pupil numbers and their related needs for August 2026 onwards. What is clear is that the number of pupils requiring specialist provision is unlikely to decline in 2026, but at this stage it looks unlikely that it will increase from the numbers in 2025.
- 5.2 It is therefore expected that the current provision in place will broadly meet the needs of most learners, however given that there will be space left vacant at St Michael's Primary School because of the removal of the NEST provision, there may be an opportunity to consider a second CLB type provision at St Michael's.
- 5.3 Current numbers at Craigmarloch, whilst accommodated through the expansion work underway, will require to be reviewed and an options appraisal carried out to identify how future needs can be accommodated from August 2026 onwards.
- 5.4 A future report on ASN provision from August 2026 will be brought back to a future committee.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources	X	
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing	X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

6.2 Finance

It is anticipated that any revenue costs will be contained in existing budgets or within the Council's share of the extra £28 million allocated to ASL as part of the 2025/26 Budget. The Council's share has been confirmed as £343,000.

Staffing

Final figures have been identified, with the additional staffing required coming from within the existing education budget, partly by reassigning existing teaching posts to the new provisions.

Capital

The provisions Craigmarloch, All Saints and NEST at LVA will all use existing spaces and as such will not require significant capital investment, mainly interval configuration of the space at the Enterprise Centre and adjustments to security at All Saints and LVA.

Work is underway with colleagues with the estates team to adapt the accommodation as outlined above.

Transport

Work is under way to identify the impact of the increased number of pupils being transported to these provisions.

6.3 Legal/Risk

If the local authority is unable to make provision to meet the needs to its learners, including through specialist placements, then there is a risk that the council could be taken to ASN tribunal by families and ordered to either provide this within its own estate or by paying for pupils to attend costly out of authority placements.

6.4 Human Resources

As above.

6.5 Strategic

N/A.

6.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

Y	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required. This will be produced after the consultation process.
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

Y	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

Y	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

6.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
N	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

6.8 **Data Protection**

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
N	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

7.0 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 N/A.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 N/A.