
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	2 September 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/56/25/MR
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Subject:	Scottish Government Additional Funding for Additional Support for Learning		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The 2025/26 Scottish Government Budget allocated an additional £29 million nationally for Additional Support for Learning (ASL). The allocated amount to Inverclyde was £384,000.
- 1.3 The Education and Communities Committee has already agreed a report on the expansion of ASN provision on 22 April 2025. The associated teaching and support costs for this expansion were contained within the staffing exercise.
- 1.4 The report outlines recommendations for the allocation of the additional £384k allocated by the Scottish Government:
- £200k towards transport costs, which has already been allocated as detailed in a separate report to the Education and Communities Committee on 2 September 2025;
 - £24k to provide additionality to purchase ASN resources for pupils;
 - £40k for an additional resource to support the efficient deployment of the ASN resource allocation and transport requirements; and
 - The remaining £120k towards increasing the budget for pupil support assistants to create more resilience across our ASN provisions; and supporting ASN provision resulting from the revised ASN strategy which will be reported to this committee at a future date.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended the Education and Communities Committee approves the use of the funding for ASL as outlined in section 4 of the paper.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Educational Resources

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The 25/26 Scottish Budget allocated an additional £29 million for Additional Support for Learning (ASL) of which £28 million is to be allocated to local authorities with £1 million reserved for national priorities. The allocated amount to Inverclyde was £384,000.
- 3.2 The funding was allocated to help improve outcomes for all children and young people with ASN in line with the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004, and should build on existing spend on inclusion, to ensure the broadest possible reach.
- 3.3 On 22 April 2025, the Committee considered a paper on the increased provision to be put in place for August 2025. This included:
- Expansion of places at Craigmarloch: Work to expand learning spaces for pupils at Craigmarloch and a review of staffing allocations 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, an additional class was introduced to the CLB at All Saints. An existing learning space within the school has been identified, with limited alterations required; and
 - 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.
- 3.4 Appropriate additional teaching staffing to support the provision has largely been contained and has been assigned through the annual staffing exercise.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The increase in additional provision has resulted in extra spend on transport. This cannot be contained within the transport budget which already under significant pressure. An emergency powers report which is being considered elsewhere at this Committee, allocated £200,000 for additional transport that is required for the increase in specialist settings and numbers attending.
- 4.2 The increasing allocation of specialist places and the assessments and resource allocations required to ensure that pupils are allocated the correct provision and that their transport needs are being met (either mainstream or specialist provision) is putting pressure on the central team. The central administrative team is not resourced sufficiently to deal with the associated allocation of pupil support assistants and the increasingly complex and efficient planning for transport that is required. As such, it is proposed that part of this funding is used to increase capacity to support these processes and look for efficiencies.
- 4.3 The budget to purchase specialist resources for those with additional needs is also continually under pressure as more resources are required. The proposals will allow the service to continue to ensure that legislative requirements for adaptations are met.
- 4.4 The budget for the current PSA allocation for pupils is under pressure. This is because the resource is needs driven and cannot always be identified in advance. In many cases sickness absence has to be covered otherwise pupils would be left without adequate support. The service is also currently developing its ASN Strategy and funding will be required to support the actions contained within that strategy. It is therefore proposed that the remaining Scottish Government funding is utilised to increase PSA capacity and support the revised ASN strategy when it is completed.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 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

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
ASN	Various	2025/26	£384,000		£200k Transport £24k ASN Resources £40k HQ Employee Costs £120k PSA Employee Costs

5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

5.4 Human Resources

N/A

5.5 Strategic

This delivers on the objectives of the Alliance and Council Plan

5.6 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:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	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.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

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

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

(c) Children and Young People

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

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	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.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	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.

5.8 **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.
X	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.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 N/A

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 N/A