

Enquire within

THE SCOTTISH ADVICE SERVICE FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Introduction

The year 2005 was a momentous one with the implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004. At Enquire we have revised all our publications, and helpline and outreach information, to reflect changes brought by the new Act.

This issue of *Enquire within* starts with an overview of our training and outreach service. We follow this with updates on other recent developments in our service, including our 2006 conference *Making partnership work*.

We also introduce a new occasional series – Showcase – illustrating good practice in the field of additional support for learning. The first example involves a partnership between Moray Council, CHILDREN IST and a group of young people – a fitting theme in the lead up to our conference in March.

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Training and outreach roundup

Enquire has delivered 35 events to 829 parents, carers and practitioners in 2005/06 and we have several more dates booked before April. These events have ranged from informal talks for small groups to formal training sessions, and from local to national events.

In addition to the *Parents' Guide* consultations held across Scotland and our presence at six national events, we have visited Fife, Highland, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Falkirk, South Ayrshire, Dundee, Aberdeenshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Lothian, and South Lanarkshire.

Outreach

Most work has involved speaking with groups of parents and practitioners about rights, responsibilities and best practice in the education of children and young people with additional needs. We have focussed mainly on the ASL Act at these sessions.

Training

We have delivered five events this year. Four of these centred on the new Act; the fifth focussed on parent-professional partnerships. All these events were well received with over 90 percent of delegates finding them satisfactory or better.

Arranging an event with Enquire

We are always happy to receive requests to come and talk to your group or organisation. We are particularly keen to visit Orkney, East Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and Eilean Siar.

As we do get booked up quickly, please give as much notice of your planned event as possible.

For more information contact:
Charlotte Richards
on 0131 222 2422 or email
crichards@childreninscotland.org.uk

Now available: Enquire factsheets updated in light of ASL Act

New factsheets can be ordered from the Enquire office or downloaded from www.enquire.org.uk

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Making partnership work – annual conference 2006

With the implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, there has been a renewed emphasis on partnership working. The Enquire annual conference – *Making partnership work: effective practice to support children's learning* – takes place on 23-24 March at Crieff Hydro Hotel. This conference looks at the benefits of partnership working to support learning from the perspectives of

children, young people, parents and professionals. It provides a timely opportunity for delegates to learn more about the skills, attitudes and approaches required for successful partnership working.

For more information contact Charlotte Richards, on 0131 222 2422 or crichards@childreninscotland.org.uk
Book online:
www.childreninscotland.org.uk/mpw

Service for children and young people

We are pleased to announce in this bulletin that the two new online factsheets, *Getting help with exams* and *Getting ready to leave school*, went onto the website in February. We have also added personal accounts from young people to the 'Finding out more' section of the website to complement the information on choosing subjects, doing exams and

post-school choices. As well as giving young contributors the chance to have their say, we feel these personal points of view will really help young visitors to the site. If you know a young person who might like to contribute to the website, please phone Katy MacDougall on 0131 222 2436 or email kmacdougall@childreninscotland.org.uk for more information.

Legal Subscription Service

Subscribers to our legal subscription service continue to increase. In a recent questionnaire evaluation, the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service overall. In particular the *Advisers' guide* and *Legislation updates* were found to be very useful. Positive comments received included "clear literature" and "excellent material. Useful for [the] whole ASN team."

A legal briefing on *Lifting and Handling and the Administration of Medicines* was commissioned and sent out in December 2005. We received comments from four professionals in three local authority areas on the

material and were able to share these views in the mailout with the February legislation update. In future we hope to develop the service to facilitate further debate and information sharing.

The Additional Support for Learning Advisers' Guide has now been revised to reflect the changes brought by the ASL Act and the publication of the Regulations and Code of practice. It was sent out with a Legislation Update and the revised factsheets in February 2006.

To subscribe, please contact the office on 0131 222 2425 or email info@enquire.org.uk

Recent highlights

June 2005

Consultation on draft guides for young people through a web questionnaire, four workshops and a visit to the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Over 5700 copies of *Going to secondary school?* distributed in this month alone.

Making mainstreaming work conference report published.

July

New database for recording enquiries went live, further improving our helpline service.

September

Consultation on draft *Parents' guide* – nine events held across Scotland with parents, carers and representative organisations.

14,000 flyers for the interactive map sent to libraries across Scotland.

November

The parents' guide to additional support for learning and new guides for young people launched.

December

Over 3000 *Parents' guides* and over 1200 of each of the guides for young people distributed.

Website page views up 25 percent and downloads up nine percent on last year. Page views for April to December 2005: 30,628 for site for young people; 23,796 for site for parents and practitioners.

January 2006

New factsheets completed. Conference flyer distributed to over 5000 contacts across Scotland.

Work commenced on enhancements to accessibility of parents and practitioners website.

February

Consultations with children and young people on partnership working in preparation for the *Making partnership work* conference.

SHOWCASE Involving young people in raising awareness of additional support for learning

Showcase is a new column featuring good practice in additional support for learning. Examples may come from education authorities, health or social work services, parents or the voluntary sector.

Email us at info@enquire.org.uk if you have an example to share.

This Showcase is an example of partnership working to promote young people's participation involving Moray Council, CHILDREN IST and a group of young people.

Moray Council are running an awareness raising campaign to provide accessible information for children and young people – enough for them to be able to identify additional support needs. Their campaign aims to broaden children's and young people's understanding of additional support for learning, taking away any stigma attached to support.

Setting up the project

Moray Council consulted with children and young people on the draft *Code of practice* and a council information leaflet on additional support for learning in 2004. Following this, Moira Downie and the ASL Steering Group, Beth Fraser – a children's rights worker from CHILDREN IST funded by the Council – and the Moray Council Arts Development Team worked together to give young people the opportunity to design the materials and approach to the awareness raising campaign.

"Beth Fraser has been instrumental in supporting the work relating to publishing material for children and young people."

Moira Downie

Identifying the participants

Moray sent a design brief to school art departments, which invited senior



pupils working on portfolios for art college to apply for the project. The brief was to design a logo and campaign and to present this, with costs, to the additional support for learning steering group.

Designing the campaign

Eight young people spent one week of the summer holidays working with a visual artist and Beth Fraser. They designed a logo,

two leaflets about additional support for learning and a variety of promotional items including stickers and bus adverts. The young people presented three campaign options to the ASL Steering Group, from low to highest cost, and made recommendations about the timing and presentation of information. For example, they suggested that class teachers must go over the information in the leaflets when they give them out to pupils.

Outcomes of the project

The eye-catching logo, characters and designs were adopted for the campaign. From the options the young

"Remember that we are young people designing for young people's needs because we know what works today!"
from young people's presentation

people presented, the steering group chose to run the bus adverts and produce pencils, the two leaflets, stickers and posters, which will be distributed as the young people proposed. The young people were present at the launch of the campaign on 31 January.

The young people were all given references and can use the work in their portfolios.

Moray council were greatly impressed by the standard of work and the commitment and enthusiasm of the young people.

For more information contact:
Moira Downie
Development Officer ASfL (Moray)
Tel: 01343 563332
Email: moira.downie@moray.gov.uk



Logo and characters designed during the project

Enquire Helpline

Between April and December 2005, Enquire received 1869 enquiries by telephone, letter and email. Of these, 1025 involved substantial educational issues. The remainder included information, publication and training requests, as well as signposting enquiries – known as referrals.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the quality of the helpline service, we sent out evaluation questionnaires to 390 callers who made substantial educational enquiries in this period. Over a third of recipients returned the questionnaire. The results were very positive with over 95 percent of respondents finding the information they received very useful or useful

Young Scot, the national youth information agency, has recently launched the Young Scot Info Line – a freephone helpline on money and health aimed at 16 to 26 year olds. The Info Line was set up in response to research which demonstrated that young people were interested in a freephone information line and would use such a service.



Young Scot Info Line:
0808 801 0338
noon until 8pm, Monday - Friday

NOTICEBOARD

Opening Doors to Learning

This event will consider the importance of inclusive play and how it can assist in learning. Delegates will discuss the benefits of inclusive play, the challenges of providing it and how to improve current opportunities for children to play and learn with their peers. The event is free to parents of children who require additional support.

Date: 8/03/2006 **Location:** Inverness
www.childrenscotland.org.uk/odl

For more information about the Opening doors to learning project or this event please contact Catriona Thomson on 0131 222 2445
cthompson@childrenscotland.org.uk



Growing Up in Rural Scotland annual conference



Arts for all?

Meeting the needs of the whole child in rural Scotland

in association with Angus Childcare Partnership and Angus Council

This major one-day conference, preceded by an afternoon of study sessions and visits, will consider how arts and cultural activities can contribute to children's learning and social and emotional well-being in rural Scotland.

Date: 9-10 March 2006

Venue: Carnoustie Hotel golf resort and spa in Carnoustie

Duration: One and a half day

Book online: www.childrenscotland.org.uk/afa

For more information about the following events, contact Radha Singh on 0131 222 2438, rsingh@childrenscotland.org.uk

Supporting the care of traumatised children

This training seminar aims to examine what is it like to live and work with children whose needs in relation to attachment and recovery from trauma have not been met and look at secondary traumatic stress as a model for understanding the impact of living and working with traumatised children.

Date: 19/5/2006

Location: Edinburgh

Duration: Full-day

Book online:

www.childrenscotland.org.uk/ctc

Supporting young people too

This conference will examine child development and the promotion of resilience in young people by looking at how we support those who are stressed or traumatised and by providing an holistic look at the support young people may need.

Date: 5/4/2006

Venue: Erskine Bridge Hotel, Erskine

Duration: Full-day

Book online

www.childrenscotland.org.uk/syp

Their future is working: Employment and training opportunities for care leavers and young people at risk

This one-day conference will examine the challenges, opportunities, and routes to employability for young care leavers and young people at risk.

Date: 31/5/2006

Venue: Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew

Duration: Full-day

Book online

www.childrenscotland.org.uk/fiw