

# Families as Learning Partners

**The Enquire Conference 2010:** Involving children, parents, carers and the wider community in the education of children with additional support needs



**Tuesday 9 March 2010**  
**Hamilton, South Lanarkshire**

**Enquire**  
THE SCOTLAND ADVISORY SERVICE FOR  
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Supported by



## Families as Learning Partners:

How are parents being involved in decision making and learning for children with additional support needs? How can we support parents to become involved, particularly those parents with their own support needs? Parental rights are a key strand of the 2004 Additional Support for Learning Act\*. This Act was amended in 2009, strengthening the rights of parents and linking with the 2006 Parental Involvement Legislation. This conference aims to look at the successes and challenges for parental involvement. Does the focus on parental involvement mean that those children whose parents cannot or will not engage with the process, receive any less support? How do schools and parents manage young people's transitions to adult life?

### This conference is for:

- Parents and carers of children and young people with additional support needs
- Teachers
- Parental involvement officers
- Local authority managers
- Voluntary sector workers
- Other practitioners with an interest in the education of children with support needs

### By attending this conference you will:

- Understand the policy framework for parental involvement and how this links to additional support for learning
- Hear about some of the good practice across Scotland from schools, local authorities and the voluntary sector
- Engage in dialogue about the challenges of involving parents and carers, including kinship carers

### Contributors:

#### Chair – Lorraine Sanda

Parental Involvement Co-ordinator at Learning Teaching Scotland

#### Speakers –

##### Maggie Tierney –

Deputy Director, Support for Learning Division at the Scottish Government

##### Parents' voices –

a presentation hosted by the Enquire helpline looking at the diverse range of issues were raised who call and the advice that we give

##### Young people's voices –

Young people will present their views on the theme of learning and teaching

##### Breakout sessions –

Led by a wide range of representatives from the world of education and learning

\* Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004



## Families as Learning Partners

### Timetable:

- 09:30**    **Registration, coffee and ‘marketplace’**
- 10:00**    **Opening remarks**  
Enquire and hosts, South Lanarkshire Council
- 10:05**    **Welcome from the chair**  
Lorraine Sanda – Learning and Teaching Scotland
- 10:15**    **Keynote**  
Maggie Tierney – Scottish Government  
The Policy Context
- 11:00**    **Questions**
- 11:15**    **Coffee**
- 11:30**    **Breakout sessions**  
A wide range of options led by partners and colleagues from across Scotland
- 12:30**    **Lunch and a chance to view the ‘marketplace’**
- 1:30**    **Keynote**  
The learners’ perspective  
Children and young people
- 2:15**    **Breakout sessions**  
A wide range of options led by partners and colleagues from across Scotland
- 3:15**    **Coffee**
- 3:30**    **Keynote**  
Parents’ Voices  
The Enquire helpline and guests
- 4:15**    **Questions**
- 4:30**    **Conference close and optional drinks reception**

## Breakout sessions

### **1- Creating Confident Communities (presentation and practical workshop)**

PEEP (Peers Early Education Partnership) is an early intervention programme (0-5 years old) that works in partnership with parents and carers to support their children's learning and development. This workshop will give information and examples of how PEEP engages with families, building relationships and confidence, and how the programme can be delivered flexibly to meet a range of needs.

**Led by:** Jill Mennie, Project Co-ordinator - PEEP, Aberdeen City Council

### **2- Supporting Parents With Disabilities (Presentation and discussion)**

This session will report findings from two projects. Scottish Consortium for Learning disabilities will present the Scottish Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Parents With Learning Disabilities and the University of Strathclyde will report on their recent study, exploring disabled parents' involvement in their children's education. The workshop will draw out the lesson for good practice based on the parents' experiences.

**Led by:** Andrew Miller, Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability Kirsten Stalker and Richard Brunner from the University of Strathclyde

### **3- Scotland's Travelling communities - parental involvement for mobile families? (presentation and discussion)**

Scotland's Travelling communities are diverse. In this session the facilitators will guide you through the diverse communities using interactive activities, and then facilitate a discussion on the educational issues faced by Travelling families. By focusing on the similarities and differences between the various Travelling communities relative to non-travelling families this session will help you to engage with Travelling families in appropriate ways.

**Led by:** Dr Pauline Padfield, Director of the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) and Gillian Cameron, Seconded teacher of Travelling children (Fife)

### **4- Parental and Carer Involvement for Looked After Children (presentation and discussion)**

Children can be looked after in a wide variety of settings; from those who are looked after at home and to those who are looked after away from home in residential, fostering and kinship care settings. No matter the setting, the issue of parental / carer involvement in a looked after child's education can be problematic. This session will look at how to ensure that a child's right to education and support is not compromised by the child being looked after.

**Led by:** Graham McCann (Scottish Government - Looked After Children Team) & Dr Graham Connelly (University of Strathclyde - Department of Educational and Professional Studies)

### **5- Kinship Carers – who has the parental rights? (Discussion)**

This session will look at the area of kinship care, children who are cared for by members of their family other than their parents. This is a complicated area. Some kinship carers will be legal guardians for the children but for others the arrangement is less formal, and this can bring problems when deciding who has the right to be involved in the education.

**Led by:** Jackie Gattey, Senior Social Worker (Fostering and Adoption) – Dumfries and Galloway Council

## **6- Transitions from school, involving families (Discussion)**

The move from school is a big event in any young person's life, and can be particularly challenging for a young person with additional support needs. When their child turns 16, parents no longer have an automatic right to be involved in a young person's decisions, but the young person might still want them to be actively involved. This session looks at good practice in this area.

**Led by:** Enquire with help from some good practice examples

## **7- Perfect Planning? (Practical workshop)**

Some young people and their families tell us that the planning processes and meetings that they are invited to are occasions on which they feel bullied, ignored, and disrespected. Join us to spend some time thinking about what planning would (or does) look like when done really well. As part of this workshop the Transforming Transitions project will be introduced. This seeks to support young people, their families and allies to plan ahead.

**Led by:** Robert Weetman – Transforming Transitions



Book online at [www.enquire.org.uk/conference](http://www.enquire.org.uk/conference) or please photocopy and complete one application form for each delegate and return to: Enquire, Children in Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG t: 0131 222 2425 f: 0131 228 9852 e: [info@enquire.org.uk](mailto:info@enquire.org.uk) **textphone:** 0131 222 2439

**Registration fees and booking (please complete both sides):**

Book before 8 January 2010 to receive a 10% early bird discount. Please book early, as we cannot guarantee a place for late bookings.

**Cost: £165**

**Discount A: Non-member** – individuals/small voluntary agencies £155

**Discount B: Member** – statutory/large voluntary organisations £130

**Discount C: CIS Member** – individuals/small voluntary organisations £110

\* Some places are available for parents of children with additional support needs at a nominal rate. Please contact us to discuss attending the conference as a parent.

Please book a place for the following person at the conference (photocopy if necessary)

Name: .....

Position: .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code.....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

Vegetarian options will be provided as standard, but if you have any other specific dietary requirements, please indicate them here: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any specific access requirements, please indicate them here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Feel free to telephone or email to discuss your requirements.

- I qualify for a Children in Scotland (NCB, CiW, CiNI) member's discount.
- I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to Children in Scotland)
- Please invoice me at the address above
- Please invoice the following person:

Name: .....

Position: .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code.....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

From time to time we may approach you with information about other projects, events, publications and magazines that partner organisations produce. If you do not wish to be contacted please tick this box  We may occasionally wish to make your details available to other not-for-profit organisations. Please tick this box if you do not wish us to do this

Cancellations received in writing three weeks before the event will be refunded less a £20 processing charge. No refunds can be made after this date, although substitutions may be made.

Please make your choice of breakout sessions:

Choose from

1. **Creating Confident Communities**
2. **Supporting Parents With Disabilities**
3. **Scotland's Travelling communities - parental involvement for mobile families?**
4. **Parental and Carer Involvement for Looked After Children**
5. **Kinship Carers – who has the parental rights?**
6. **Transitions from school, involving families**
7. **Perfect planning?**

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

(Note that workshop places are limited and you may be allocated another workshop if your choices are fully booked)

**If you have any questions about the conference please contact us :**  
[jwilson@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:jwilson@childreninScotland.org.uk)



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Enquire is managed by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government

