

Statutory Consultation

Proposal

**to establish five enhanced provisions within
John Paul II, Muirhouse, Berryhill, Holy Cross and
Shawhead Primary Schools**

Education, Children & Families

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & FAMILIES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 With Local Government re-organisation, North Lanarkshire Council (previously Strathclyde Region) inherited an ASN model which consisted of language and communication units (LCSCs) attached to mainstream schools where children and young people with complex language and communication needs “could be educated with their peers, either in a fully integrated or locationally integrated setting”.
- 1.2 The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended by the 2009 Act expanded the definition of additional support needs to include needs such as mental health issues, looked-after children, and children impacted by social or emotional factors.
- 1.3 In recent years, due to an increasing number of pupils presenting with additional support needs, the volume of pupils requiring to be placed within ASN and LCSC settings has become untenable.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Current Operating Model
 - 2.1.1 Within early years establishments, children requiring additional support are given a placement within an ASN room. This provision has been expanded, and there are currently 11 ASN rooms across the Authority.
 - 2.1.2 Following subsequent reviews, the LCSC estate in North Lanarkshire has increased in size and currently consists of 8 primary LCSC units and 3 secondary LCSCs located within mainstream schools. A further primary LCSC will be opened in 2026 within the newbuild of Gartcosh primary school.
 - 2.1.3 Within mainstream schools, rising numbers of pupils presenting with additional support needs, contributes to challenges around, dysregulated behaviour, low attendance and attainment levels amongst pupils. Establishments have sought to address this through creative approaches to curriculum offers, part time timetables and support from Virtual school and the We Aspire Outreach team.
 - 2.1.4 In line with national trends, the local authority has experienced an increasing number of requests for specialist ASN and LCSC primary and secondary placements over the last 4 years. The number of applications for a specialist primary one placement to Transition Pathway Review (TPR) formerly (NBPR), have continued to rise.

Placing Requests				
Year	ASN Prim ary	ASN Seco ndary	LCSC Prim ary	LCSC Seco ndary
2021/22	131	122	131	48
2022/23	144	125	161	56
2023/24	192	135	196	66
2024/25*	67	101	77	63

*additional 53 applications received – who are moving into new enhanced provision

Table 5 number of specialist applications received for ASN & LCSC Primary and Secondary each academic session from 2021/22 to 2024/25

- 2.1.5 A prevailing perception has emerged in North Lanarkshire that mainstream schools are unable to adequately meet additional support needs. This is reflected in the increasing number of placing requests, mediation cases, and tribunal references submitted by parents seeking placements in ASN (Additional Support Needs) establishments.

Placing Requests		
Year	ASN	LCSC
2021/22	26	17
2022/23	16	51
2023/24	59	56
2024/25	114	91

Table 6 placing requests, mediation cases and ASN tribunal references each academic session from 2021/22 to 2024/25

2.2 The Pilot model

- 2.2.1 There is an increasing number of requests being submitted for secondary ASN and LCSC placements via TPR, placing requests and tribunal references, for pupils who have completed primary education in a mainstream school.

Applications from Mainstream		
Year	ASN Seco ndary	LCSC Secon dary
2021/22	28	29
2022/23	125	56
2023/24	141	65
2024/25	28	59

Table 7 total number of mainstream applications for secondary ASN & LCSC each academic session from 2021/22 to 2024/25

- 2.2.2 An increasing number of pupils being allocated to ASN rooms in early years establishments and primary LCSC and ASN provisions over the last 4 years, means that parental expectations of an LCSC or ASN secondary placement are set from an early age.

- 2.2.3 The current secondary LCSC estate is not equipped to meet this level of demand. Table 4 assumes that children follow a 'single route' pathway, e.g. LCSC Primary progressing to LCSC Secondary. This shows that if there is no change to the current Secondary LCSC model there would be a potential increase of 111 pupils between 2023 to 2029 across 3 establishments.

Year	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total LCSC roll static
2023							
2024							
2025							
2026	38	62	56	52	44	40	292
2027	50	38	62	56	52	44	302
2028	59	50	38	62	56	52	317
2029	59	59	50	38	62	56	324

Table 8 static projections for Secondary LCSC provision with no further/limited placements in LCSC from 2023 to 2029

- 2.2.4 Due to the level of demand for support, the LCSC units are seeing a year-on-year increase in pupil numbers coupled with a more complex pupil profile. This is impacting on the current delivery model of LCSC support available and has placed increasing pressure on resource within the mainstream schools they are located.
- 2.2.5 Increasing pupil numbers are having a detrimental impact on both the young people placed within the LCSC and the wider school community. Operating a mixed model of full-time support within the LCSC base, support within both the mainstream and the LCSC base and supporting pupils who are accessing only mainstream classes is proving difficult with current staffing allocations. To meet pupil needs and facilitate this model, staffing is having to be drawn from the mainstream allocation.
- 2.2.6 Over the last two years secondary LCSCs have piloted an enhanced operating model of support to meet the diverse needs of learners. This has proved successful in supporting the inclusion of young people within mainstream classes, and meeting pupil needs at an appropriate pace. Classes are supported by a mixture of primary and secondary teaching and support staff. Pupils are initially educated in a class set. The proposal is that the service moves towards an Enhanced Support Provision model within all clusters to meet the additional support needs of most pupils within their own community. This would be introduced over a period of 5 years. (2025-2030) of 6 pupils within the LCSC and integrate during the session to mainstream classes. Almost all pupils are integrated within mainstream classes with ASNA support by the end of S1. This approach whilst labour intensive has been positively received by pupils and parents.

- 2.2.7 Current research demonstrates that when children and young people with ASN are placed in mainstream education it can have effective positive outcomes for their academic attainment (Wagner et al, 2005).
- 2.2.8 The development of enhanced provisions, encompasses Scottish educational priorities relating to inclusion, children's rights and statutory duties placed on local authorities. e.g. Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act, The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, as amended GIRFEC (Scottish Executive, 2006) and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.
- 2.2.9 In order to identify a new model of support within primary school settings based on solid evidence, the service began a new Enhanced Support Provision model within the following primary schools:
- John Paul II PS
 - Muirhouse PS
 - Berryhill PS
 - Holy Cross PS
 - Shawhead PS
- 2.2.10 Each of the pilot Enhanced Support Provision provides appropriate space including a teaching classroom(s), small spaces to support regulation and sensory requirements, plus access to separate accessible toilet facilities.
- 2.2.11 To support pupils' access to both mainstream classes additional staffing of 1 Principal Teacher, Classroom Teacher and 2 Learning Assistants has been provided.
- 2.2.12 Following the initial review and evaluation of impact, it is requested that a statutory consultation takes place to make permanent these provisions to continue to support the pupils currently within these settings and to evaluate the longer-term impact.
- 2.3 Consultation Process
- 2.3.1 In terms of the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of and consult on any proposal to vary arrangements for the constitution of a special class in a school other than a special school. Schedule 1 Section 7 [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#)
- 2.3.2 North Lanarkshire Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the consultation period has been concluded in line with statutory requirements.
- 2.3.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 30 school days. It begins on 8 December 2025 and finishes on 9 February 2026.
- 2.3.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 2.3.5 A public meeting will be held week beginning 19 January 2026 for each school to ensure individual learning communities questions and comments are addressed.
- 2.3.6 Council officers will be present at each public meeting to discuss the proposal. There will be limited time at the meeting to discuss all issues fully. To ensure that all issues are covered and that those who may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly are heard, advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised will be accepted in writing up to two days in advance of the meeting – see contact details at 2.3.9.

- 2.3.7 At the end of the consultation process, a report will be prepared for North Lanarkshire Committee detailing all responses received, summaries of their content and a statement from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Responses to the issues raised through the consultation will also be incorporated in the report. Copies of the report will be available, prior to consideration by the council, in the affected schools and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 30 March 2026. The key dates are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online:
- www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/EnhancedPilot-consultation (not live)
- 2.3.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to:
- ef.JPIIpilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- ef.Berryhillpilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- ef.Muirhousepilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- ef.HolyCrosspilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- ef.Shawheadpilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- 2.3.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 19 January 2026.

3. EDUCATION BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 3.1 Through the pilots it is expected that several educational benefits will be achieved on behalf of children and young people with the requirement for intensive services to meet their needs. These points were clearly established in the findings of the council's ASN Review of 2019 and include:
- Empowerment of practitioners and local ownership of resources to meet needs
 - Improved access to high quality facilities
 - Strengthened leadership, provide greater depth and breadth of staffing and management of learning for those with additional needs
 - Strengthened transition arrangements at all key points of transition, under the leadership of a single head teacher.
 - Increased opportunities for professional learning and sharing good practice, through strengthened workforce arrangements.
 - Strengthened practice in planning to meet the needs of learners
 - Strengthened practice in pedagogy and learning and teaching
 - Clearer pathways to mainstream for those who can access such provision
 - a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning
 - Strengthened integrated planning with partners
- 3.2 Spaces for learning are designated in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches, including active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.

- 3.3 The curriculum provides the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and to develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- 3.4 Pupils are provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curricular areas by building on best practice in curriculum design in North Lanarkshire Schools.
- 3.5 The provision of high-quality technology for learning provides the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young people and staff flexible and embedded access to a fully digital learning environment.

4. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 There is limited impact for traffic management due to the small number of pupils involved in the delivery of the pilot.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that any community impacts that come from the consultations will be mitigated.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

5.2 Transport

Pupils will continue to be transported from home to school. Transport contracts will be updated to reflect the different drop off and pick up point. As a result, there is no anticipated impact with regard to transport.

5.3 Financial Implications

The Service has developed the five enhanced classrooms through the existing capital budget envelope.

5.4 HR Implications

Affected staff will be managed in accordance with the appropriate Workforce Change Policies of the Council, and in consultation with the signatory trades unions. Considerations would include Compulsory Transfer, Premature/Early Retirement, Redundancy/ Redeployment.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will underpin planning for these proposals, since a few of the young people involved are considered as being from a protected group, due to disability.

7. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 In terms of the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of and consult on any proposal to establish a new school

and on any proposal to establish, terminate or otherwise alter the catchment area of a school.

- 7.2 North Lanarkshire Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the consultation period has been concluded in line with statutory requirements.
- 7.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 30 school days. It begins on 8 December 2025 and ends on 9 February 2026.
- 7.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 7.5 A public meeting will be held week beginning 19 January 2026 for each school to ensure individual learning communities' questions and comments are addressed.
- 7.6 Council officers will be present at each public meeting to discuss the proposal. There will be limited time at the meeting to discuss all issues fully. To ensure that all issues are covered and that those who may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly are heard, advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised will be accepted in writing up to two days in advance of the meeting – see contact details at 7.9.
- 7.7 At the end of the consultation process, a report will be prepared for North Lanarkshire Council detailing all responses received, summaries of their content and a statement from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Responses to the issues raised through the consultation will also be incorporated in the report. Copies of the report will be available, prior to consideration by the council, in the affected schools and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 30 March 2026. The key dates are set out in Appendix 2.
- 7.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online: www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/fallsideandportland-consultation (not live)
- 7.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to ef.fallsideandportland@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- 7.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 9 February 2026.

8. INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS

- 8.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider any allegation of an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper and determine whether the allegation has foundation. Where inaccuracies or omissions are notified to, or discovered by, the Council within this proposal document, the Council will determine if relevant information has, in its opinion been omitted or whether there is in fact an inaccuracy.
- 8.2 Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will be informed of the Council's decision and the reasons for that decision. Notifiers will also be informed of any action. The

Council will invite the notifiers to make further representations to the Council should they disagree with the Council's determination or its decision as to whether to take action.

- 8.3 If the Council has found, either itself or through a concern being raised, that there is an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper, it must decide whether this relates to a material consideration relevant to the proposal.

- 8.4 Where the confirmed inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration, there is a duty on the Council to correct it.

- 8.5 Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council depending on whether the inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration.

Such action may include withdrawing the proposal and issuing a revised proposal paper for the whole consultation period, or issuing a corrected proposal paper with, if appropriate, an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and, where applicable, the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and HMIE (Education Scotland) will be advised of the appropriate action.

- 8.6 Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within the proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council, which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document, or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and where applicable, the notifiers(s) of any appropriate action) will be advised.

- 8.7 Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination/decision on the matter.

9. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 9.1 The current requirements for consulting are set out in the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Act.

- 9.2 This consultation has been planned in order to meet the following statutory requirements:

- 9.3 The consultation document sets out the details of the proposal.

- 9.4 The proposal paper details the educational benefits of the proposal and other relevant information.

- 9.5 The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.

- 9.6 North Lanarkshire Council will seek to determine whether there are inaccuracies or omissions within the proposal paper and take such action as it considers necessary.

- 9.7 The consultation period will be a period of at least 6 weeks including at least 30 school days.
- 9.8 Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, the authority will give notice of the proposal to the relevant consultees. The relevant consultees are defined in the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and are as follows:
- (a) The parent council or combined parent council of any affected school
 - (b) The parents of the pupils at any affected school
 - (c) The parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend the affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposed paper
 - (d) The pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
 - (e) The staff (teaching and other) at any of the affected school(s)
 - (f) Any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned above
 - (g) The community council (if any)
 - (h) The community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerments (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated
 - (i) Any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
 - (j) Any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
 - (k) Any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant

During the consultation period, the authority will hold and be represented at public meetings on the relevant proposal.

- 9.9 The council will involve Education Scotland in the consultation process. This will culminate in Education Scotland preparing and submitting an independent report on the educational aspects of the proposal.
- 9.10 Following the consultation period, the council will prepare and publish a consultation report. The report will be published at least three weeks before a final decision is taken on the proposal.
- 9.11 The consultation timeline provides further information on the timescales for various staged in the statutory process.

Appendix 2 of the Proposal Paper to provide five enhanced provisions

Tentative Consultation Timeline

Proposal to Consult on the proposal that five enhanced provisions JP11, Muirhouse, Berryhill, Holy Cross and Shawhead Primary Schools are made permanent

Stages

1. Committee Date
2. Consultation starts
3. Public meetings
4. Consultation Ends
5. Data to Education Scotland
6. Education Scotland produce report
7. Consultation Report Published
8. Time for further consideration – end
9. Final Committee Decision
10. Council implements outcome of consultation

Dates

18 November 2025
8 December 2025
Week beginning 19 January 2026
9 February 2026
13 February 2026
2 March 2026
30 March 2026
20 April 2026
26 May 2026
Following council approval

