

St John Paul II Public Consultation Meeting –

St John Paul II School Enhanced Provision

Date: 21 January 2026

Start Time: 18:00 End Time: 19:01

Venue: St John Paul II Primary School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

J McParland (JMcP) Chief Officer (Education – South)

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

S Stevenson Inclusion Manager

C McShane Cluster Integration and Improvement Lead

J Foster Education Support Officer (Inclusion)

A McMillan HM Inspector of Education

Y MacBean Assistant Principal Officer (Inclusion) (notes)

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

D Lees Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

JMcP welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel, JMcP presented the reason for the proposal and outlined the statutory process. JMcP presented the proposal to staff including educational benefits. JMcP then opened the floor for questions

Q Question

A Answer

S Statement

Q What if this is not approved? Are you positive they will agree?

A I can't speak for the elected members, as they have the decision-making powers within the Council, and they will make their decision on 26 May 2026. I would

say that members are aware of the proposal paper. I will present a recommendation to committee in March for further pilot proposals, as we would like to build on this pilot with a further three primary and 3 high schools enhanced provisions opening in August 2026. We have planned for every eventuality, if it is not approved, we need to have a Plan B.

Q What is Plan B?

A Plan B would be to return to CREST and look for another placement in May 2026. It is the same people who have been involved all the way through, it is the same committee who approved the proposal for the pilot. The committee can insist that The Chief Officer meets with individual political groups and it is then their opportunity to ask the Chief Officer for as much information as possible. The elected members are listening to the public and feedback. We make the recommendations as we work in Education. There is a lot going on locally and nationally with regards to ASN provision and the sharp rise in numbers. We have invested in the pilot project and will be recommending that it is made permanent

Q Will the children be here till P7?

A The class of 2025 will remain from P1-P7

Q Will the name always be enhanced provision? Will the structure stay the same if approved or will it become more like an ASN? We are not getting the same help from Ed Psych?

A There is a different staffing structure in the Enhanced provisions as it is a different setting. The children in the Enhanced Provision require support at different levels. Learning Assistant (LA's) hours will be continued to be reviewed. At present there is one teacher and 2 learning Assistants. An additional 15 hour Learning Assistant post is being advertised just now to cover the middle part of the day. We meet with Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) every 4 weeks, the five provisions have a speech and language therapist allocated.

Q S&L have not been in the school? They came in October to meet the children and have not returned

A We will ask speech and language to provide a written document explaining the new model. They are less likely to work with individuals one to one in primary school, however, they will work with the staff and teach the staff, that's what makes the difference with the children. Interventions are done every part of the day for 6 six hours per day by the classroom staff. This will have a greater impact than working with a specialist for one hour per week.

S The children in P1 have the same access to SALT as their mainstream peers. SALT have upskilled the teaching staff, this is a new NHS model of working due to the surge in children with ASN.

Children can apply for additional time with SALT via the Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings. We would work with the parent/carer and other agencies to decide if this is the best course of action, similar to how it works in mainstream

Q Will it always have the name enhanced provision not ASN?

A This proposal is called the Enhanced Provision class, we can't change the name

S Ed Psych works on the same structure as SALT, providing training and workshops to upskill the staff. Our LA's have a great knowledge and background in LCSC's

Q The teachers are fantastic and our child has come on well. Our child has been discharged from SALT and we feel our child is missing out?

A Children are discharged can work with school staff, but can be re-referred via TAC meetings.

Q Why are speech and language not working here?

A They don't have the number of staff for that now, they are teaching the school staff to teach to the children

Q Do the children get to learn Makaton in the classroom?

A Yes, visual timetables, Makaton and interactive routines are all included in the school day. Making choices and communicating through visuals is part of the daily routine.

Q Is there training for parents?

A We could ask SALT and Ed Psych if they could provide parent workshops, they are looking for ways to cleverly cover as many basis as they can.

S One point I made at the start, there is a huge growth with Children with additional support needs, there is a nine fold growth of children with ASN but resources have not increased nine fold. We need to think how do we build the capacity? If you upskill the teachers, it develops routines and structures. This will have the real impact.

Q How will future years access the enhanced provision? Do you register as normal?

A Places will be allocated as normal through the same CREST process

Q Are the other four enhanced provisions set up the same way?

A Yes, we have five identical pilots. We are proposing three high school pilots and three further primary enhanced provision

Q Is the high school something our children can access?

A All children will be considered the same, we look at the level of support and that determines their pathway to secondary, we start in P6 and we have started doing observations, it's a much fairer balanced system

Q That should have been done for years, I hope you have learned from that?

A We have learned lessons, we want to avoid the long wait for parents and children. We continue to improve our processes

Q Will the teachers stay in the class?

A If it is approved, the posts will be advertised as permanent. Whoever is successful with the recruitment will be appointed

Q Will their teacher change?

A If the proposal is approved, the Head Teacher will be responsible for recruitment, in accordance with the council's recruitment processes.

Q Will there be a new P1

A No

Q Have you looked for a teacher with ASN experience?

A There is essential criteria on the job description which must be met. The current cohort of classroom teachers and Learning Assistants prove we choose well.

Q Do they want to stay on?

A Yes, as far as we understand

S In the earlier staff meeting they want to know what happens with their jobs, the staff are invested in the children and invested in the school. The staff felt they couldn't do this job without this time and these people.

S Office staff are learning Makaton to communicate with the children, and love to visit the children. One of the office staff calls it her happy place.

Q If it does go permanent and they apply who decides who gets the job?

A the Head Teacher of the school

S It's nice in the morning to see the HT standing at the gate, she is very welcoming

S There was a reason St John Paul II was chosen, there is very strong leadership, an inclusive Head Teacher and staff who are invested in getting the best out of their children. We also chose a Head Teacher who would tell us the truth and provide accurate feedback. We knew this was a very welcoming environment. The school is morally driven for getting the best from the children

Q If the enhanced provision was made wider and available in other schools would we be forced to move our child to another school nearer their home?

A No. We are talking about integration and support for the families, that would be diminished if we changed the process.

Q The timing of the committee is a bit tight again. When do we find out?

A 26th May is committee date

JMcP thanked all the parents for their attendance and the HMIe representative and all the panel team.