



North Lanarkshire Council

Statutory Consultation – Final Outcome Report

Proposal to Establish an Enhanced Support Provision
in Shawhead Primary

Education, Children & Families

Published February 2026

This report is available for inspection at:

- (a) www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation
- (b) Education, Children and Families Headquarters, 2nd Floor, Civic Square, Motherwell, ML1 1AB
- (c) Shawhead Primary School

This report has been prepared having regard (in particular) to:

- (a) relevant written representation received by the council (from any persons) during the consultation period;
 - (b) oral representations made to the council (by any person) at an online public meeting;
- and
- (c) Report by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education

This document has been issued by North Lanarkshire Council in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2019 North Lanarkshire undertook a comprehensive review of Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision, resulting in twelve strategic recommendations, broadly categorised under four themes: improving ASN management, empowering staff, future resource planning and strengthening governance and strategic oversight.

- 1.2 The ASN Plan (2019-2024) delivered measurable improvements across five key areas:
 - Enhanced quality of service and provision for pupils and families.
 - Increased numbers of children supported within their local communities.
 - Improved staff satisfaction through training and fairer resource allocation.
 - Reduced ASN budget overspend.
 - Improved ASN school inspection reports from HMIE

- 1.2 Over the last six years, Scotland has experienced a continued and accelerating rise in the number of children identified with ASN. In 2019, around 30–31% of pupils were recorded as having an ASN. This increased to 34.2% in 2022, 36.7% in 2023 (259,036 pupils) and rose sharply again to 40.5% in the 2024/25 census (284,448 pupils). It now sits at 43% displaying a continual increase year on year.
- 1.3 Importantly, in line with the priorities of the ASN Strategy the service has identified additional funding to help improve outcomes for all children and young people with additional support needs, along with an acknowledgement that the funding is to augment existing resources to ensure the broadest possible reach within enacted ASN service delivery models.
- 1.4 In order to strengthen the mainstream provision of education for pupils with ASN, the service is seeking approval for the permanency of Shawhead Enhanced Support Provision.

2. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 Consultation Framework

- 2.1.1 The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. It is within this statutory framework that Education and Families, has engaged in a consultation exercise with all relevant consultees.

The consultation document developed for consideration included information on:-

- the proposal;
- the consultation process;
- the arrangements for public meetings;
- relevant school data;
- the educational benefits of the proposal;
- community benefits statement;
- equality impact assessment; and
- consultation timeline.

- 2.1.2 Consultation packs were made available on-line and paper copies on request to all relevant consultees.

- 2.1.3 The Head Teacher of Shawhead Primary School was notified of the

consultation.

- 2.1.4 The consultation period commenced on Monday 8 December 2025 and closed on Monday 9 February 2026, a total of 60 days, which included 30 school days.
- 2.1.5 Details of the consultation process were made available on a dedicated area of the North Lanarkshire Council website at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation
- 2.1.6 A face-to-face staff meeting was held on Monday 26th January 2026 from 3.30pm until 4.30pm at Shawhead Primary School.
- 2.1.7 A face-to-face public meeting was held on Monday 26th January 2026 from 6.00pm until 8.00pm at Shawhead Primary School.
- 2.1.9 Responses to the proposal could be made electronically to ef.Shawheadpilot@northlan.gov.uk , or in writing posted to the council.
- 2.2 Relevant Consultees

Consultees were identified according to Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland)Act 2010. The relevant consultees included:-

- Parent Council of Shawhead Primary School
- Parents/Carers and pupils of Shawhead Primary School
- Staff of Shawhead Primary School
- Any body or organisation which has been established by North Lanarkshire Council, whether formally or informally, for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003;
- HMIE
- Elected members
- Trade Unions
- Community Councils

3. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

3.1 Overview of Level of Response to the Consultation

During the consultation period the numbers of consultee who engaged in the process were as follows:-

- Staff meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026 – 11 attendees.
- Public meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026 – 10 attendees. There was representation from HMIE.
- The total number of individual consultee email responses received was 0

The matters raised by stakeholders are summarised in Appendix (iii) of this report and form the basis for the areas listed below. Copies of the full consultation responses and notes from the on-line meetings can be found at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/consultation

3.2 Consultation and Channels and views expressed

Following the public meeting and drop in session the council produced a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that was published on-line.

There were 0 email responses in total to the proposal.

8 engaged with the proposal.

The total number of individual consultee responses received 15

Further analysis of opinion is include at Appendix (iii) through the FAQs/Notes.

4. SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS AND EDUCATION & FAMILIES RESPONSE

The issues raised by participants in the consultation have been grouped and considered by Education, Children & Families, with input from other Council officers with appropriate specialisms, under the following headings with the response from the service added in each case:-

- Facilities
- Effects on young people if not approved
- Equipment and resources
- Staffing arrangements
- Availability of external agencies
- Impact on future transition (secondary)

4.1 Facilities & Capacity of Provision

Questions were asked about the current classroom being used for the enhanced support class, the number of pupils who would be in the provision and future considerations if the proposal was approved.

Response

If the proposal is approved, the council design teams will work collaboratively with the school's senior leadership teams to ensure that the environment meets all pupils' needs. This will include other areas within the school eg multi-agency staff requirements. Classes will be configured to suit pupil needs, zones developed, and security of site considered in the design which will ensure the school will be safe.

The class size is capped at 10 pupils and cannot exceed this number.

4.2 Effects on young people if proposal is not approved

Questions were asked about the plans for the contingency plans for the young people if the proposal was not approved.

Response

If the proposal is not approved, the service will convene an emergency Cluster Review for Enhanced Support for Transition (CREST) panel to identify suitable placements for all young people.

The service acknowledged parent/carer concerns, who expressed that this could have a negative impact on the young people if they had to move to another school.

4.3 Staffing arrangements

Questions were asked regarding the continuation of the current staffing ratios and the recruitment process if the proposal was approved.

Response

The expectation is that the current staffing model will continue if the proposal is approved. If approved, the current posts will become permanent and the Headteacher will be responsible for the recruitment process.

Recruitment will be in line with North Lanarkshire policies, and all existing staff will be able to apply for the permanent posts.

HR will meet with all staff on a one to one basis.

5. SUMMARY OF HMIE REPORT AND RESPONSE OFFERED BY THE SERVICE

The full report provided by HMIE is attached in Appendix (ii). Please see this report for full commentary. The main points are as follows:-

- HM Inspectors agree that the proposal to establish an enhanced provision at Shawhead Primary School has the potential to realise the educational benefits stated in the proposal for the children currently placed there.
- Stakeholders who responded to the consultation and met with HM Inspectors are largely in support of the proposal.
- However, there remain valid concerns amongst stakeholders that HM Inspectors recommend the council address. These include improving toileting and changing arrangements, reviewing the suitability of the learning space and resources as children grow older, and ensuring appropriate contingency plans are in place to cover staff vacancies and absences.
- The council needs to ensure that if the proposal is agreed, the enhanced support provision in Shawhead Primary School is resourced sufficiently to meet children's needs.
- The council should also continue to work closely with stakeholders to review regularly children's needs and to plan and adapt the provision appropriately.
- HMIE reported that stakeholders felt that there is a strong sense of community where children from the mainstream classes support and care for each other and those from the enhanced provision

5.1 In response to the observations of HMIE, Education, Children & Families agree that these findings are consistent with those of the Service.

North Lanarkshire Council has a strong track record in engaging with all stakeholders in the aspects of school design, management, and operation. The Service will continue to engage with all stakeholders both formally (statutory planning process) and informally (through the school's management and parent councils) with regard to the proposals as they proceed, should this proposal be implemented.

6. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES

No alleged omissions or inaccuracies

7. EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

Assessments have been carried out in accordance with the following statutory duties:

Public Sector Equality Duty

Fairer Scotland Duty

Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Act

The assessments concluded that the main groups impacted are:-

- Pupils of Shawhead Primary School
- Parents/carers of those pupils;
- Staff who work at Shawhead Primary School

The assessment summary is attached at Appendix (v)

8. NEXT STEPS

Following the publication of this Report time is allowed for further considerations. A three-week period will lapse before North Lanarkshire Council will take a final decision on whether to implement a final proposal.

The report on this consultation is due to be considered by North Lanarkshire Council's Education, Children & Families Committee on Thursday 26 May 2026.

Appendix (i) –

Statutory Consultation

Proposal

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

9. 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 Sec o ndar y	LCSC Prim ary	LCSC Sec o ndar y
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 Seco ndary
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
 - Holycross 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.Muirhousepilot@northlan.gov.uk (not live)
- ef.Berryhillpilot@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: [Proposal to establish five enhanced provisions | North Lanarkshire Council](#) (not live)
- 7.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to ef.Shawheadpilot@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.

9.1 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, Berryhill, Muirhouse, Holycross and Shawhead Primary Schools are made permanent

9.2	Stages	Dates
1.	Committee Date	18 November 2025
2.	Consultation starts	8 December 2025
3.	Public meetings	Week beginning 19 January 2026
4.	Consultation Ends	9 February 2026
5.	Data to Education Scotland	13 February 2026
6.	Education Scotland produce report	2 March 2026
7.	Consultation Report Published	30 March 2026
8.	Time for further consideration – end	20 April 2026
9.	Final Committee Decision	26 May 2026
10.	Council implements outcome of consultation	Following council approval

Appendix 1

Indicative Timeline for Reconfiguring Intensive ASN Systems and Services

Stages	Timeline	Date
1. Committee Date		Tuesday 18 November 2025
2. Consultation Starts Phase 1	Minimum of 6 weeks To include 30 calendar days	Monday 8 December 2025
3. Public Meetings	Shawhead Primary School	Monday 26 January 2026
4. Consultation Ends	30 Days	Monday 9 February 2026
5. Report to HMIE Phase2	3 weeks*	Friday 13 February 2026
6. HMIE produce report	3 weeks*	Monday 2 March 2026
7. Consultation report published Phase 3	No specified timescale*	Monday 30 March 2026
8. Time for further consideration	3 weeks from publication date	(This 3 weeks will be calculated once publication date known)
9. Final Committee Decision		Tuesday 26 May 2026
10. Implement proposal if approved by Committee	3 weeks	

*timescales/dates to be agreed by HMIE

Appendix (ii) – Education Scotland Report



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

**Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by
North Lanarkshire Council to establish enhanced provision within
Shawhead Primary School.**

March 2026

10. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to establish an enhanced provision within Shawhead Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 26 January 2026 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visit to the site of Shawhead Primary School, a meeting with local authority representatives, including discussion with relevant consultees.

11. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The public consultation ran from 8 December to 9 February 2026. The council published the consultation paper on its website and provided copies to relevant stakeholders. The proposal to establish an enhanced provision within Shawhead Primary School also proposes to establish similar provision in four other primary schools. The council held a public meeting on 26 January 2026 at Shawhead Primary School, which was attended by six stakeholders. The council invited interested parties to respond to the statutory consultation, there were no written responses received.

2.3 The council met with staff and parents from Shawhead Primary School to gather their views. Overall, parents and staff were positive about the proposal. A few parents raised queries and concerns including the need for improved communication about their child's learning, lack of space for the provision and uncertainty regarding transitions across stages and onto secondary school. A few staff were concerned about insufficient or inappropriate resources and lack of staffing. The council invited Shawhead Primary School to consult children and young people from mainstream classes and from the pilot enhanced provision class. All children and young people were positive about the proposal.

12. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council outlines several educational benefits in the proposal that it expects will be achieved to meet the needs of children with the requirement for intensive support. This includes strengthened leadership, transition, learning and teaching practice and integrated planning with partners. The council also highlights the benefits of appropriately designed spaces for learning, the use of technology and an appropriately personalised curriculum. In its proposal, the council state that the enhanced provision will allow children to remain within their local communities and attend school with their local peers. The council states that the proposal will provide educational benefits in line with the findings of its additional support needs (ASN) Review 2019. HM Inspectors agree that making permanent an enhanced provision within Shawhead Primary School has the potential to support better children with the requirement of intensive services. However, the council has not set out clearly in the proposal for stakeholders what its vision, strategy and operational plan for ASN means for how this enhanced support provision will develop over time. Therefore, it is difficult for stakeholders to understand how the council plans to effectively and efficiently meet the rising demand for places that they have identified. In taking forward this proposal, the council should explain clearly to stakeholders how, when taken together, this and other enhanced support provision will meet the needs of all children who require intensive support.

3.2 All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors felt that the proposal to make permanent an enhanced provision within Shawhead Primary School would meet better children's social, emotional and academic needs. They acknowledged that during the pilot phase children settled within the provision quickly as part of a very inclusive and nurturing whole school environment. They felt that there is a strong sense of community where children from the mainstream classes support and care for each other and those from the enhanced provision. Stakeholders were positive about the bespoke, personalised curriculum that children experience and the high level of adult support that children are afforded. A few parents had concerns regarding inconsistencies in the use of assistive technology to enhance children's communication and learning. A few parents were also concerned about the amount of screentime their child experiences daily. HM Inspectors agree that it would be beneficial for parents to understand better how technology supports and enhances children's learning.

3.3 Stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors highlighted that the learning environment within the enhanced provision was working well and allowed staff flexibility in meeting children's needs.

They had practical concerns around toilet and changing facilities and paths to school in winter. HM Inspectors recommend the council further consider toilet and changing arrangements to ensure all children's privacy and dignity remains intact. That the council review risk assessments to ensure any required mitigations are put in place to ensure paths around the school are safe in cold weather.

3.4 At present, all children who attend the enhanced provision are in P1. Staff and parents raised concerns about the suitability of the learning environment as children grow older.

HM Inspectors agree that it would be important for the council to review the learning environment regularly. They need to ensure that the size of the room and the learning and sensory development resources and play equipment available continue to be appropriate for the developmental, wellbeing and learning needs of the children. Staff reported that when setting up the pilot enhanced provision classroom, no additional budget was allocated to the school. HM Inspectors agree that if the proposal is agreed, it would be important for the council to ensure that sufficient resource is made available to ensure no inadvertent pressure is placed on school finances which would potentially impact negatively on mainstream children.

3.5 All staff that met with HM Inspectors have engaged in whole school professional learning to enhance their understanding of autism spectrum disorders and develop their skills in providing a communication friendly learning environment. They feel that this supporting them very well in ensuring that they meet the needs of all children across the whole school. It may be appropriate for staff to participate in further professional learning to upskill their knowledge of assistive technologies to support effectively all children's communication skills. Staff had concerns regarding the challenges of ensuring consistent and appropriately qualified staff are employed within the enhanced provision. Since the beginning of the pilot, there have been considerable staff absences. This has resulted in senior leaders and mainstream staff having to be deployed to the enhanced provision. Staff report that this has negatively impacted on the support that

mainstream children have received. HM Inspectors agree that it will be important for the council to work closely with senior leaders to ensure appropriate contingency plans are put in place to cover staff vacancies and absence.

3.6 Stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors are unclear about the transition process into secondary school. They have concerns that placing requests may be required and that continued access to enhanced support is not guaranteed. Parents feel this uncertainty could significantly affect their child's learning, development and achievement. They also highlighted confusion about the points system, particularly for children attending mainstream part-time. Staff reported that transition arrangements for secondary school have not yet been agreed. Currently, only one available space in the primary enhanced provision remains and all children attending are in P1. Stakeholders raised questions about the future intake to the school's enhanced provision. They are unsure about whether new children would be admitted

every seven years or whether the class would operate as a multi-composite. HM Inspectors view that it will be important for the council to work with all stakeholders to develop a clear, strategic model for specialist enhanced provision across the local authority. In doing so, it should ensure the model clarifies and makes transparent transition policies and procedures into the enhanced provision and when children transition to secondary school.

13. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal to establish an enhanced provision at Shawhead Primary School has the potential to realise the educational benefits stated in the proposal for the children currently placed there. Stakeholders who responded to the consultation and met with HM Inspectors are largely in support of the proposal. However, there remain valid concerns amongst stakeholders that HM Inspectors recommend the council address. These include improving toileting and changing arrangements, reviewing the suitability of the learning space and resources as children grow older, and ensuring appropriate contingency plans are in place to cover staff vacancies and absences. If the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council to address these concerns with stakeholders to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of a permanent enhanced provision. The proposal does not provide sufficient clarity for stakeholders on how the increasing demand for enhanced support across early years, primary and secondary will be met in North Lanarkshire over time. The council should explain more clearly to stakeholders how its overarching vision and strategy for ASN will work in practice, and how the educational benefits for other children who require intensive support will be met. The council needs to ensure that if the proposal is agreed, the enhanced support provision in Shawhead Primary School is resourced sufficiently to meet children's needs. The council should also continue to work closely with stakeholders to review regularly children's needs and to plan and adapt the provision appropriately.

HM Inspectors
March 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

Appendix (iii) - Staff and Public Consultation Notes and FAQs

Shawhead Public Consultation Meeting

Shawhead Primary School Enhanced Provision

Date: 26 January 2026

Start: Start: 18.03 End: 19:14

Venue: Shawhead Primary School

Notes/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Present:

J McParland Chief Officer (Education – South)

A Henry Senior Education and Families Manager

S Stevenson Inclusion Manager

C McShane Cluster Integration and Improvement Lead

M McGorry Project Manager – Learning Environment (notes)

L Macpherson Project Coordinator – Learning Environment (notes)

Meeting opened by James McParland, Chief Officer (South), with introductions given by the panel and HMIe Inspector. He gave an outline of the Statutory Consultation process, including the approval required by the Education & Families Committee, and purpose of the meeting.

Questions not being able to be answered tonight will be shared on the website a part of the Frequently Asked Questions document. James McParland went through the presentation highlighting the consultation timeline of 8 December 2025 to 9 February 2026 and encouraged staff to make comments tonight and on the website.

S Statement on how positive the Enhance Provision has been for parent's child. Positive role models really important as these are not necessarily within an ASN setting. School has been really supportive and the setting is idea.

S Parent disagreed and stated that the school is too small – sensory room taken away and pupil no longer has a sensory area. Sensory in the middle of hallway and not great for regulating. Picking up children at lunch-time there is not enough staff to deal with the children.

A Space is one factor but an important component to be considered is the positive leadership within the school, the ethos and the culture.

A Staffing is very generous in terms of the model. This is a pilot and we are learning along the way. We have approved an additional 15 hour post that went out to advert last week.

S My children have enhanced needs and are not benefitting from the additional support.

A In terms of the space we understand where you are coming from however, we did replace it with a sensory space next to the HT office and an outdoor classroom to replace the previous space.

S The office space is always in use. There isn't anywhere to go if that is in use. Outdoor space isn't always available.

A There are two support models in place in Shawhead PS. There is learning support within the mainstream setting and there is the enhanced support 'separate' provision. There is no support coming out from the mainstream to support the enhanced provision. The Principal Teacher is supporting the absence within this setting. The biggest pull on staffing is within management. We currently advertising for an additional 15 hour post to cover breaks, lunchtimes, etc. Staff are not being taken away from mainstream. There is also an annual exercise to address any imbalances across mainstream. There would be a team around the child meeting that decided your child should be in mainstream with support. Your children's needs are looked at through the cluster around the child and is not being impacted by the enhanced provision.

Q Currently P1 is in the only classroom – how will that look in future?

A The class will continue through P1 to P7 in Shawhead PS. We are currently looking at additional 3 secondary schools and 3 primary schools to strengthen that mainstream model. Hopefully the P1 children will eventually dip in to the mainstream and education still have a working group with HTs to ensure the model evolves and improves.

S It's been a really positive experience for us but the only thing has been the uncertainty

A There were certain timescales without our control and things we had to react to.

Q What if it does not get approved?

A Cannot speak for elected members, however in November we sought their support and that was support was given unequivocally. In March there will be a paper requesting 3 more primary schools and 3 high schools. The contingency is to utilise the CREST process.

S Stakeholders should put in their comments both positive and negative.

Q In P7 do we still have to go through another process to transition to S1.

S The processes have slightly changed for the better since last year we now do P6 for enhanced transition to ensure that children have the support that they need in that provision to thrive. We will be doing more observations to make sure we are getting the right outcome when it comes to panels.

Q My child did not get ASN provision and this is the best option but concerned about going through again as previously got a mainstream decision. It was deemed that as they went to mainstream nursery they could go to mainstream primary.

A Specialist provision and mainstream provision now score dependent on the support pupils require. Following discussions with 50 parents/carers it was identified that this was something that we had to change and the process is now needs driven.

S If my child had been in a mainstream or ASN provision they would have got lost. This is the right approach for my child.

S The only negative is that there were changes to my child's routine at the beginning and communication could be better. The door my child had to go through changed initially and as my child is taxied I don't get daily feedback. It would be useful to know what their day has been like, did they eat lunch, go to the toilet, been outside, etc. Non-verbal so cannot tell us. The Learning Journals are good to get Tuesdays and Fridays but daily communication would be good.

A We are learning and developing all the time and are looking to develop a consistent approach across all enhanced provision.

James closed meeting thanking everyone for coming and helping to inform the overall picture. James reiterated that parents can go on-line to watch Committee meetings and read the reports.

Appendix (iv) – Equality Impact Assessment Form



Section 1. About the Policy

1.1 Name of the policy / strategy / function / procedure:

Service Redesign of the ASN Sector

Is this a: -

A new policy /strategy / function / procedure / service

Budget saving

Review of policy /strategy / function / procedure

Review of Service

Other (please specify) **Service Redesign**

Is this is a key strategic decision subject to the Fairer Scotland Duty

No

Yes

1.2 Person Responsible for the policy etc.

Name:

Job Title and Service / Team:

James McParland

Chief Officer for Education (South)

1.3 What is the scope of the assessment?		Detail where appropriate
Whole of the organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Service specific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Discipline specific	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

1.4 What is the policy/ strategy/ function/ saving trying to achieve / do?

As highlighted in the Educational Benefits section of the statutory consultation document.

In summary, to provide a better educational experience, within a better environment, for the children and young people involved.

1.5 If this is a budget saving, how will the saving be achieved?

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Section 2. What do I know now?

2.1 Who are the stakeholders and beneficiaries?

Staff of the two establishments, children and young people at the two establishments and the parents of the children and young people.

2.2 What data, consultation, research and other evidence or information is available relevant to this assessment? (This is a desktop exercise)

There was a public consultation meeting. There were also separate consultation meetings for staff and parents. Where possible, the children and young people were consulted on their views.

2.3 Considering the information in Section 1 and 2.1 and 2.2

2.3.1 If this policy is subject to the FSD what does it suggest about the impact or potential impact on socio-economic disadvantage? (please refer to FSD Interim Guidance)

Low income	
Low wealth	
Material deprivation	
Area deprivation	

2.3.2 Are any of the people communities listed below likely to be more affected by this policy than others?

People who share one or more of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010	Yes	Details	No	Details	Don't Know
Age (a particular age or range of ages)	✓	4-12 year old children			

Disabled people and people with long term health conditions	✓	4-12 year old children			
Women and men, girls and boys			✓		
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			✓		
Married people and civil partners			✓		
Pregnant women and new mothers (including breastfeeding women)			✓		
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people			✓		
People transitioning from one gender to another			✓		
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs			✓		
<u>Other groups</u>					
Children and families			✓		
Homeless people			✓		
Looked after and accommodated people			✓		
Care leavers			✓		
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members			✓		
Asylum seekers			✓		
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.	✓	Teaching, Ancillary and Learning Assistant staff			
Others			✓		

2.4 Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will, or may potentially affect the Council's duty to: (Please tick all that apply).

	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010?		✓	
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not	✓		
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?	✓		
4. Protect and promote human rights?		✓	
5. Reduce socio-economic disadvantage		✓	
Please provide details.			
<p>The children attending Shawhead Enhanced Provision will have the opportunity to attend a school in their local area with their mainstream peers. This will help to promote integration and inclusion and provide opportunities to celebrate diversity.</p>			

Section 3. What else do I need to know /find out?

3.1 Further consultation – Please use the table directly below to say who you will consult with (tick Yes or No). Consider those groups from section 2.3 where you ticked yes or don't know. Once consultation has taken place provide the details below.

<u>People and communities</u>	Yes	No	Describe what you did, with whom and when. Please provide a brief summary of the responses gained and links to relevant documents, as well as any actions
Age (a particular age or range of ages)		No	
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions		No	
Women and men, girls and boys		No	
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.		No	
Married people and civil partners		No	

Pregnant women and new mothers and breastfeeding women.		No	
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people		No	
People transitioning from one gender to another		No	
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs		No	
<u>Other groups</u>			
Children and families		No	
Homeless people		No	
Looked after and accommodated people		No	
Care leavers		No	
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members		No	
Asylum Seekers		No	
Trade Unions	Yes		
Employee Equality Forum		No	
Others			

3.2 What additional research or data is required?

N/A

3.3 What does the additional research and data tell you about potential or known effects?

N/A

Section 4. Assessing the impact and strengthening the policy

Considering all the evidence you now have from section 1-3, how will the policy affect different people and communities in relation to equality, socio-economic disadvantage and human rights?

4.1 How does/will the policy and resulting activity affect those with the characteristics listed below (including employees)? Please use the table below to provide details.

	Detail any Positive impact	Detail any adverse impact	If adverse how can we mitigate this? Where no mitigating action is planned please say why not
Age (a particular age or range of ages)	Children and Young People (4-12yrs) with additional needs will benefit from a high quality education in high quality surroundings which have been carefully designed to meet their needs.		
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions	As above		
Women and men, girls and boys			
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			
Married people and civil partners			
Pregnant women and new mothers (including			

breastfeeding women)			
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people			
People transitioning from one gender to another			
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs			
<u>Other groups</u>			
Children and families			
Homeless people			
Looked after and accommodated people			
Care leavers			
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members			
Asylum Seekers			
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.			
Others			

4.2 What measures could be taken to strengthen the policy / strategy to help advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations, promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage.

N/A

4.3 Considering questions 4.1 and 4.2 what actions / measures will be put in place before introducing this policy please provide details.

Action	Timescales	Responsible Officer	Review details (include timescales)
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Consultation with staff, trade unions and Head Teachers	As appropriate	James McParland	

Section 5. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

5.1. How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the new policy?

Lessons learned, outcomes and impact and further requirements and improvements.

Section 6. Making a decision and sign-off

Recommendation	Tick	Comment (where applicable, please give more information e.g. where to pilot, what modifications, etc.)	Timescales
Introduce the policy			
Adjust the policy then introduce			
Introduce the policy with justification regarding potential adverse impact			
Stop and withdraw the policy			

Name of Policy			
Head of Service /Senior Manager sign-off:			
Name	Job title and division/ team	Date	Signature
James McParland	Chief Officer for Education (South)		

For further information please contact:

1. Name:	2. Alan Henry
Job title:	3. Senior Education & Families Manager
4. Service:	5. Education, Children & Families
6. Contact details:	7. Henryal@northlan.gov.uk