

Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 8 September 2009
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No: EDUC/83/09/CL
Contact Officer:	Tom Reid	Contact No: 01475 712824
Subject:	Consultation on Additional Support Needs	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out options for the future provision of Additional Support Needs.
- 1.2 To obtain Committee approval to issue the attached Consultation Document.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of 18 June 2009, it was agreed that the future of Additional Support Needs across Inverclyde be reviewed and be subject to a consultation exercise.
- 2.2 The consultation exercise took place between 19 September 2008 and 28 November 2008. A report detailing the responses received during the consultation period was presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of 3 March 2009.
- 2.3 The committee decided that a working group be established to identify the possible options for Lilybank and Glenburn Schools and Hillend Children's Centre and that a paper be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee prior to public consultation.
- 2.4 A working group was set up following the Education and Lifelong learning Committee meeting of 3 March 2009 and has met on a monthly basis influencing the content of the attached consultation document.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that members approve the issue of the attached Consultation Document and that the outcomes of the consultative process be subject to a further report.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of 18 June 2009, it was agreed that the future of Additional Support Needs across Inverclyde be reviewed and be subject to a consultation exercise.
- 4.2 The consultation exercise took place between 19 September 2008 and 28 November 2008. A report detailing the responses received during the consultation period was presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of 3 March 2009.
- 4.3 The committee decided that a working group be established to identify the possible options for Lilybank and Glenburn Schools and Hillend Children's Centre and that a paper be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee prior to public consultation.
- 4.4 A working group was set up following the Education and Lifelong learning Committee meeting of 3 March 2009 and has met on a monthly basis influencing the content of the attached consultation document.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The attached documents be issued for public consultation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial implications are included within the School Estate Management Plan and Chief Financial Officer has been consulted.

6.2 Legal

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted.

6.3 Personnel

There are no personnel issues.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 It is recommended that members approve the issue of the attached Consultation Document and that the outcomes of the consultative process be subject to a further report.

8.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES

- 8.1 There are no equality issues.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Consultation Report

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

**REPORT BY THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

This document has been issued by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of Inverclyde Council for Consultation in terms of the education (Publication and consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 (as amended).

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICES

Responses are invited from interested parties before Friday 16th October on the following options:

- i. Both Lilybank and Glenburn Special Schools remain in their current school with only basic maintenance carried out as and when required.**
- ii. An all-through Special School to accommodate both Lilybank and Glenburn is created on the site of the planned new joint campus school in Port Glasgow. There would also be provision for up to 8 children from early years with severe or complex needs.**
- iii. This option is similar to option 2 but would also include the creation of a primary unit in St Francis' Primary School to facilitate greater integration of pupils into mainstream.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee on 18th June 2008, it was agreed that the future of Additional Support Needs across Inverclyde be reviewed and be subject to a consultation exercise. This was part of a decision to review all of the school estate across Inverclyde Council.
- 1.2 The consultation exercise took place between 19th September 2008 and 28th November 2008. A report detailing the responses received during the consultation period was presented to the ELLC of 3rd March 2009. The committee decided
 - (1) That the Garvel Centre for the Deaf be relocated to Moorfoot Primary School once accommodation becomes available.
 - (2) That a review of both the short term and longer term accommodation options in respect of Mearns Centre be evaluated to ensure the longer term delivery of the service. A report was presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 8th September 2009.
 - (3) That a working group be established to identify the possible options for Lilybank and Glenburn Schools and Hillend Children's Centre and that a consultation paper be presented to ELLC prior to public consultation.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The information below highlights the need to consider future provision in Inverclyde in the special education sector. A previous review was undertaken in 2003 but not taken forward at that time. Meanwhile, the Moving to Mainstream agenda and the national drive towards inclusion have advanced and many parents and carers express a preference for a mainstream setting with appropriate supports in place for children with a range of additional support needs.
- 2.2 Legislative developments, such as the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and amendments made in 2009 place a duty on authorities to provide appropriately for young people with Additional Support Needs. This is increasingly difficult to fulfil in buildings which are in some cases no longer fit for purpose. This does not, of course, detract from the excellent, supportive environments evident in our special schools, which enjoy a very high reputation nationally. It is, however, worth emphasising that pupils and staff have an entitlement to work and be educated in

buildings which are warm, watertight and which permit the delivery of a changing and flexible curriculum whilst allowing the fulfilment of the Ministerial Vision of ensuring pupils are safe, healthy, active, respected, responsible, included and nurtured.

2.3 **Glenburn**

Glenburn is a non-denominational, co-educational school located on a site on Inverkip Road, Greenock. It lies in close proximity to the former Greenock High School building and to the new Inverclyde Academy. It caters for pupils with moderate learning difficulties between the ages of 5 and 18. The building, built in 1968, is on a single level which facilitates accessibility. The school is, to the credit of the staff and pupils, very warm and welcoming.

Conditions, however, within the building are cramped and far from ideal. Although a number of repairs and small-scale improvements have been made in recent years, the building lacks appropriate space for sport, the arts, social interaction and some practical lessons. It has proved difficult in recent years to provide appropriate space for visiting services, such as Occupational and Speech and Language Therapy. Despite these advantages, the school continues to achieve very highly and promote pupil achievement very successfully. Integrated Children's Services led the development of the LINKZ project in the former Janitor's house to provide a community resource, much used by the school itself.

There are currently around ninety pupils in the school. Class sizes tend to be kept around the 1:10 teacher to pupil ratio. With the onset of inclusion nationally there has been a drift away from the sector at primary level with numbers at secondary remaining relatively stable.

There are excellent examples of inclusive practice which have been developed with the former Greenock High School. The proximity of secondary school facilities and the willingness of staff there to accept Glenburn Pupils into mainstream classes has been a very positive feature of school life in recent sessions.

2.4 **Lilybank**

Lilybank School is located in Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow, It caters for young people from all over Inverclyde with complex needs. There are also a small number of young people from outwith Inverclyde. The school is non-denominational and co-educational. Lilybank now caters for a considerable number of pupils in the lower stages who are on the autistic spectrum and have little or no language. The number of pupils with complex and physical disabilities has decreased in recent times.

The current roll in Lilybank school is: 26 Primary
20 Secondary

The school was inspected in April 2007. The inspectors identified a high number of key strengths including the supportive ethos of the school, the quality of partnership working, pastoral care and the effectiveness of senior managers. One of few action points centred around the quality of accommodation and facilities. The school lacks an appropriate reception area, appropriate partitioning or separation between rooms and appropriate space for therapists to use. The hydrotherapy pool was regarded as too small for older pupils and the slope to the area at the front of the school for collecting and delivering pupils to the school caused difficulty.

Work has taken place this summer to improve the reception and some classroom areas in response to the recent HMIE reports.

2.5 A working group has met on a regular basis since the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee of 3rd March 2008. The working group after much deliberation has agreed that the proposed three options should be open to public consultation.

- 2.6 Members of the working group have also taken the opportunity to visit other Additional Needs Schools in Scotland. The experience gained from these visits has helped to form the view of the working group.
- 2.7 Annual returns are provided to the Scottish Government on the condition of our schools. A recent survey undertaken by an independent consultant confirmed both Lilybank and Glenburn schools to be in the 'poor' category.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Inverclyde Council now wishes to consult on the proposal to discontinue special education provision on current sites of Glenburn and Lilybank and to transfer both schools to a new purpose built school to be developed as part of the new joint campus school in Port Glasgow.
- 3.2 It is projected that a new all through school will cost approximately £12.7m.

4.0 THE OPTION

4.1 Option 1

Option 1 is to retain the status quo; retain both Glenburn and Lilybank schools and Hillend Children's Centre in their present accommodation.

Benefits:

- would involve no disruption for pupils or staff
- children are familiar with their school.

Issues to consider:

- fails to address accommodation issues.
- Unlikely to be sustainable in the long term.

4.2 Option 2

This option would provide an all through special school catering for moderate and complex needs children. It would provide accommodation for both Lilybank and Glenburn as well as up to 8 early years children from Hillend Children's Centre. The new school would be purpose built and be part of the new joint campus school in Port Glasgow to be completed in 2013.

Benefits:

- access to mainstream settings in a state of the art building where appropriate
- peer association with mainstream pupils
- self contained on one location
- purpose built school
- potentially room for other activities

- inclusion in the cluster of schools associated with Port Glasgow High and St Stephen's High
- Lilybank already has strong links in the Port Glasgow community.

Issues to consider:

- loss of Glenburn's current association with Greenock schools
- traveling distance to new school
- loss of separate identities
- disruption to pupils and staff

4.3 Option 3

This option would provide the same as Option 2 but would have an additional primary unit in St Francis Primary School.

Benefits:

- the benefits listed in 4.2 would also apply
- plus greater opportunity for primary pupil integration into a mainstream school

Issues to consider:

- the issues raised in 4.2 would apply

Plus

- some loss of peer association that could be achieved in an all through special school.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that elected members agree to adopt for the purpose of the consultation proposal; That subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise

- current education provision at both Lilybank and Glenburn Special Schools be discontinued when alternative accommodation becomes available.
- children attending both Lilybank and Glenburn and up to 8 early years children attending Hillend Children's Centre should continue their education in another establishment, in accordance with one of the options set out in this report as yet to be determined.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Responses should be sent to :-

Education Consultation
 Education Services
 William Street
 Greenock
 PA15 1HT

Before Friday 16th October 2009

Written responses can be from individuals or from groups. Responses can also be sent via email to:-
educationconsultation.ho@inverclyde.gov.uk

All responses should include the name and address of the sender.