



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Laura Caven	T3.60
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	The Scottish Parliament
Laura Meikle	Edinburgh
Scottish Government	EH99 1SP

By email only—

ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

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Dear Laura and Laura

The Education, Children, and Young People Committee thanks you for the evidence you provided at its scoping inquiry into additional support needs (ASN) on Wednesday 28 June 2023. The Official Report of that meeting can be found [here](#). I am writing to follow up on several matters which were discussed at the meeting. Given you prepared a joint opening statement for the meeting and for ease, I am sending a joint letter to you both to which you can coordinate a single response.

Data

During the meeting, you gave a commitment to send the committee data regarding the current level of staff resources and “what element of the education system” they work in (cols 36 and 39). The Committee, therefore, asks that you provide these data to help inform its inquiry into ASN.

Resources

You agreed to provide further information on whether the level of resources for speech therapists and pupil support assistants had increased in line with the increase in the proportion of Scottish pupils who are designated as having additional

support needs (col 11). In addition, the Committee would like further details on the current level of vacancies for speech therapists (col 40).

On information available to parents, you mentioned the Enquire website which details available pathways at a local authority level and through the legislation and you offered to send further information on this website (col 20).

An important topic that arose during the session is that of resources, both pecuniary and in terms of staff and staff opportunities for professional development to meet the needs of the system (cols 16, 21-23). The Committee would be grateful if COSLA could provide a figure, even indicative, of what level of additional funding from central government would be needed to address the demand and/or any flexibilities in relation to additional support for learning in schools (col 35).

Further Clarification

During the session, you gave a commitment to clarify the meaning of positive initial destinations for school leavers and the associated pupil tracking actions (col 16). I would be grateful if you could provide this information.

In addition, the Committee was interested in whether the Scottish Universities Inclusion Group are examining the balance between supporting all teachers to work with ASN children and teachers in more specialist roles. You committed to providing further information on this (col 33).

The Committee would welcome a response to these points, in a Word format, by **Wednesday 16 August 2023**.

Finally, you also mentioned the opportunity to advise the Committee of the outcome of your forthcoming discussions with the COSLA Children and Young People Board towards the end of the year (col 31). The Committee looks forward to this update in due course.

Yours sincerely

Sue Webber MSP
Convener