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Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee

By email.

Ar faidhle/Our ref: Additional Support for Learning Progress Report and Action Plan

5 November 2024

Dear Convener,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that we have published the third Additional Support for Learning (ASL) [Progress Report](#) today.

This report demonstrates the progress made towards delivery of the actions set out in the ASL Action Plan between November 2022 and June 2024 and has been developed in partnership with COSLA and ASL Project Board members. The report also provides an indication of the key areas of focus that will be considered and delivered by the ASL Project Board members until the end of this Parliamentary term, in March 2026. An accessible Progress Report in the form of an easy read version will be published shortly.

To complement the Progress Report, an up-dated [ASL Action Plan](#) was published at the same time. This includes the most recent up-dates on the work that the ASL Project Board are taking forward to deliver on the specific actions agreed, to meet the recommendations set out in Angela Morgan's review (2020). I can confirm, that since our ASL Action Plan was published in 2020, we have completed 40 of the 76 actions, and progress is underway to deliver the remaining commitments.

In line with our commitment to improved communication with families and children and young people, we also asked Enquire to create [children and young people](#) and [parent and carer](#)-friendly versions of the ASL Progress Report. These include:

Parents and carers:

- Designing and developing a summary document, outlining key points from the Progress Report tailored to the audience of parents and carers of children with additional support needs.

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- Development of social media assets to complement the dissemination of the document.

Children and young people:

- News piece (blog) for Reach website highlighting key points from the ASL Progress Report tailored to the audience of children and young people with additional support needs.
- Development of three videos for use on social media, primarily TikTok, to share these key points.

To complement the publication of the updated ASL Action Plan and Progress report Enquire have also:

- Created a piece in the Enquire newsletter.
- Created a news item on the Enquire website about the ASL Progress Report and Parents/ Carers and children/ young people versions.
- Targeted social media posting and engagement to share the above outputs.

I welcome the work that has been undertaken by the Education, Children and Young People's Committee on Additional Support for Learning and the further scrutiny that this has brought to an important area of policy. It is important to note, that it was not possible to reflect the Committee's recommendations, nor any progress made towards them, within this current Progress Report because the reporting period is November 2022 to June 2024, and this report provides a retrospective up-date on the progress made during this time.

The ASL Project Board considered carefully those recommendations that align with the scope of the work of the ASL Action Plan, and where appropriate have strengthened the content of the ASL Action Plan to reflect this focus. This is reflected within the up-dated ASL Action Plan, that was published alongside this Progress Report. I would like to reassure the Committee, that the ASL Project Board will remain cognisant of the wider recommendations made by the ECYP committee, to ensure that the focus, alignment, and delivery of both strands of work, continues to deliver meaningful change.

Whilst I recognise that this is a significant achievement, I do accept that there is still a lot more to do. I remain grateful to the ASL Project Board and to all of those involved in delivering the work of the ASL Action Plan and Additional Support for Learning in Scotland, for their contribution to supporting and delivering our vision to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with an additional support need.

I hope that the Committee finds this update useful.

Yours sincerely

JENNY GILRUTH

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