

Emergency Motion by the Liberal Democrat Group

City of Edinburgh Council 8 February 2024 Education Support Bases

Council believes:

- 1) That children and young people with additional support needs have a right to the same educational opportunities as all other children and young people
- 2) That in line with Getting it Right for Every Child Principles educational provision for young people with additional support needs should reflect their individual requirements whether that be in mainstream or alternative settings.
- 3) Education Support Bases are an invaluable part of educational landscape which allow children and young people with additional support needs to receive tailored support in many subjects whilst taking advantage of many of the opportunities that mainstream provisions can offer them.
- 4) Families of children with additional support needs often face additional challenges during the transition period between primary school and high school and when there is significant anxiety amongst this community of parents the local authority has a duty to provide reassurance.

Council notes:

- 5) Concerns expressed to elected members from a significant number of parents about the provision of additional support needs education in the city
- 6) A significant number of parents received official rejection letters following the 30th January deadline for full council motions and following the last meeting of Education, Children and Families Committee.

7) Full council is not meeting again until the 21st March and Education, Children and Families Committee is not meeting again until the 16th April. Leaving families in a state of significant anxiety for a long period of time.

Therefore council agrees

8) That an urgent communication plan needs to be executed in order to reassure families of children with ASN that Enhanced Support Bases are being retained

9) An urgent briefing is held within the next week for Education, Children and Families Committee members updating them on the ASN review and the current situation regarding placement applications for children with additional support needs

10) An update report is provided to the next Education, Children and Families Committee on the status of the Additional Support Needs Review. This should include a comparison of the number and outcome of applications to enhanced support bases and other alternative provisions between this year and last.

11) Officers will make urgent contact with families rejected for ESB's or other alternative provisions to discuss their concerns.

Moved by: Cllr Euan Davidson

Seconded by: Cllr Louise Young