



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT June 2016

ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS ENHANCED PROVISION

THE RELOCATION OF NEWTONHILL SCHOOL ENHANCED PROVISION CENTRE TO PORTLETHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, PORTLETHEN

Definition of Enhanced Provision:

The term enhanced provision refers to a designated primary and secondary school in each cluster which has enhanced levels of expertise and staffing to meet a wide range of additional support needs. The learning environment includes facilities such as quiet/study areas, sensory spaces, physical access and life skills/nurture areas.

The primary and secondary enhanced provision centre for each cluster and the area community resource hub (akin to special school provision) can offer outreach support and advice, short term assessment placements, flexible placements and access to a variety of therapies.

The booklet "Right Support, Right Place, Right Time" provides additional information and can be accessed using the link below –

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/16803/right-support-right-place-right-time-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Proposal for Statutory Consultation

THE RELOCATION OF NEWTONHILL SCHOOL ENHANCED PROVISION CENTRE TO PORTLETHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, PORTLETHEN

SUMMARY PROPOSAL

Enhanced provision across Aberdeenshire has been reviewed and a nine area model is currently being implemented during 2014-16. Each cluster will have a primary and a secondary enhanced provision centre and each area will have a community resource hub. The aim is to provide support for all learners in the local schools through universal and targeted support and to ensure that enhanced provision is located where the need is greatest.

The new enhanced provision model aims to increase capacity at a school and cluster level for all learners to ensure greater consistency of, and equity of access to, an improved quality of provision across the authority.

At present the enhanced provision centre for the Portlethen and Stonehaven clusters is located at Newtonhill School, Newtonhill. Trends analysis reflects the numbers of children with additional support needs in Portlethen Primary School and Mill O' Forest School are greater than the numbers at Newtonhill.

It is proposed that the primary enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill will be relocated to Portlethen Primary School where the need is greatest. The proposal has been made to address existing and future needs within Portlethen Primary School and should not result in any significant change to the existing roll either at Portlethen Primary School or Newtonhill School.

The only remaining cluster without primary enhanced provision is Stonehaven and the proposal is to develop a new primary enhanced provision centre at Mill O' Forest School, Stonehaven.

The provision of additional support for learning in the Authority's schools is underpinned by a strategic approach to career long professional learning and training for all the workforce to ensure the Council provides the right support, in the right place, at the right time.

This document has been issued by Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council web-site:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Or by e-mailing:

Enhancedprovisionproject@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This document will be provided to:

- School Parent Council of Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School
- Parent Councils of all primary schools in Portlethen cluster
- Parents of the pupils of Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School
- Parents of pupils attending the enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill School
- Safe Space Out of School Care Parent Group
- Pupils of Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School
- Pupil Councils of all other schools in the Portlethen cluster
- Pupils attending the enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill School
- Staff of Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School
- All schools within the Portlethen cluster
- Educational Psychology Team
- Community Child Development Team
- Quality Improvement Officers for the Portlethen cluster
- Teaching and ancillary staff at Newtonhill School affected by relocation of the enhanced provision
- Trade union representatives of the above staff – teaching and non-teaching
- Business Support Officer
- Area Manager
- Local Area Councillors (North Kincardine Ward)
- Community Council Chairs
- Education Learning and Leisure Committee
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- **Council Headquarters, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB**
- **Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School**
- **Newtonhill Library and Portlethen Library**
- **All schools in the Stonehaven Cluster and Stonehaven Library**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Aberdeenshire Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all of its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all of the pupils in its schools to ensure they receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- 1.2 Aberdeenshire Council's vision is to create the best area for its citizens to live in by being the best council in Scotland. As part of the council's team to deliver this vision, the Education & Children's Service aims to build an Aberdeenshire community in which everyone is able to develop the skills and confidence needed for learning, life and work, and where children and families receive the support they need, when they need it within their local community.
- 1.3 In October 2013, it was agreed by Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Committee to conduct an audit of enhanced provision across Aberdeenshire.
- 1.4 In August 2014 the findings from the enhanced provision informal engagement events were presented to Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Committee.
- 1.5 The key themes from the informal engagement events were:
 - 1.5.1 The need for clarity with regard to staffing implications of the model including Early Years provision;
 - 1.5.2 The development of a comprehensive staff training program based on a training needs analysis;
 - 1.5.3 The development of an evidence based evaluation process to measure the impact of the new model on all learners including pupils without additional support needs;
 - 1.5.4 The development of guidance on the management of the enhanced provision with detailed timeline for implementation including property adaptations.
- 1.6 In Aberdeenshire the Council are committed to providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time. The aim is to support children and young people to remain with their own families and, as far as possible, to educate them in their local schools within their own communities. Presumption of mainstreaming means that every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of learners within mainstream classes with their peers.

Some children within the mainstream environment may require access to support from teachers with additional expertise (additional support for learning), or to sensory rooms to support development, and/or to life skills areas within schools. These resources are referred to as 'enhanced provision centres', they are not a place but they are a variety of supports. Children will access these supports

according to their needs for as long or short a time as would be appropriate. When a child / young person is attending a school that does not have a designated enhanced provision centre, outreach may be available from the nearest school with enhanced provision. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for an assessment placement to be offered to a child/young person at a school with enhanced provision, or for a time a blended placement may be offered between the mainstream school that a child/young person was attending and the nearest enhanced provision centre. This degree of flexibility ensures that a child/young person's needs can be met fully under the GIRFEC principles (Getting it right for every child).

The enhanced provision centres and community resource hubs complement the provision within the Authority's mainstream schools and together they provide a continuum of support across Aberdeenshire. A community resource hub is a resource for pupils with significant and complex needs, these are children who are in primary or secondary school but learning within the early level of the Curriculum for Excellence. These young people require access to teachers with higher levels of expertise than those in enhanced provision centres, and may need to access sensory areas and work on a curriculum based strongly on practical life skills: personal self-help skills, communication and self-regulation. Outreach from community resource hubs will be available to support children/young people in enhanced provision centres, and some in-reach in the form of assessment placements or blended placements may be appropriate for a period of time. Placements in community resource hubs and enhanced provision centres will be reviewed regularly, and if/when appropriate youngsters will increase their time or return to a mainstream environment.

Learners have the opportunity to access this flexible support structure, making appropriate use of both mainstream opportunities and targeted and specialist support.

2. Reason for Revised Proposal

- 2.1 A formal statutory consultation took place between August-October 2015 and a report was sent to Education Scotland.

Education Scotland issued a report on the statutory consultation process in November 2015 finding the proposal has the potential to increase capacity to meet the higher levels of need identified at Portlethen Primary School but lacked specificity about the educational benefits and on the impact of the relocation on staffing levels, resources and training opportunities in both schools. Further, Education Scotland suggested it would also be helpful to provide specific reassurance to parents of children with significant additional support needs at Newtonhill School that they will not be disadvantaged as a result of implementation. It should be noted that Portlethen Primary School and Newtonhill School are not rural schools subject to the Rural Schools legislate.

It was agreed to take stock and prepare a revised statutory consultation proposal for the ELL Committee in May 2016 incorporating Education Scotland's comments to undertake a fresh formal statutory consultation process in June 2016. The projected timeline would be over 6-12 months. This option would

ensure we can incorporate Education Scotland's recommendations into a fresh formal statutory consultation process, whilst progressing the process to completion in a more timely manner.

The ELL Committee on 24 March 2016 agreed the following actions:

- for the duration of school session 2015/16, allocate proportionate enhanced provision staffing in both schools to ensure consistency of support until Hillside School opens.

- to prepare a revised proposal for the May 2016 ELL Committee including clarification on implementation plans and provide a timescale for the completion of Hillside School as per Education Scotland's report recommendations and to reflect the revised Scottish government's guidance.

- subject to approval of the proposal by ELL Committee in May 2016, initiate formal statutory consultation proposal from June 2016.

- 2.2 Trends analysis reflects the numbers of children with additional support needs in Portlethen Primary School are greater than the numbers at Newtonhill. The population of Portlethen is 8200 and Newtonhill is 3040 (Source: Mid 2012 Population Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland, National Records of Scotland).
- 2.3 Almost all learners are supported in their local mainstream schools through recognised supports and strategies aligned to national policy and guidance and to Aberdeenshire's Staged Intervention framework which includes universal support and targeted support.
- 2.4 Pupils from Portlethen and Stonehaven can access Newtonhill School enhanced provision centre which results in them being educated outwith their own community which has implications for social inclusion and transportation needs. At present three pupils access Newtonhill School enhanced provision – one from the Stonehaven cluster and two from the Newtonhill area.
- 2.5 The Authority's aim is to support children and young people to remain with their own families and, as far as possible, to educate them in their local schools within their own communities. Presumption of mainstreaming means that every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of learners within their local schools with their peers, with appropriate support from staff and access to resources. All schools are working towards being autism and dyslexia friendly, and with an emphasis on nurturing approaches: this is the universal level of support to which the Authority aspires.
- 2.6 In addition to the universal support available in all schools across Aberdeenshire, children and young people will receive targeted and specialist support through Staged Intervention. For most children this support will be provided in their local school. However, some children and young people will require a level of provision to meet significant additional support needs. Within each cluster, the academy and one of the associated primary schools are

designated enhanced provision centres. Within these schools, a higher level of targeted provision is available, either on a part-time, full-time or outreach basis.

- 2.7 Some children and young people with the most complex needs may require a more specialist provision available through nine community resource hubs which cover all of Aberdeenshire, either on a part-time, full-time or outreach basis.
- 2.8 The enhanced provision centres and community resource hubs complement the provision within the Authority's mainstream schools and together they provide a continuum of support across Aberdeenshire. Learners have the opportunity to access this flexible support structure, making appropriate use of both mainstream opportunities and targeted and specialist support.

3. Details of the Proposal

- 3.1 The enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill to be relocated to Portlethen Primary School with a phased implementation period until Hillside School is completed and operational in 2017.
- 3.2 Existing staff and expertise to be reallocated as appropriate. A comprehensive training program is underway which is open to all schools with a particular focus on Portlethen Primary School to increase staff confidence, skills and competencies.

4. Educational Benefits Statement

- 4.1 The nine area model of enhanced provision will provide a fair, transparent and equitable service across Aberdeenshire and allows all children with additional support needs to be educated in their own communities. The new model will improve support for children and young people with additional support needs and extend existing effective inclusive practice.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/16925/education-enhanced-provision-nine-area-model.pdf>

- 4.2 The model will enhance the existing continuum of provision in the Portlethen cluster, in line with the authority-wide model and increase capacity to meet the higher levels of need identified at Portlethen Primary School.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/16924/enhanced-education-provision-portlethen-stonehaven-laurencekirk.pdf>

- 4.3 Children living in the Portlethen cluster and requiring enhanced provision will be able to access it locally rather than having to travel to Newtonhill. The bulk of the population within the cluster reside in the small town of Portlethen thereby reducing the travel distance.
- 4.4 Existing pupils with significant additional support needs at Newtonhill who access enhanced provision will continue to be supported at Newtonhill and will

not be required to transfer to Portlethen. A sensory room which can be used as a break out space is under development at Newtonhill Primary.

- 4.5 The phased implementation of the proposed changes will require a robust planning process in partnership with parents for each individual pupil attending Newtonhill School enhanced provision centre to ensure their needs continue to be met in the most appropriate location and via their Individual Education Plan.
- 4.6 The re-location of enhanced provision from Newtonhill to Portlethen will not impact on the capacity of Portlethen Primary School. No pupil from outwith the Portlethen Primary School catchment area will be moved to the enhanced provision at Portlethen until the school at Hillside opens.
- 4.7 The learning environment will have a designated quiet space, sensory space and a life skills area. The enhanced provision will continue to be used flexibly to meet the needs of learners and has immediate access to the outdoor learning environment.
- 4.8 Resources will be used and deployed flexibly to meet a range of needs. Work in partnership with the local community to develop outdoor learning will continue.
- 4.9 A mainstream setting will continue to support children to develop resilience and be active participants in the wider world, through understanding their emotions, learning coping strategies and a gradual planned supported exposure to a range of life's experiences. The social and emotional needs of individual pupils will continue to be supported through the effective transition planning process. Staff will be confident, equipped and supported to meet these needs.
- 4.10 Pupils will feel more supported as a result of increased investment in staff training and professional development as all schools become more autism and dyslexia friendly with an emphasis on nurturing approaches. Schools will be better able to support a child's language, literacy, numeracy and communication needs; along with their social and emotional development. Training will be provided on a regular ongoing basis to all staff.
- 4.11 On-going investment in training and professional development will ensure that staff develop the competencies and skills to effectively support pupils' needs and thereby increase capacity of all staff groups. To date opportunities provided for training have included Dyslexia awareness, CALM theory and physical intervention, visual support training, Individual Education Plans and The Support Manual. Equalities and Respecting Diversity Council-wide training have also been completed which includes all categories of staffing.

5. Alternatives to the Proposal

5.1 Alternative possibilities considered are:

- 5.1.1 Retention of the status quo with Newtonhill as enhanced provision centre.

- 5.1.2 Retention of Newtonhill as Enhanced Provision Centre until Hillside School opens, and develop Portlethen Primary School as the Enhanced Provision Centre for the cluster.

6. Sustainability

- 6.1 The proposal offers a sustainable solution that will provide equity of access to support across Aberdeenshire and enhance existing provision. The introduction of enhanced provision in Stonehaven and the relocation of enhanced provision from Newtonhill to Portlethen will address population growth and increasing numbers of children with additional support needs in Stonehaven and Portlethen.
- 6.2 The proposal will help to reduce travel and improve the environmental impact.

7. Equal Opportunities

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a statutory requirement of the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. It also affords an opportunity for the Council to consider the impact on the education service. In addition an EIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children and parents.
- 7.2 The aim of an EIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 7.3 Having regard to the nine area model of enhanced provision, the negative impact identified for a small number of pupils can be mitigated by the transition arrangements detailed in the report.
- 7.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
- 7.5 Under the Equality Act 2010 education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage.

8. Implications for Staff

- 8.1 Teaching staff will be reallocated as appropriate within the proposed enhanced provision staffing model and pupil support assistant resource via the agreed formula allocation. Any changes to staffing will be very carefully planned and phased. Aberdeenshire Council's HR policies and procedures will be followed at all times and in consultation with unions.

8.2 Proposed staffing for enhanced provision

School	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Newtonhill	2 FTE (full time equivalent) (1 FTE enhanced provision + 1 FTE cluster allocation)	2 FTE	Cluster allocation
Portlethen	1.8 FTE cluster allocation	3 FTE	1.6 FTE + Cluster allocation

(Please note that the above allocations are illustrations and are dependent on formulaic calculations based on school roll and deprivation factors and does not include cluster Intervention and Prevention Teacher, cluster Nurture teacher and Area Language and Literacy teacher etc). The opening of Hillside School will also influence the cluster allocation resulting in further readjustment of staffing across the cluster.

8.3 The implementation in terms of planning for the relocation of enhanced provision from Newtonhill to Portlethen will take place in 2016-2017. In terms of delivery it will take place from August 2017 subject to approval/agreement.

8.4 In general, staff contracts will not be affected by the proposals. Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and Pupil Support Assistants have contracts to school clusters, not to individual schools and so the proposal does not affect the majority of staff contracts or job remits. Where individual staff do not have a contract to a school cluster, implementation of any changes will be carried out in line with HR policies and procedures as part of an overall mapping exercise relating to new job profiles agreed at the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT). Any changes to staffing will be very carefully planned and phased to ensure that there is minimum impact on children.

9. Arrangements

9.1 This document was considered by Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Committee on 26 May 2016 when it was agreed that it should be issued as a basis for consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained in the paper until after the end of the consultation process. For further information on the consultation process use the link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/pdfs/asp_20100002_en.pdf

9.2 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to all of the consultees listed on the first page of this document and it will also be published on the Council's website:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

- 9.3 Officers will engage with staff of Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School to ensure they are informed of the proposal and possible impact and are aware of the Statutory Consultation process. Staff from all cluster schools will also be invited.
- 9.4 The period for consultation will extend from Friday 10 June 2016 until Friday 16 September 2016 covering a period in excess of 30 school days.
- 9.5 Two public meetings will be held at the following venues at 6.30 pm on the dates stated:
- Portlethen Primary School, Portlethen – Tuesday 14th June 2016
 - Newtonhill School, Newtonhill – Thursday 16th June 2016
- 9.6 Anyone wishing to attend the meetings is welcome. The meetings will be convened by the Council and the Council will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. There will be an opportunity for questions and comment. A note will be taken so that comments can later be summarised and considered.
- 9.7 A meeting will be organised for pupils accessing the enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill School, and opportunities will be arranged for pupils at Portlethen Primary School to engage in the consultation. An online pupil questionnaire will be available to all pupils within Portlethen cluster.
- 9.8 The public will be able to access an online survey via the Aberdeenshire Council web-site:
- www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk
- or via the direct link:
- www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Enhanced_Provision_Newtonhill_Portlethen_2
- www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Newtonhill_Portlethen_Pupils
- 9.9 Written comments can be emailed to:
- Enhancedprovisionproject@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
- or posted to:
- Rhona Jarvis, Quality Improvement Manager: Enhanced Provision
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB16 5GB
- 9.10 A copy of this document will also be sent to Education Scotland (ES). ES will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation period or, if ES agree, a summary of them. ES will further receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public

meeting and a copy of any other relevant documentation. ES will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, ES may visit the school and make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

10. Consideration of Consultation Responses

- 10.1 Aberdeenshire Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meetings. It will then prepare a report on the consultation. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on Aberdeenshire Council web-site and from Council Headquarters, as well as at all schools identified within the Portlethen cluster, free of charge. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The report will also contain a statement explaining how the Council has complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

11. Decision Making

- 11.1 In the event that the Council approves the re-allocation and relocation of services, it is required to notify the Scottish Ministers within 6 working days of that decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Document and Consultation Report in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The new enhanced provision nine area model aims to increase capacity at a school and cluster level for all learners to ensure greater consistency of, and equity of access to, an improved quality of provision across the authority.
- 12.2 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this revised proposal document will enhance the provision of education across Aberdeenshire.

Appendix A - Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 How can you predict potential increased levels of need based on projected population growth, given the proposed housing developments for the area?

Predictions are based on data collected over the last 3 years and on projected school rolls which include any proposed housing developments.

To access School Roll Forecasts on Aberdeenshire Council's website please use the link:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-info/school-roll-forecasts/>

Q2 Why was Portlethen Primary School identified as an enhanced provision centre when it is over capacity and will continue to be so until the school at Hillside opens?

The proposal has been made to address existing and future needs within Portlethen Primary School and should not result in any significant change to the existing roll either at Portlethen Primary School or Newtonhill School.

The number of children with additional support needs in Portlethen Primary School is greater than the number at Newtonhill School. Portlethen Primary School has responded to this need and a range of physical adaptations have already been made to address this e.g. nurture space, life skills area, quiet area, re-location of library. An ongoing career long professional learning programme for staff is in place to ensure they have the knowledge, understanding and skill set to effectively meet a broad range of additional support needs. The needs of children across the Portlethen cluster will continue to be met regardless of when the school at Hillside opens.

Q3 Will re-locating the enhanced provision from Newtonhill School to Portlethen Primary School have an effect on the current pupils at Portlethen. How will this be addressed?

Pupils' needs are already being met at Portlethen and the re-location is about formalising what is already happening. There may be a small number of pupils who need to access enhanced provision at Portlethen Primary School from Fishermoss, Newtonhill and Banchory Devenick Schools but this should not result in any significant change to the existing roll.

Q4 What is the process for identifying pupils who may need to access enhanced provision support?

Aberdeenshire Council's staged approach to assessment and intervention means that every pupil's needs are thoroughly assessed and addressed in their current learning context. When this ongoing process of thorough assessment, adjustment, intervention and review indicates that flexibility in provision may be required beyond that available in the local school, the team around the pupil will consider whether he/she may benefit from access to enhanced Provision.

A Multi Agency Action Planning meeting provides the opportunity for everyone involved in supporting the pupil to discuss educational options with parents/carers and the pupil. The group may consider that a referral to the local enhanced provision centre or Community resource hub should be explored. This might involve outreach support, short term assessment placements, blended or full time placements

Q5 How will pupils with additional support needs, who require to access the enhanced provision, get transport to Portlethen? Who will organise and pay for this?

Each school provides information to the Public Transport Unit who organises transport for children either on a group or individual basis. School transport will be organised and paid for by Aberdeenshire Council.

Q6 Will additional school transport dropping off and collecting pupils at Portlethen cause congestion and impact on pupils' safety. How will this be addressed?

The number of children who may require school transport is very small and therefore issues are not expected to arise. Education & Children's Services will work with Infrastructure Services to explore cost effective solutions to address any issues that may arise.

Q7 Why should pupils from Newtonhill have to travel to Portlethen Primary School to access enhanced provision?

The number of children with additional support needs in Portlethen Primary School and in Portlethen is greater than the number at Newtonhill School or Newtonhill and has been increasing year on year.

The Authority will work closely with individual parents and pupils to ensure that Newtonhill pupils would only have to travel to Portlethen if it was agreed that this was where their needs were best met.

Q8 How will children be kept safe in the outdoor learning environment at Portlethen Primary School?

Safety of all pupils will continue to be a priority for staff at Portlethen Primary School and is an integral part of the ongoing improvements to the outdoor learning environment including fencing as required.

Q9 What is the Nine Area Model?

There are 17 clusters (groups) of schools across Aberdeenshire. A cluster includes one academy and all the feeder primary schools.

Each cluster will have a primary and a secondary enhanced provision centre and each Area will have a Community resource hub. Enhanced provision across Aberdeenshire has been reviewed and a nine area model is currently being implemented during 2014-16. The nine area model was developed to

improve access to services at a local level for children with complex additional support needs. Full consideration was given to pupil needs, geography, travel distances, existing practice and efficient deployment of resource via a comprehensive stakeholder consultation and engagement process.

The model increases capacity from four all-through special schools to nine community resource hubs. This includes five primary and five secondary community resource hubs plus the four remaining all-through special schools now renamed community resource hubs.

Information regarding each of the nine areas can be accessed using the link:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/16803/right-support-right-place-right-time-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Areas may comprise of one, two or three clusters. Portlethen and Stonehaven clusters are part of one area along with Laurencekirk cluster as shown in the diagram below.

Provision in your area

Cluster	Primary enhanced provision	Secondary enhanced provision	Community resource hub
Laurencekirk	Laurencekirk School	Mearns Academy	Carronhill School
Portlethen	Newtonhill School *Portlethen Primary School	Portlethen Academy	
Stonehaven	*Mill O'Forest School	Mackie Academy	

*subject to agreement following completion of the formal consultation process

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/16924/enhanced-education-provision-portlethen-stonehaven-laurencekirk.pdf>

The aim is to provide support for all learners in their local schools and to ensure that enhanced provision is located where the need is greatest.

Q10 What is a cluster?

A cluster includes one academy and all the feeder primary schools.

Q11 What is enhanced provision?

Enhanced Provision means that a local primary and secondary school has an enhanced level of resources, such as access to sensory room and life skills

area; and support for learning staff who have an enhanced level of expertise to meet a range of needs.

Further enhancement is available through the community resource hubs.

The booklet “Right Support, Right Place, Right Time” provides additional information and can be accessed using the link on page 14.

Q12 What is a Community resource hub?

Further enhancement is available through the community resource hub, for a small minority of children with severe and complex needs, who regardless of chronological age are making very small steps in learning and are at the early levels of learning.

The enhanced provision centres and community resource hubs can offer outreach support to mainstream schools, short term assessment placements, flexibility (e.g. blended places) and access to a variety of therapies.

Q13 What will change at Newtonhill School? How will pupils be supported if the school is no longer a designated enhanced provision centre?

Pupils at Newtonhill will continue to be supported by staff who have expertise in meeting a range of needs. They will continue to access a learning environment which includes a sensory space, life skills area and quiet space.

Very little will change for pupils who currently access enhanced provision at Newtonhill. Children will be supported to develop their skills and resilience to benefit from inclusion in their class. Staff will be fully supported through training and professional development to ensure all children’s needs are met.

If the decision is taken to relocate the enhanced provision to Portlethen, pupils who require this level of support but who do not currently access the enhanced provision at Newtonhill will do so at Portlethen.

Q14 Will the learning environment at Portlethen Primary School be as good as it is at Newtonhill School? Will there be a designated quiet space for my child to go to? Will there be a sensory space and a life skills area?

Considerable financial investment has already taken place in enhancing the learning environment in Portlethen Primary School e.g. nurture space, sensory room, life skills area, re-location of library.

A quiet space has been created within the school and is used flexibly to meet the needs of learners. This space has immediate access to the outdoor learning environment which is currently being developed.

Plans are in place to create an accessible toilet at all stages and to re-design the cloakroom space to further improve and increase the learning environment.

Q15 What adaptations will be required and where will the enhanced provision be located within Portlethen Primary School? What effect will this have on space within the school?

Enhanced provision is about using space and other resources flexibly to meet a range of needs. Pupils at Portlethen Primary School already have access to a sensory room, nurture room, life skills area and a quiet space. Plans are in place to create an accessible toilet and to re-design the cloakroom space to create space and to further enhance the learning environment. Portlethen Primary School has worked hard with the local community to develop the outdoor learning environment and this work is continuing.

Q16 How will my child be supported with lunchtime routines?

Pupil Support Assistants provide support to pupils with lunchtime routines.

Q17 How are children's needs met?

In Aberdeenshire the Council is committed to providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Children's needs are met through a staged intervention model approach which means firstly at classroom level, secondly through a whole school approach and thirdly at a wider community level. This continuum of support creates the flexibility to meet needs more appropriately. If your child requires additional support, the Authority will work in partnership with you to identify, assess and meet his/her needs.

Q18 If my child loses his/her friendship group how will he/she be supported?

Children need to be resilient to be active participants in the wider world, and this develops through understanding their emotions, learning coping strategies and a gradual planned supported exposure to a range of life's experiences. The social and emotional needs of individual pupils will be carefully considered throughout the transition planning process. Staff will be confident, equipped and supported to meet these needs.

Q19 How will all pupils be able to feel included?

All schools are working to become more autism and dyslexia friendly with an emphasis on nurturing approaches. This means that all schools will support your child's language, literacy, numeracy and communication needs; along with their social and emotional development. Training will be provided on a regular ongoing basis to all staff.

Q20 Why can't there be enhanced provision in Newtonhill School and Portlethen Primary School?

At present the enhanced provision centre for the Portlethen and Stonehaven clusters is located at Newtonhill School, Newtonhill.

Implementation of the nine area model means that each cluster will have one primary enhanced provision centre.

It is proposed that the primary enhanced provision centre at Newtonhill will be relocated to Portlethen Primary School where the need is greatest and has been increasing year on year.

The only remaining cluster without primary enhanced provision is Stonehaven and the proposal is to develop a new primary enhanced provision centre at Mill O' Forest School, Stonehaven.

In Aberdeenshire the Council is committed to providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Our aim is to support children and young people to remain with their own families and, as far as possible, to educate them in their local schools within their own communities. Presumption of mainstreaming means that every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of learners within mainstream classes with their peers, with appropriate support from staff and access to resources. The enhanced provision centres and Community resource hubs complement the provision within the Authority's mainstream schools and together they provide a continuum of support across Aberdeenshire. Learners have the opportunity to access this flexible support structure, making appropriate use of both mainstream opportunities and targeted and specialist support.

Q21 Will staff at Newtonhill School have to move?

There will be very little change. Teaching staff will be re-allocated as appropriate within the proposed enhanced provision staffing model and pupil support assistant resource via the agreed formula allocation. Any changes to staffing will be very carefully planned and phased. Aberdeenshire Council's HR policies and procedures will be followed at all times.

Q22 Will these changes affect staff contracts?

In general, staff contracts will not be affected by the proposals. Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and Pupil Support Assistants have contracts to school clusters, not to individual schools and so the proposal does not affect the majority of staff contracts or job remits. Where individual staff do not have a contract to a school cluster, implementation of any changes will be carried out in line with HR policies and procedures.

Q23 It is already difficult to recruit staff. How will these proposals affect this?

It is acknowledged that recruitment is an issue in Aberdeenshire and measures are being taken to address this. The Additional Support Needs Career Long Professional Learning & Training Strategy aims to provide staff with an enhanced level of training and expertise to meet a range of needs. This creates opportunities for career development and progression.

Q24 How will children be affected by changes to staffing?

Any changes to staffing will be very carefully planned and phased to ensure that there is minimum impact on children.