



Information About How the SIC Meets Pupils' Additional Support Needs

Shetland Islands Council Schools Service is committed to the principle that all pupils are entitled to an appropriate educational and social experience, one which encourages the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the child or young person to their fullest potential. The Council will support the rights of individual pupils in Shetland by ensuring that:

- all pupils with additional support needs have the greatest possible opportunity to have their needs met within a local mainstream setting;
- where pupil's needs cannot be met by the local school in their catchment area, they can make use of specialist local provision;
- highly specialised national provision may be made available if the Schools Service cannot meet the needs of an individual child;
- all staff are offered training to meet additional support needs

Schools in Shetland use a **Staged Intervention** process through which a child or young person's additional support needs are identified, addressed and kept under review. **Staged Intervention** is used in all education establishments and is subject to regulation and quality assurance by Schools Service staff. **Staged Intervention** means that the support a child/young person receives matches the level of their needs.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 established that parents/carers have the right to:

- ask the school to find out whether their child has additional support needs;
- request a specific type of assessment;
- receive information about their child's additional support needs;
- be involved in planning to meet their child's educational objectives.

Such requests can only be refused if they are considered unreasonable. Young people aged 16 or over also have the rights listed above. Schools or Schools Service staff as listed below can provide further advice or information.

School staff should provide clear information, communicate well and establish effective working relationships with parents/carers. Schools must keep under review identified additional support needs and the adequacy of support provided to meet the needs of each child or young person.

Shetland Schools Service makes effort to resolve disputes at a school level. However, where this is not possible, the central service will become involved and thereafter parents/carers have access to independent mediation, details of which will be provided by the central service. This service is at no cost to parents/carers.

The Schools Service works closely with other departments of Shetland Islands Council including

- Children's Services (Education and Social Care Department)
- Community Care (Social Work)
- Community Work
- and with other agencies:
- NHS Shetland (www.shetlandhealthboard.org) at Brevik House, South Road, Lerwick
- the voluntary agencies at Voluntary Action Shetland (vas@shetland.org) including disability@shetland.org at 14 Market House, Harbour Street, Lerwick

Parents and young people can find out more about local arrangements to meet additional support needs by going on to the Shetland Islands Council website (www.shetland.gov.uk) and clicking on the education and ASN link. Further information can be found from:

Education Support Officer (Additional Support Needs)	01595744024
Quality Improvement Officer	01595744092
Head of Schools Service	01595744064