

REPAIR (Edinburgh) Newsletter

Robust Engagement with Parents for ASN and Inclusion Reform



Update

Holiday Hubs budget

On 20th February, the Holiday Hub titans once again assembled for a major battle. The CEC Budget was to be set and we had to state our case. Three groups of passionate parents gave heartfelt and factual deputations for which they received extended applause and even a standing ovation. You can watch them <https://tinyurl.com/cecbudget> (Oaklands School Parent Council at 13.55, REPAIR at 54.45 and Protect Edinburgh Services for Disabled Children at 1:10:40). Thereafter ensued a political battle, in which we secured an increase of an additional £100k to fund a dedicated staffing team.

That's a win!! This means that moving forward we have one point of contact, a member of staff dedicated to Holiday Hubs (like Helen Hunter was) to manage the service and applications process properly, improve communication, and further build relationships with families and providers. [Read more on our website!](#)

We all know that this is a fantastic and life changing service that WE WILL NOT allow to be scrapped. We have fought tirelessly to mitigate the cuts to the service and will

continue to fight for increased funding.

We acknowledge the SNP for pledging an additional £1M in their budget proposal, and the Greens for following their lead to pledge £500K. We are glad you heard us!!

Information

Acronyms

Just like CEC (do you remember this from last issue?!), schools also use a lot of acronyms and specialist terms! Here's a cheat sheet...

ASN – Additional Support Need. Any extra support a child/ young person needs to be successful at school, whether short- or long-term. This support is called:

ASL – Additional Support for Learning.

Confusingly, some ASL is provided by the school from their DSM (Devolved School Management) budget, and some directly by the Council.

PSA/ PSO – Pupil Support Assistant/ Officer.

Although not ASL specialists, they often provide the day-to-day support.

EAL – English as an Additional Language, one kind of Additional Support Need.

CPM/ YPPM – Child/ Young Person's Planning Meeting. Parents, all the professionals involved, and sometimes the child/ young person discuss their needs and how to support them, and this is recorded in a plan. You have the right to ask for one any time, and bring to bring an advocate with you.

Next time: Council meetings



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All our Social pages can be found here: -

<https://linktr.ee/repair.edinburgh>

Information

Deputations: getting the issue on the agenda

In issue 2, we talked about deputations as a way to speak directly to councillors, just like the Holiday Hub parents did. So where do you start?

There are two important points. First, you have to represent a group, not just your individual view. This could be e.g. a parent council or a local citizens' group. Also, a deputation is a lot to do alone; so think about who might want to work with you.

Second, you have to address a topic on the agenda of a [Council meeting](#). If your issue is already there, great! If not, you need to persuade the councillors from at least one party that it should be. They can then propose a motion (something which they want the committee or Council to agree to), which you can address in your deputation. The best way is to [write to them](#) and explain why it matters (the more emails, the better!). It also helps to get MSPs or the media interested.

We'll look at the practicalities in the next issue...

Update

Inclusion estate review

We recently met briefly with Jeff Hume, the external consultant who is leading the review of Edinburgh's inclusion estate. Upgrading the premises of some long-neglected special schools and enhanced support bases is a priority; there is no plan to cut the number of places, but the review will look at the best format for new schools.

He also emphasised that his remit covers "spaces for inclusive education" and that he would be looking at how to adapt mainstream spaces, where the majority of children with Additional Support Needs learn.

Jeff, who attended committee meetings and was impressed by deputations, is determined to involve parents at an early stage to avoid repeating past mistakes. We will update you once his plans for consultation are confirmed.

STOP PRESS: Closure of Braidburn Holiday Hub

STOP PRESS: Closure of Braidburn Holiday Hub; fewer weeks this year for most families

Just as we were about to publish this newsletter, parents across Edinburgh were told that the Braidburn Holiday Hub would be closed from summer 2025 in an email which stated "the Counsellors (sic) at the last committee agreed for the Holiday Hub to go ahead. It was also agreed that CEC holiday hub at Braidburn will no longer continue." No alternative venue is proposed to replace the Braidburn provision. Subsequent emails revealed that families were being allocated fewer weeks across all provisions than requested in summer, with many families receiving three weeks in total across the 2024 school year, but some less or none.

Councillors on the Education, Children and Families Committee have made it very clear that they took no such decision, were unaware of the proposed closure, and take it very seriously. They are seeking urgent clarification from those responsible, and the SNP group are considering further action such as an emergency motion to the full Council meeting on 20 March if the decision is not reversed. Moreover, there is already a Holiday Hubs report on the agenda for the next ECFC meeting on 25 March, which will allow councillors to dissect the decision-making process around this proposed closure and question officers on the serious governance concerns raised.

We will keep you updated as more becomes clear. Neither we nor councillors on the ECFC are going to sit back and let the Holiday Hubs be eroded even further..`

Useful Websites

<https://www.accesscard.online/>

The Card acts as a photo ID that can be used to easily communicate your access requirements to events and venues. It also works online with other platforms like ticketing systems to unlock the access facilities needed. It translates a person's disability or impairment into symbols, effectively highlighting the barriers they face and the reasonable adjustments they might need.

