

REPAIR (Edinburgh) Newsletter

Robust Engagement with Parents for ASN and Inclusion Reform



Update

Holiday Hubs: the saga continues...

REPAIR once again made its way to the City Chambers for a deputation to the Education, Children and Families Committee. We were at a loss as to how to again put our message across to councillors in a new way. So we tried to have some fun, and it really worked. The team devised a sketch of a news report highlighting our problems and it seemed to get the point across better than ever. You can see REPAIR TV [here](#).

We had not long found out that Braidburn Hub was to be closed from summer and this was confirmed despite objections from councillors, due to the lack of a manager and Care Inspectorate guidelines. Amanda Hatton did her best to answer questions as the manager in charge had to leave the meeting after our deputation (I hope it wasn't something we said). It was emphasised that the issue would continue to be revisited and if the decision could be reversed then it would.

A group of parents including REPAIR members met with Amanda following the meeting and brought her up to speed on the issues that we have faced and the lack of communication and transparency from the team. Another sticking point was how unheard we all felt and how it seemed that the working groups and all our hard work had been disregarded. Amanda has set up the first of monthly meetings to keep parents involved. If you want to be involved, please get in touch and we can signpost you. A report will also be delivered to ECFC on June 10.

Holiday and wraparound childcare for ASN children are being debated at Holyrood on 8 May – more details of this and how to get your MSPs involved are on our [Facebook page](#).

Information

Acronyms & Council-speak

CEC holds various meetings which you can watch in-person or online, including: **City of Edinburgh Council** ("full Council"), more or less every month, attended by all councillors **Education, Children and Families Committee** (ECFC), roughly quarterly, where a small group of councillors nominated by each party discuss issues including education and ASN support

How do they work?

Each party can submit **motions** (points which they want councillors to agree on) related to the meeting agenda (published beforehand; very long!). These are either **addenda** (things they want to be added) or **amendments** (changes they want to be made). Deputations often relate to these motions.

The **Lord Provost** (at full Council) or **Convenor** (at the ECFC) acts as chair, and tries to get parties to reach agreement. The **Clerk** is an officer who confirms what has been agreed and checks it doesn't break any rules!

Sometimes officers are asked to do something "**within one cycle**," i.e. by the next meeting, where the topic will be discussed again.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS

All our social media pages can be found here: -

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

Information

Deputations: how do you bring one?

So you've read the earlier articles and decided you want to bring a deputation to a Council meeting. What do you do next?

You need to decide whether you want to bring a verbal deputation (speak to councillors) or a written one. We recommend verbal because it makes more impact and councillors can ask you questions (you can also submit a written deputation as well as a verbal one if you want to highlight more facts). You can talk on Teams if you can't make it to the meeting.

Then you need to [ask to bring a deputation](#), by email to the Clerk of the relevant committee (check the agenda page for their contact details). Make sure you don't miss the deadline (12 noon two working days beforehand for written, 12 noon one day beforehand for verbal deputations). The information you need to include is given at the above link; the ECFC Clerk is very helpful and will let you know if you've missed anything.

"Your request will be submitted to Committee" is the formal response – don't worry, they've never refused us on the day! So now it's time to prepare what you want to say...

Update

Inclusion Review accepted by councillors

The Inclusion Review's recommendations for restructuring the Additional Support for Learning and English as an Additional Language teams were accepted by the [Education, Children and Families Committee](#).

While councillors and our [deputation](#) noted that concerns remain about issues such as shared standards for school self-assessment, implementation processes, and ongoing monitoring, and "proposed savings under the Inclusion Review for 2026/7," they recognised the efforts made by Lynne Binnie, the review's author, to engage with parents and other stakeholders following the Committee's mandate last November. Thank you to everyone who contributed your ideas!

Lynne will update the ECFC in November 2025.

Audit Scotland report demands rethink of ASL in Scotland

Since legislation in 2004 to make additional support for learning (ASL) more inclusive, there has been an eight-fold increase in pupils recorded as receiving ASL; currently 40 per cent of Scottish pupils – or 285,000 children, the majority in mainstream. However, the Scottish Government and councils urgently need better information to understand pupils' needs and provide appropriate levels of resource to support them.

Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland, said "The Scottish Government has failed to plan effectively for the impacts of its inclusive approach to additional support for learning. Current gaps in data mean it is unclear whether all children's right to have an education that fully develops their personality, talents and abilities is being met."

Existing measures show a wide gap in outcomes for pupils receiving additional support compared with other pupils, including increased absence or exclusion.

Ruth MacLeod, Member of the Accounts Commission, said "Councils and the Scottish Government must fundamentally rethink how additional support for learning is planned and provided and how mainstream and special education is provided to meet current and future additional support needs and demands ... It is critical they work with pupils, parents and carers and staff throughout this process."

At REPAIR, we are ready and waiting to engage in the discussion. More information and our thoughts on the report can be found on our [website](#).

Information

Useful Websites

<https://enquire.org.uk/>

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. Providing easy to understand advice and information about additional support for learning legislation and guidance for families and professionals.

