

REPAIR (Edinburgh) Newsletter

Robust Engagement with Parents for ASN and Inclusion Reform



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for ASN and Inclusion Reform**

Welcome

ASN in Edinburgh round-up

There have been some positive developments in ASN in Edinburgh recently. Recruitment for the Holiday Hub manager is happening right now, and the results should be announced shortly. The Council is improving their data on children on part-time timetables, which will help to understand and address this situation; they are also planning a parent version of the attendance policy so that you know what to do if your child is put on a part-time timetable. The Inclusion Estates Review is underway, and a plan will be presented to the ECFC in June. Work is ongoing on Restraint and Behaviours of Concern at local and national level. It's a slow process, but change is a chance to get it right. And Council officers are willing to restart meetings with parents and carers of ASN children – watch out for a survey coming soon.

There has been a change of convenor for the ECFC, with Joan Griffiths being replaced by [James Dalgleish](#), and this month will be the last meeting for secondary parent rep Alex Ramage. REPAIR would like to congratulate Cllr Dalgleish on his new appointment, and thank Cllr Griffiths and Alex for their work. If any of you would like to be the new secondary rep then contact Committee Services.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, and we'll catch up soon.

Information

All about REPAIR

Hello, and welcome to issue 5 of our newsletter! It's now six months since we launched, and we can't quite believe how fast we have been growing. We have 250 followers on Facebook, and close to 100 subscribers to the newsletter and Instagram. We have been quoted in parliament, in the papers, and on the radio. Last month, we had our second in-person steering group meeting to decide on our immediate priorities. We have decided to pause on national issues for now, until at least the new parliament is formed next year.

REPAIR is run on a day-to-day basis by the Steering Group – you can find out [more about us](#) on our website. We also have a network of parents and carers who are members of the REPAIR forum groups (currently on WhatsApp), and engage with contacts such as City of Edinburgh Council officials and Councillors. We are quite a young network, and are working to [make our structure clearer](#) and involve more members in areas of particular interest/ expertise. At our next meeting, we are planning how to formalise and extend the network, keeping everyone safe and heard on this journey. Watch this space!

JOIN THE MAILING LIST AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS

Follow this link for all the deets

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

Information

Deputations: what to say?

Your request to bring a deputation has been accepted – congratulations! Now you just need to prepare for it.

Your group will get a maximum of five minutes to speak, plus another five minutes for councillors to ask you questions (usually one per party). It's not very long, so you need to decide on a few key points to get across. If you want to give the councillors more details, you can also [submit a written deputation](#). This will be included in the briefing documents.

There are various approaches you can take – factual, emotive, creative (e.g. a skit). We've pretty much tried them all by now. It really depends on what you hope to persuade the councillors to do. Bear in mind that they might have heard several deputations already, so it helps to be memorable in some way. And time yourself when you practice!

Finally, although it feels scary, the councillors aren't there to interrogate you. They genuinely want to know why this issue matters so much to you. So thanks for making the effort to engage with them, and good luck!

Information

Resolving complaints

We get asked quite often how to resolve an issue that a child is facing in school with their education or wellbeing.

In our experience, it's quite a straightforward process which can be effective. Here are some suggestions of what to do.

- 1- Speak to the class teacher – usually at the end of the day is best. If that's not possible, email the school office for the attention of the class teacher.
- 2- If that doesn't work, repeat and copy in the DHT or HT.
- 3- If you are still not satisfied and depending on the need, you can ask to be referred to ASL or Educational Psychology or to the Head of your learning community or Head of Education for your area. You can also find out who the correct contacts are by emailing Education.enquiries@edinburgh.gov.uk
- 4- If the problem is still not resolved, you can [submit a formal complaint](#).

We don't recommend copying everybody into every single email, as this tends to dilute the impact of involving them when you really need to. For example, the Head of Education doesn't need copied in until stage 3. Staff are already overwhelmed and adding to their workloads only adds more stress and makes response times even longer, while copying in the press when there is still room for compromise may make it harder for you to work with the school.

New Service

Resources page launched

Finding information about services and support for your child can feel overwhelming, particularly at the start of the ASN journey. There's a lot out there, but how do you know if it's any good without hearing the experiences of other families?

Our community of parents and carers has a wealth of hard-earned knowledge, and so we have launched a [resources page](#) where we can share our collective expertise and help each other. Anyone can add to or edit the open access files on topics like "Advocacy and advice" or "Council contacts," so please take a look and add any services or activities which have worked particularly well for your family. You might just find some helpful information at the same time!

Information

It takes time....

Everything takes time, and we are getting a lot of questions about why things take so long to happen in schools.

Take playground equipment, for example. The parent council or the PTA have raised funds for new playground furniture, let's say a climbing frame, goalposts or picnic tables. The equipment has to be chosen from an approved contractor by the parent group, and then the school has to approve it as suitable and identify a location.

Before anything can be ordered, the Council insurers need to approve the equipment following a risk assessment.

The items can then be ordered and a contractor chosen to install. The contractor has to be Council-approved too! Then finally the work can take place – usually during a school holiday.

It's all about safety and liability.

You would be forgiven for thinking that this isn't a very ASN subject for us to be talking about, but similar processes are in place across the authority, be it for referrals to ASL or Education Psychology, ordering wobble cushions, or implementing new policy and guidelines.

It's still about safety, but official processes generally take a while...!

“Honestly crying in gratitude, I have a much clearer idea now of the structures/systems and what the situation is just now. Empowering. Thank you so much”

Feedback on the REPAIR Newsletter from a subscriber

Update

Increase in primary class sizes

We are concerned by rumours coming in citing a move by the City of Edinburgh Council to seemingly “manage” the applications into schools to ensure that the maximum legally-permitted class sizes are reached, regardless of ASN rates in those classes and the needs of the children. This situation would mean that one teacher has to meet more children’s needs. Moreover, any reduction in the number of classes in a school reduces the number of teachers and the budget for PSA support, as well as potentially the management support for our schools.

According to official guidance, “Maximum class sizes are set by the Scottish Government. The maximum class size at P1 is 25, for P2–P3 classes the maximum is 30 and for pupils in P4–P7 it is 33. For composite classes, including at P1/2, the maximum is 25.”

One instance we have been made aware of was a P3-4 cohort which had a total of 67 pupils (2 classes + 1 composite). When a pupil left the area, the total was reduced to 66. Out-of-catchment applications were stopped and a child moving into catchment left waiting in March 2025 because of a wish to run 2 classes of 33, potentially increasing class sizes from 25 to 33 (with an ASN rate of 25%). The decision was recently reversed after a lot of pressure by parents. In another school, P6 classes are now at 33, despite having an ASN rate of 75%.

This is a worrying insight, particularly in the light of recent reports by Audit Scotland and the Scottish Government itself finding that presumption of mainstream is failing due to under-resourcing. We are looking into this and will put it on the agenda for our next meeting with the Inclusion team. If you have concerns about class sizes and ASN rates, or how these have changed recently, please get in touch by [email](#) or via our [website](#). We will keep you updated with what we find out.

Information

Useful Websites

EDAN Hub <https://theyardscotland.org.uk/edan-hub/>

The EDAN Hub offers a range of services designed to support families with children and young people with disabilities or who are neurodivergent. Their services are available to families living in Edinburgh.



Survey

How are we doing?

Are we getting it right? What could we do better? Are we covering the right subjects? Is there anything you want us to talk about?

Could you fill in [this short survey](#) to let us know? Thank you!

Information

Useful Dates

HH Parents Meeting – 2nd June

CCWP Meeting – 4th June

ECFC Meeting – 10th June

Parental engagement meeting (Mainstream) – 10th June

Parental Engagement meeting (Special Schools) – 11th June

End of Term – 26th June

Start of term – 13th August (Inservice days 11th & 12th August)

September holiday - 15th September