



Dear Ms Gilruth

Parents and Carers represented through the Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers have welcomed the announcement of the McManus Review and the Scottish Government's recognition that Additional Support for Learning requires national attention and renewed focus.

Families across Scotland are clear that this moment matters. Many have waited a long time for meaningful system-wide change, and there is genuine hope that this review could mark a turning point for children and young people with additional support needs. Parents and carers want this process to succeed and are keen to contribute constructively, thoughtfully, and at pace.

We are also conscious that the initial phase of the review is operating within a very tight timeframe. Parents and carers understand that there will be limitations on what can be achieved in the short term and are keen to support the review in a way that is proportionate, realistic and adds value now. At the same time, families are clear that meaningful solutions are most likely to emerge where parents and carers are part of the dialogue itself, alongside other stakeholders, rather than contributing solely through surveys or written evidence.

With this in mind, parents and carers would like to see their involvement falling into connected phases and welcome discussion about how best to contribute across both

1. Supporting the current review period

Within the constraints of the current timetable, parents and carers are keen to support the review by drawing on existing evidence gathered through the Assembly's, and others, evidence and by offering lived experience insight where this is helpful in sense checking emerging themes. Parents are not seeking to add pressure at pace, but rather to ensure that what already exists is used well and reflects the realities families face.

[Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers ASL Report](#)

Parents also recognise the importance of balance at this stage. While learning from effective practice is valuable, families are keen that lived experience is considered alongside system perspectives, including in how local authority practice is presented, to support a rounded and credible picture of ASL provision.

2. Parental involvement beyond the review

Parents and carers are equally keen to remain involved beyond the conclusion of the initial review period, recognising that meaningful improvement Additional Support for Learning will require sustained engagement over time.

This could include contributing lived experience insights as recommendations are developed and implemented, supporting feedback on what is working in practice for families, and engaging in conversations about learning, training and the use of evidence. Parents would welcome the opportunity for a broad range of expertise to inform this work, including evidence-based perspectives from beyond the Scottish education system, alongside professional and lived experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise how much parents and carers value the chance to speak about their backgrounds, experiences, and passion for improving outcomes for children and young people with ASN. Our members are united by a deep commitment to their children and to a fairer, more effective system. When parents are given space to share their stories and insights, the quality of discussions is strengthened, and solutions are grounded in reality.

Parents and carers do not approach this review with cynicism, but with hard earned realism and a strong desire for change that lasts. There is a genuine willingness to engage, to share difficult experiences, and to work alongside government and partners to help shape solutions that are practical, compassionate, and impactful.

The Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers is funded by the Scottish Government to support exactly this kind of engagement, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how parental and carer voice can be embedded meaningfully both during this review and in the work that follows.

We hope this review can be a shared endeavour. One that listens carefully, acts decisively, and delivers outcomes that restore confidence in the ASL system for children, young people and their families.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving Additional Support for Learning. We would very much welcome the opportunity to engage further.

Yours sincerely

Kristin Armour

On behalf of the Scottish Assembly of Parents and Carers