

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2001

**“IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS – ADDRESSING OUR CHILDREN’S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
THE WAY FORWARD” – RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Education Committee an officer response to a consultation paper, produced by the Scottish Executive, in which views are being sought on the present arrangements for assessing, recording and reporting arrangements of children with special educational needs.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a notes the terms of the officer response to the consultative document;
- b approves the response submitted to the Scottish Executive Education Department

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This matter was addressed by the Education Committee at its meeting on 5 June 2001 (Item 9 refers).
- 2.2 A consultative document “Improving Our Schools – Addressing Our Children’s Educational Needs : The Way Forward” was issued as part of the Scottish Executive’s special educational needs programme of action within which it was agreed that the national SEN Advisory Forum would review the current assessment and recording (record of needs) process with a view to determining how it could be improved or updated.
- 2.3 The timing of the consultation period did not tie in with the cycle of Education Committee meetings and it was agreed at the Committee’s meeting on 5 June 2001 that an officer response be prepared in order to meet the deadline set by SEED of 27 July 2001.
- 2.4 The attached response (Appendix) is therefore subject to the homologation of the Committee and is presented for consideration on that basis.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The legislation governing records of needs was welcomed when it was first introduced as representing a significant step forward in practice. The new process removed the previous classifications such as mental handicap which were unhelpful and stigmatising

for children and families. The aim of the new process was to ensure that children with the most significant needs had these needs recognised and met but, after 20 years of operation, it is widely recognised that the time is right for a review.

3.2 With the increasing emphasis on inclusive education there is a growing body of opinion that the time is now right to move away from a recording process which is designed to cater for a few children to a framework which is applicable to all children.

3.3 The consultation document poses a series of detailed questions. The officer response is reproduced in the appendix to this report.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

In accordance with the standing orders of the Council, this report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Law & Administration and the Director of Finance. The Director of Social Work has also been consulted.

Jim Anderson
Director of Education

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

APPENDIX

JN/CJ