



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Transforming Children's Services – Implications for Children with Additional Needs

The specialist support teachers and therapists who have contacted the Local Executive Committee of the EIS feel that, even after attending consultation meetings, there is still some confusion and uncertainty over the effects on the Additional Needs Services.

These are some of the questions to which parents will need answers :-

If your child is currently supported part-time or full time in a specialist support centre do you know what is to happen to this placement?

Will changes affect access to specialist support?

Will the alternative be as good as what is offered at present?

Can a locality model support your child?

Who will make the decisions about where and how your child will be supported? Will the decision makers have enough specific information?

How will Health Board personnel and services be involved in the future?

Are there any guarantees that the change in support will be as effective?

If your child moves from placement in a support centre will your child be supported adequately in a mainstream classroom?

Will your child have access to sensory environment or physically adapted environment if required?

Will your child have access to small class support where the teacher and the speech and language therapist work collaboratively?

Many children with additional needs never need contact with Social Work - will this change?

Will the proposal to integrate Additional Needs ICT into centralised ICT have an effect on the range of ICT-based support your child receives?

Kay Miller
Secretary, Scottish Borders EIS