

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to change the constitution of The Cove additional support needs (ASN) Provision at Clydeview Academy.

April 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Inverclyde Council to change the constitution of The Cove ASN Provision at Clydeview Academy. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for young people of the school; young people likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at both public meetings held on 24 February 2026 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of The Cove at Clydeview Academy, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Inverclyde Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The public consultation ran from 2 February 2026 to 18 March 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. Two public meetings were held on 24 February 2026 at Clydeview Academy. No stakeholders attended the first meeting and three stakeholder attended the second meeting. Attendees were positive about the potential

changes to increasing provision for young people with additional support needs. Council representatives provided appropriate explanations in response questions raised at the meeting.

2.3 The local authority received nine responses from parents or parent representatives. Responses were provided in writing or as part of an electronic return. Five respondents were in favour of the proposal and four disagreed with the proposal. Stakeholders raised concerns about capacity, suitability and safety of provision and the need for specialist staff training and leadership capability.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits to the proposal to change the constitution of The Cove provision to cater for moderated learning difficulties at Clydeview Academy. The council believes this provision would still be able to meet the language and communication needs of pupils attending as well as those who had different ASN profiles. This proposal is one of five proposals Inverclyde are currently undertaking to address the needs of the increasing number of children across Inverclyde who require specialist provision. These align with national policy on Additional Support for Learning and the presumption of mainstreaming by increasing local capacity to meet a broader range of learner needs within a mainstream setting. This is also part of a wider programme of proposed reforms to support young people requiring additional support. HM Inspectors agree that this proposal has the potential to support young people's access to learning and increase their attainment.

3.2 HM Inspectors met with stakeholders including young people, parents and staff. Stakeholders questioned whether staffing would be adequate as the pupil population increases, beyond stated changes to teacher pupil ratios. They would like assurance that the pupil and staffing ratios will be reviewed regularly to ensure it meets the changing numbers and needs of young people attending The Cove. A few parents also highlighted the need to review carefully the impact of the proposed changes on young people currently with language and communication needs, as well as those who have different ASN profiles, including how places are allocated. Stakeholders want any change to help young people meet their future aspirations and ambitions. If the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council also ensure there are sufficient resources, services and specialist provisions to meet the changing additional support needs. HM Inspectors agree that this is an important consideration when changes are made to provision.

3.3 As The Cove continues to increase its pupil population, the council will need to continue to ensure that young people have adequate accommodation; this may impact on the current use of classrooms. It is unclear to HM Inspectors how the school will be able to increase the number of classrooms required to educate young people within Clydeview Academy. There is potential over the next two years that the number of classrooms required for The Cove will reduce classroom or other teaching and learning spaces used for the British Sign Language (BSL) provision and mainstream stages. This has a potential impact upon delivery of wider achievement activities or, for example, timetabled physical education activities. It will be helpful for the council to reassure young people and staff at Clydeview Academy about how it will ensure that their current educational experience is sustained or improved as a result of the proposal.

4. Summary

Overall, HM Inspectors agree that Inverclyde Council's proposed change to the constitution of The Cove ASN Provision at Clydeview Academy has potential education benefits. It is important for the local authority to secure appropriate supports, services and specialist provisions to meet the changing additional support needs across its schools. If the proposal is agreed, it will be important for the council to secure appropriate supports, resources, services and specialist provisions to meet the changing additional support needs. HM Inspectors recommend that the council provide reassurance to stakeholders about the concerns they have raised. These include; how it plans to continue to ensure that current support is not diminished by increasing the teacher pupil ratio and that young people attending the BSL provision have continuity of educational experience. The council should review the use of existing space to ensure accommodation is adequate for young people access the provision. It should also ensure that staff are sufficiently experienced and supported to deliver this provision to a high standard.

HM Inspectors
April 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland