

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to establish an enhanced provision within Berryhill Primary School.

March 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 North Lanarkshire Council to establish an enhanced provision within Berryhill Primary School. 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 children of the school; any other users; children 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 the public meeting held on 20 January 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
- visit to the site of Berryhill Primary School, online engagement with Clyde Valley High School and a meeting with local authority representatives, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The public consultation ran from 8 December 2025 to 9 February 2026. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. The proposal to establish an enhanced provision within Berryhill Primary School also proposes to establish similar

provision in four other primary schools. A public meeting was held on 20 January 2025 at Berryhill Primary School, which was attended by four parents and three members of staff. Questions at the public meeting were mostly around the consultation process, and when and how a decision would be reached. Parents expressed their support for the proposal. The council received 23 email responses to the consultation, from 25 people, all of whom overwhelmingly support the proposal. Ten of the responses were from parents, friends, and family members and the remaining 15 responses were from various staff in the school. Parents commented on the success of the pilot and the positive impact this was having on their child's progress and wellbeing.

2.3 In addition to the online consultation, the council held a series of focus groups and meetings with staff, parents, children in the pilot enhanced support provision, and children from the wider school community. Questions from staff and parents were mostly practical in nature as to how the enhanced support provision would run and develop over time. All of the discussions highlight strong support for the proposal overall.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council outlines several educational benefits in the proposal that it expects will be achieved to meet the needs of children with the requirement for intensive support. This includes strengthened leadership, transition, learning and teaching practice and integrated planning with partners. The council also highlights the benefits of appropriately designed spaces for learning, the use of technology and an appropriately personalised curriculum. That the enhanced provision will allow children to remain within their local communities and attend school with their local peers. The council states that the proposal will provide educational benefits in line with the findings of its additional support needs (ASN) Review 2019. HM Inspectors agree that the enhanced support provision has the potential for these educational benefits to be realised. However, the council has not set out clearly in the proposal for stakeholders what its vision, strategy and operational plan for ASN means for how this enhanced support provision will develop over time. Therefore, it is difficult for stakeholders to understand how the council plans to effectively and efficiently meet the rising demand for places that they have identified. In taking forward this proposal, the council should explain clearly to stakeholders how, when taken together, this and other enhanced support provision will meet the needs of all children who require intensive support.

3.2 HM Inspectors met with children, parents and a variety of staff across the school and in the pilot enhanced support provision. All of the stakeholders that HM Inspectors met with support the council's proposal. Parents are generally happy with the current level of support, effective communication and wider positive impact on the school community. For example, most children are now managing routines appropriate to their needs and showing early signs of increased interaction with peers and staff, with a few beginning to engage with mainstream peers. Stakeholders spoke positively about the way the pilot has strengthened the school community, with mainstream pupils supporting and including children from the enhanced support provision through whole school activities and buddying programmes. However, staff and parents have lots of questions about how the provision will develop in the coming years. They would like clearer information about how their child's needs will be met as they progress through their education. A few parents are also concerned that younger siblings, who also have additional support needs, will need to attend another primary school.

3.3 The staff that HM Inspectors spoke to highlighted that the physical set up of the enhanced support provision is working well currently, with access to appropriate materials. However, in order to help with the pilot, the school is redirecting some of its other resources and budget towards the enhanced support provision. If the council goes ahead with the proposal, it will be important they ensure that the enhanced support provision is appropriately resourced. Otherwise, there is a risk of negative educational impact on children in mainstream provision if the level of resources directed towards them are reduced. There is also a need to ensure that the indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities are regularly reviewed to ensure that they can adapt as the children grow and their needs change.

3.4 During the early stages of the pilot, school staff highlighted to the council the need for some additional staffing to provide adequate operational staff cover throughout the day. The council have since taken steps to recruit more staff. However, a few staff are not yet confident that the additional staffing will be sufficient. They are concerned that the nature of the provision can result in staff resources from the mainstream school being needed to provide cover on a regular basis. If the council goes ahead with the proposal, it will need to continue to review staffing levels, qualifications, professional learning and experience, to ensure that all children's needs are met. This may include providing further professional learning to support staff to meet the complex and changing needs of children placed in the provision.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal to establish an enhanced provision at Berryhill Primary School has the potential to realise the educational benefits stated in the proposal. All stakeholders who responded to the consultation and who met with HM Inspectors support the council's proposal to establish an enhanced provision within Berryhill Primary School. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient clarity for stakeholders on how the increasing demand for enhanced support across early years, primary and secondary will be met in North Lanarkshire over time. The council should explain more clearly to stakeholders how its overarching vision and strategy for ASN will work in practice, and how the educational benefits for other children who require intensive support will be met. If the proposal is agreed, it will be important to ensure the enhanced support provision is appropriately resourced without detriment to children in mainstream provision. The council should also continue to work closely with stakeholders to review regularly children's needs and to plan and adapt the provision appropriately.

HM Inspectors
March 2026

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