



Midlothian Council
Children, Young People and Partnerships
Directorate

Statutory Consultation Report

Report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

25 June 2024

This Consultation Proposal has been issued by Midlothian Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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Midlothian Council

Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate

This report has been prepared following a statutory consultation on the following proposal:

Proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation:

- A new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be established on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision will move to an outreach service from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;

The following schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- Mayfield Primary School

The following schools will be indirectly affected by the proposal:

There are no schools indirectly affected by the proposal.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting which was held on 17 April 2024
- c) Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- d) Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 19 and 27 March 2024
- e) Oral representations made to it by pupils
- f) Education Scotland's report on the proposal

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Midlothian has approved plans to replace Mayfield Nursery School and Mayfield and St Luke's RC Primary Schools. The existing buildings will be replaced with a new multi-functional and adaptive school campus and community facilities in the heart of Mayfield.
- 1.2 Currently, 6 children with complex additional support needs are hosted in the main school building at Mayfield Primary School in 1 class. The complex additional support needs class has the following staff:
 - One Class Teacher
 - Full time equivalent of 2 Learning Assistants
- 1.3 In addition, the school hosts the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision and outreach service. This provision currently has the following staff:
 - a Principal Teacher
 - class teachers
 - Senior Early Years Practitioner and a Childcare Development Worker
- 1.4 Children are based in classrooms in the main school and have specialist staffing and access to equipment and resources that meet their needs. They share facilities with the school. Classrooms were not originally designed for children with complex additional needs. Currently, there are no dedicated dining or social areas, separate enclosed garden space nor drop off area.
- 1.5 It is proposed that, as part of the development of the new Mayfield Primary School, there will be specialist provision for up to 48 primary-aged children with additional support needs across 6 classes. The class currently hosted at Mayfield Primary will be included in these six classes. As well as six class bases, the provision will benefit from a wide range of modern, high-quality facilities specifically designed to meet the needs of the children who attend.
- 1.6 The current Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision in both the primary school and the early years setting will close and move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS. There will be no children attending the speech and language provision in the primary school or the early learning and childcare setting by the time the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus opens.
- 1.7 The closure of the SLC provision at Mayfield Primary School and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language, and communication needs.
- 1.8 This is a Consultation Proposal prepared in compliance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* on the above proposal.

1.9 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
- Provide a summary of the written responses;
- Provide a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting held on 17 April 2024;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Consultation Proposal Document and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 when reviewing the above proposal.

2 Background

- 2.1 *The Education (Scotland) Act 1980* places a legislative duty on the Council to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across its area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand.
- 2.2 Section 3D of the *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 (as inserted by Section 2 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016)* introduces a requirement on education authorities to carry out their duty to ensure the delivery of improvement in the quality of school education which is provided in the schools they manage, with a view to achieving the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. It is, therefore, the duty of the education authority to ensure that the education it provides is directed to the development of the personality, talents and the mental and physical abilities of the children to their fullest potential.
- 2.3 In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the *Local Government in Scotland Act 2003* by continuous improvement in performance of the local authority's functions, while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost and having regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equal opportunities and the achievement of sustainable development.
- 2.4 The Council has a number of statutory duties relating to the provision of education in its area including the statutory consultation that must be undertaken when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools, including Nursery Schools, such as closure, relocation or change of catchment area. *The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* principal purpose is:

“to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools.”

- 2.5 This Proposal Document has been prepared in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, having regard to the statutory guidance published by the Scottish Government on 14 May 2015 and the complementary guidance published by Education Scotland (revised July 2023), which are available for reference at the following websites:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents>

Statutory Guidance (14 May 2015):
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/4615>

Education Consultation Guidance for Local Authorities (revised July 2023)
<https://education.gov.scot/media/rh0jzhvo/external-schools-consultation-education-scotland-guide-for-local-authorities-july-2023.pdf>

The following information has also been used to prepare the report:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period
- Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held on 17 April 2024
- Any representations made to it by Parent Councils
- Oral representations made to it at the virtual public drop-in sessions on 19 and 27 March 2024
- Oral representations made to it by pupils
- Education Scotland's report on the proposal

Midlothian's Vision for Education

- 2.6 The Council is ambitious for the future of Midlothian. By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer, greener and successful lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions
- 2.7 Our outcomes for the next 5 years are:
- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes
 - No child or household living in poverty
 - Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- 2.8 We continue to aspire to deliver a world-class education system through equity and excellence. Our vision is to provide the highest quality inclusive education, learning and employability service for all individuals and families in Midlothian. To realise this

vision we will support the priorities set out in the Single Midlothian Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child and will:

- give all our children the best possible start in life, providing an inclusive learning environment that builds resilience;
- ensure that every young person has the opportunity to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and an effective contributor who is healthy and happy, especially those who are care experienced;
- work with our communities to promote high expectations which deliver the best educational outcomes for all learners; and
- Celebrate diversity, reduce inequalities and remove barriers to learning.

- 2.9 The Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including the additional needs provision at the new Mayfield Primary School, will offer a range of 21st century facilities throughout and has been designed to provide a variety of modern learning and teaching settings. It will offer children the opportunity to learn and develop within state-of-the-art facilities which will benefit from modern design and materials. The design and layout for all aspects of the new campus will deliver education in purpose-built accommodation, including for children with additional support needs which has the ability to deliver the curriculum using latest technology. Buildings will be sustainable and energy efficient.
- 2.10 The new campus will also provide excellent facilities for children, families and other users outwith core school hours. It will provide accessible facilities that could be used to meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the community. It is envisaged that all children and young people in the area will benefit from the development of the new campus.
- 2.11 The additional needs provision, which will initially cater for learners with complex needs, will be designed to be flexible to take account of the changing range of needs in the authority in future years. The specialist provision established in the school is designed as an integral part of Mayfield Primary School. It will provide a high quality, nurturing learning environment within a fully up-to-date and purpose-built educational environment.
- 2.12 The new ASN facility will provide space for 48 ASN pupils across 6 classrooms. Classrooms are designed in clusters of two, with each two classrooms accessed from a shared cloakroom and sharing an Accessible WC and Quiet Room which can be accessed from directly within the classroom.
- 2.13 The class for children with complex needs currently hosted at Mayfield Primary School will transfer into one of these new classes as a permanent specialist provision integrated into the new school. The proposed increased capacity will ensure Midlothian meets the ongoing increase in the needs of children across the Council area.
- 2.14 Children with additional support needs will have their own entrance to their part of the school, as well as their own drop off point. They will all have access to an enclosed and secure garden with play equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. This includes direct access into their classroom.

- 2.15 The core education provision is supported by an arrangement of two sensory rooms, two nurture rooms, a social space, dining space and dedicated movement and expressive arts space, as well as ancillary spaces such as staff offices, meeting and parents rooms, a therapy room and utility room.
- 2.16 Working with parents and partner services, including health, will be enhanced by the provision of a parents' room and a further meeting room to allow for community groups to access out of hours.
- 2.17 While the additional support needs provision will be designed to specifically cater for ASN learners, the design of the new Mayfield Primary School will also strongly support the integration of children in the provision into whole school activities and to accessing shared resources at Mayfield Primary School and the campus more widely.
- 2.18 As well as dedicated specialist spaces, children and their families will have access to the improved community facilities across the whole campus. These include flexible spaces for community use, a library and café, football and basketball pitches, a "wee forest" area and a community garden.
- 2.19 The proposed ASN provision will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School.
- 2.20 A new Depute Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.
- 2.21 The closure of the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School and establishment of a new ASN stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus.

3 Considerations

- 3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School. These are fully explained in the Consultation Proposal Document. The main points are highlighted below:
- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act.
 - The agreed principles underpinning the development of an empowered school led system set out in the 'Education Bill Policy Ambition- Joint Agreement', June 2018 <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8745/downloads>
 - The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area
 - The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

4 The Consultation Process

- 4.1 The Council has met the requirements set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* with regards to ensuring the views of the community were listened to and their views are included in this report. In order to further ensure compliance with the Act, an independent consultant was engaged to chair all meetings to ensure impartiality.

The Council believes that this report accurately reflects the views of the community, which have been gathered through a range of engagement events and response mechanisms.

It is for members of Midlothian Council to decide to adopt the proposal, withdraw it or seek to consult on another proposal.

- 4.2 Notification of the consultation was given to all statutory consultees prior to the commencement of the consultation.

- 4.3 The Consultation Proposal Document was published on Midlothian Council's website on 7 March 2024 and paper copies distributed on 11 March 2024 to:

- Mayfield Primary School, Stone Avenue, Mayfield, Dalkeith, EH22 5PB
- Newbattle Community Campus Library, 1 Newbattle Way, Easthouses, EH22 4SX
- Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

- 4.4 Copies of an information leaflet on the consultation were emailed to affected consultees (see list below) and schools and others on 04 March 2024.

- 4.5 Affected consultees:

- The pupils attending Mayfield Primary School;
- The Parent Council of Mayfield Primary School;
- The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Mayfield Primary School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- The staff employed by the Council and based at Mayfield Primary School;
- The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff;
- The Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses;
- Community Planning Partnership;
- Other users of the Speech and Language Provision.

- 4.6 The consultation period commenced on Wednesday 7 March 2024 and lasted until Friday 03 May 2024, being a period of nine weeks, which also included the statutory minimum 30 school days.

- 4.7 The proposal on which the consultation took place was:

- The proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

- 4.8 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.
- 4.9 An information leaflet setting out details about the proposal and consultation meetings was issued to the consultees listed in the Consultation Proposal Document. Advice on where the complete Consultation Proposal Document could be obtained was included and was published on Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub:
- <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-asn-consultation>
- 4.10 If requested, copies of the proposal would have been made available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English.
- 4.11 A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was also prepared which was available at the same location on the Midlothian Council's Consultation Hub.
- <https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/mayfield-asn-consultation>
- 4.12 In addition the consultation was publicised and received engagement in the following ways:
- There were 14 Facebook posts: Best performing Facebook post reached 15,289 news feeds and 5,013 people engaged with the post.
 - There were 14 Twitter posts: Best performing Twitter post achieved 2,831 impressions with 128 engagements.
 - Midlothian Council website consultation page had 42 views.
 - The consultation was pushed during Council news slots on a local radio station.
- 4.13 A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.
- 4.14 The public meeting was held at Newbattle High School on Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 6:30pm.
- 4.15 In addition, virtual drop-in sessions via MS Teams were offered on 19 and 27 March 2024, which members of the public and staff were welcome to attend, however, there were no attendees.
- 4.16 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons, including those indirectly affected, were consulted:
- The pupils attending Mayfield Primary School;
 - The Parent Council of Mayfield Primary School;
 - The parents / carers of pupils and children expected to attend Mayfield Primary School within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
 - The staff employed by the Council and based at Mayfield Primary School;
 - The Trade Union and Professional Associations Representatives of the above staff;
 - The Community Council of Mayfield and Easthouses;
 - Community Planning Partnership;
 - Other users of the Speech and Language Provision.

4.17 The following schools are directly affected by the proposal:

- Mayfield Primary School

4.18 Representations were sought from statutory consultees and the wider public in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire on Midlothian Council's Citizen Space Consultation Page. The questionnaire asked specific questions and enabled general comments and views to be entered.
- Digital leaflets, Council web and social media announcements linked to the Consultation Page. These detailed a specific Education Consultations email inbox, to which any queries could be submitted during the consultation period.
- The Head Teacher of Mayfield Nursery School, Mayfield and St Lukes Primary Schools used established methods of communication to engage/remind parents about the consultation.
- Meetings were held with pupils from Mayfield and St Lukes Primary Schools.
- Meetings were offered to Mayfield and St Lukes Primary School Parent Councils.

4.19 The Consultation Proposal is the Council's response to the points raised during the consultation period on the Consultation Proposal Document.

4.20 This Consultation Proposal will be published for a period of three weeks before a final decision is taken by Midlothian Council on 25 June 2024.

5 The Public Meetings

5.1 The public meeting was held on Wednesday 17 April 2024 in Newbattle High School at 6:30pm to which six members of the public attended.

6 Responses to the Consultation Exercise

6.1 As part of the consultation process, the Council sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The Council provided stakeholders with a short online or paper questionnaire and also made arrangements for receiving additional written responses. The Council received 60 responses to its questionnaire during the consultation period. All representations that had been made during the consultation period were submitted to Education Scotland and any issues or concerns raised are also subject to the Council's response in this Consultation Proposal.

The questionnaire responses are summarised by category in the following tables:

Table 1 – Number of respondents by type of respondent

Type of Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Organisations	2	3.3%
Individuals	58	96.6%
Not Answered	0	0%
Total Responses	60	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 2 – Number of respondents by category

Individual Respondent	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Parents	18	26%
Staff	9	13%
Member of Local Community	9	13%
Other/Unknown	33	47.8%
Total Responses	69	100%

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.2 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish an ASN stage on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus? The responses were as follows:

Table 3 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	41	68.3%
Agree	15	25%
No Opinion	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	4	6.6%
Not Answered	0	0%
Total Responses	60	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 4 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Respondents	No.	No.	No.
Parents	15	3	0
Staff	9	0	0
Member of Local Community	8	1	0
Other/Unknown	31	2	0
Total Responses	63	6	0

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.3 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School? The responses were as follows:

Table 5 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	20	33.3%
Agree	18	30%
No Opinion	10	16.6%
Disagree	8	13.3%
Strongly Disagree	3	5%
Not Answered	1	1.6%
Total Responses	60	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 6 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Respondents	No.	No.	No.
Parents	12	4	2
Staff	7	0	2
Member of Local Community	3	4	2
Other/Unknown	20	7	6
Total Responses	42	15	12

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.4 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Nursery School? The responses were as follows:

Table 7 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	2	3.3%
Agree	5	8.3%
No Opinion	7	11.6%
Disagree	19	31.6%
Strongly Disagree	27	45%
Not Answered	0	0%
Total Responses	60	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 8 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Respondents	No.	No.	No.
Parents	0	17	1
Staff	1	7	1
Member of Local Community	1	5	3
Other/Unknown	5	24	4
Total Responses	7	53	9

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.5 For the Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to move the Speech and Language Communication provision to an outreach service? The responses were as follows:

Table 9 – Number of Responses by Opinion

Response	No. of Responses	% of Responses
Strongly Agree	6	10%
Agree	9	15%
No Opinion	4	6.6%
Disagree	19	31.6%
Strongly Disagree	22	36.6%
Not Answered	0	0%
Total Responses	60	100%

**Numbers are shown to the single decimal point and therefore may not add exactly to 100 in this form.*

Table 10 - Number of respondents by category

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	No opinion/Not answered
Respondents	No.	No.	No.
Parents	2	16	0
Staff	3	5	1
Member of Local Community	3	5	1
Other/Unknown	9	22	2
Total Responses	17	48	4

**The total number of respondents differs from the number of respondents by category because some respondents identified with more than one category.*

- 6.6 The comments made as part of the questionnaire submissions are included in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

Response Analysis from Organisations

- 6.7 There were 2 responses from organisations, their responses have been included in tables 1 to 10 above. All groups did not wish their response to be shared publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10.

Public Meeting

- 6.8 The public meeting was held at Newbattle High School on Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 6:30pm to which six members of the public attended.
- 6.9 Additionally, virtual drop-in sessions were arranged for 19 and 27 March 2024, enabling any member of the public and staff to ask questions and discuss the proposal, the consultation process and how they could make representations. No members of the public attended these sessions.
- 6.10 Meetings were offered to all relevant parent councils and a joint meeting was held for Mayfield and St Lukes Parent Council on Tuesday 30th April 2024 in Mayfield Primary School.

Pupils and Staff

- 6.11 During the consultation period, Council officers facilitated meetings with pupils at Mayfield and St Lukes Primary Schools to provide good opportunities for them to discuss and share their views.
- 6.12 A copy of the information leaflet and a link to the consultation page was sent to all staff, inviting them to respond to the consultation via the online survey and highlighting the consultation mailbox for any queries.

7 Support for the Proposal

- 7.1 91.3% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to establish an ASN stage on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus.
- 7.2 60.8% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School.
- 7.3 10.1% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School.

- 7.4 24.6% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were in favour of the proposal to move the Speech and Language Communication provision to an outreach service.

The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.

- 7.5 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- How will the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) model work in outreach?
 - Will the current SLC staff move to outreach?
 - Why is the ASN provision going under the leadership of Mayfield PS?

8 Opposition to the Proposal

- 8.1 8.7% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to establish an ASN stage on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus.
- 8.2 21.7% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School.
- 8.3 76.8% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School.
- 8.4 69.5% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation were not in favour of the proposal to move the Speech and Language Communication provision to an outreach service.
- 8.5 The full text of all responses received can be read in Appendix 1, apart from submissions which consultees did not wish Midlothian Council to share publicly. Even if a submission is not shared publicly, it has still been included in the collation of stakeholder's views and informed the Education Authority's response as detailed in Section 10 of this report.
- 8.6 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- How will the Speech and Language Communication be delivered as an outreach model.
 - Staffing concerns with adding an ASN Stage.
 - ASN facilities

9 No Opinion on the Proposal

- 9.1 0% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to establish an ASN stage on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus.
- 9.2 17.3% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to place the new ASN stage under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School.
- 9.3 13% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to close the Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School.
- 9.4 5.7% of all questionnaire respondents (60 responses) to the consultation had no opinion on the proposal to move the Speech and Language Communication provision to an outreach service.
- 9.5 A number of common points and questions emerged from the responses as follows:
- Is the ASN provision going to be part of the new campus?

10 Education Authority Response to the Main Issues Raised

10.1 How will the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) outreach service be delivered?

The education additional support needs (ASN) team have explored best practice models operating in other local authorities to ensure that if the service moves to an outreach delivery model it will meet the needs of our children and young people. A number of local authorities operate a successful outreach model, and it will be our intent to provide an effective service.

Through the development of a Speech, Language and Communication outreach service we will provide a more flexible, integrated range of supports across all of our schools and settings. Providing a stronger outreach service will enable our learners to remain in their mainstream classes and build stronger relationships with their community. Staff in primary and secondary schools work in partnership with educational psychologists and speech and language therapists to maximise children's language and communication skills. Where support needs have been identified, staff, parents and children are involved in developing plans which aim to address those needs and remove barriers to learning.

10.2 Current SLC staff, will they move to the outreach service?

Transfer of staff from the current hosted SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ASN provision.

10.3 Concerns over staffing numbers with the establishment of the additional support needs stage within Mayfield Learning Community Campus.

The proposed ASN provision and associated outreach will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School. A new Depute Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.

The six classes within the ASN provision will be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of meeting the needs of those children with additional support needs are carried out. The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children.

The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provisions based on assessment of their needs in partnership with the Head Teacher.

It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the new primary school, ASN provision will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

10.4 Establishing an ASN stage and the facilities which will be available.

While the additional support needs provision will be designed to specifically cater for ASN learners, the design of the new Mayfield Primary School will also strongly support the integration of children in the provision into whole school activities and to accessing shared resources at Mayfield Primary School and the campus more widely.

The new ASN facility will provide space for 48 ASN pupils across 6 classrooms. Classrooms are designed in clusters of two, with each two classrooms accessed from a shared cloakroom and sharing an Accessible WC and Quiet Room which can be accessed from directly within the classroom.

Children with additional support needs will have their own entrance to their part of the school, as well as their own drop off point. They will all have access to an enclosed and secure garden with play equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. This includes direct access into their classroom.

10.5 Is the ASN stage going to be incorporated as part of the new campus.

The proposed ASN provision and associated outreach will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School. A new Depute Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.

Children in the new provision will be able to access other areas of the campus and will be an integral part of the school in terms of being included in the life of the school, for example membership of the Pupil Council as appropriate to their individual learning support needs.

10.6 Is the SLC service closing or moving.

The proposal is for the current Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision in both the primary school and the early years setting to close in terms of a location but will move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS. There will be no children attending the speech and language provision in the primary school or the early learning and childcare setting by the time the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus opens.

The closure of the SLC provision at Mayfield Primary School and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language, and communication needs.

11 Education Scotland Report

11.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Midlothian Council's to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School. The Education Scotland report can be read in full at Appendix 6.

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 17 April 2024 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 Mayfield Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

11.3 The Summary section of the Education Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits for children with additional support needs across the local authority. In moving the SLCP to an outreach model, there is potential for more children to receive the right support at the right time within their mainstream schools. This will help the local authority to meet the national requirements of the presumption of mainstreaming. The new ASN stage hosted in the Mayfield Community Campus will support the local authority in meeting the projected increase of children with a range and complexity of additional support needs. The new facilities have the potential to offer improved learning opportunities across the community campus.

Midlothian Council's Response to Education Scotland's Report

- 11.4 Midlothian Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the benefits of the proposal and the Education Authority accepts its findings. Officers from the Education Authority met to consider the content of the report and the action highlighted in the summary.
- 11.5 Midlothian Council will continue to engage with parents, staff and pupils to involve the community in the development of the new campus, the new ASN provision and the new outreach model for Speech and Language Communication.

12 Transition Arrangements

- 12.1 Subject to the decision of Midlothian Council, it will be essential to support the transition arrangements to the new Mayfield ELC provision for all children and families involved.
- 12.2 Should the proposal go ahead, a commitment will be undertaken to ensure the full range of children's needs are addressed and that any disruption to their early learning and childcare is minimised.
- 12.3 Care will be taken to ensure that all children, parents/carers and staff are familiar with their new environment.
- 12.4 There will be opportunities prior to any move for children, parents/carers, and staff to come together and for familiarisation visits to the new setting to enable them to experience the new learning environment.
- 12.5 The current SLC provision in the ELC setting will close and move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS based on the outcome of the ASN review consultation that is currently ongoing. There will be no children attending the speech and language provision in the early learning setting by the time the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus opens.

13 Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies

- 13.1 *Section (10) (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Consultation Proposal Document which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.
- 13.2 There was one omission and Two corrections within the Consultation Proposal Document either identified by the Council or raised by consultees during the consultation period. These can be found in Appendix 4.
- 13.3 The omission of a table from Appendix 2 occurred as the Council received clarification after the consultation went live that this table was required. As the contents of the table has no material impact for the proposals or consultees the decision was taken to only include it in the Omission Corrections and Amendments document.
- 13.4 The correction to paragraphs 11 and 23 on pages 5 and 11 occurred due to a change in meeting date that had to be made and was not fully transferred to the proposal

document. All other publications and information provided for the consultation advertised the correct date for the public meeting.

- 13.5 The correction to paragraph 16 on page 6 occurred due to an administrative error and this was the only place this occurred in the documentation.

14 Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

- 14.1 Section 9(1) of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* states that:

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,
 - (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,
 - (iii) Education Scotland's report.
- 14.2 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, 71 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposal.
- 14.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by relevant officers within the Council's Children, Young People's and Partnership Directorate. Data and factual information was checked where required and advice and input was sought from other Council Services where needed to consider the issues raised. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

15 Legal Issues

- 15.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* throughout this statutory consultation.
- 15.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality under the *Equality Act 2010*, the *Public Sector Equality Duty 2011*, and the *Fairer Scotland Duty* (Part one of the Equality Act).
- 15.3 Under the terms of the *Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010*, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:
- a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
 - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on;
 - c) the Education Scotland report;
 - d) preparing a Consultation Proposal; and
 - e) waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.
- 15.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Proposal should be published, both electronically and in paper form, if required, on 3 June 2024, this meets the statutory

requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Midlothian Council.

16 Scottish Ministers Call-in Closure Procedure

- 16.1 At the end of the consultation process, Section 15 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* enables Scottish Ministers to call-in a decision to implement the proposed closure of the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.
- 16.2 If the Council's final decision is to implement the proposal, it will require to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision, and provide them with a copy of the proposal document and Consultation Proposal. This must be done within six working days of that decision. The Scottish Ministers have an eight week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal.
- 16.3 Within the first three weeks of that eight week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the eight week call-in process is known, the Council cannot proceed to implement the proposal.
- 16.4 If the Scottish Ministers call-in the proposal, they must refer the proposal to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels who may refuse to consent to the proposal or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally.
- 16.5 Recipients of this Consultation Proposal, and other readers, should note that the legislation allows for any person to make representations to Scottish Ministers within three weeks of the Council taking their final decision to implement a closure proposal.
- 16.6 Midlothian Council will take the decision on whether or not to implement the closure of the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School at its meeting on 25 June 2024. If the decision is taken to implement, any representations to Scottish Ministers, therefore, in this context need to be with the Ministers within three weeks of this date. Therefore, any representations must be made to Scottish Ministers by 16 July 2024.
- 16.7 Anyone wishing to make representation to Scottish Ministers during the three week period referred to above should do so by email to schoolclosure@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to:

School Infrastructure Unit
The Scottish Government
Area 2A (South)
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

17 Personnel Implications

- 17.1 The proposed ASN provision and associated outreach will be led and managed overall by the Head Teacher at Mayfield Primary School.

- 17.2. A new Deputy Head Teacher post and additional management time would be added to Mayfield Primary School's devolved school management budget to reflect the additional leadership roles and responsibilities associated with the ASN provision.
- 17.3 The six classes within the ASN provision will be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of meeting the needs of those children with additional support needs are carried out.
- 17.4 The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children. The Education Resource Group will continue to allocate places to the specialist provisions based on assessment of their needs in partnership with the Head Teacher.
- 17.5 Transfer of staff from the current Mayfield Primary School would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ASN provision.
- 17.6 Transfer of staff from the current hosted SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ASN provision.
- 17.7 If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.
- 17.8 It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Education Service as a matter of good management practice in ensuring the required staffing is in place. Staffing arrangements for the new primary school, ASN provision will be consistent with Midlothian Council's recruitment policies and other local arrangements.

18 Environmental Issues

- 18.1 In order to ensure that the vision, aims and objectives of the Midlothian Council Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Climate Change strategy 2020 are being addressed a number of strategic and operational factors have been considered as part of the proposed new school building, such as:
- Reduction of operational energy consumption to be in line with the Learning Estate Investment Programme targets;
 - Strict construction embodied carbon targets to be met;
 - Low carbon and zero waste processes to be implemented during the construction phase;
 - Circular economy agenda to be promoted.

19 Conclusions

19.1 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that:

- a) The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance provision for children with additional support needs in Midlothian;
- b) This proposal will ensure best value and provide children with the opportunity to access Speech and Language Communication services within their own locality;
- c) This proposal will bring educational benefits to the present and future users of the new additional support needs provision and assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are managed to improve learning experiences. It will assist in ensuring that capacity pressures are planned and managed, and that children's learning experiences and achievements are improved;
- d) Overall, there are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

20 Recommendations

20.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the following:

- A new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be established on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Nursery School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision will move to an outreach service from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Appendix 1: Comments from Questionnaire Responses

Of the 60 questionnaire responses, 27 contained comments of which 58 declined permission to make their comments publicly available. However, their representations have been taken account of and responded to in Section 10 of the Consultation Proposal. The summary of comments below, were made from the remaining 2 responses who did not choose the option to decline permission to make their comments publicly available.

Comments
Need to protect public facilities & fight to retain as once a facility is gone it will never be replaced
I strongly believe that Mayfield Primary School children should have the access to the speech and language programme in house at their school.

Appendix 2: Pupil Questionnaire Responses

Proposed closure of Mayfield Nursery School and re-designation to Mayfield Early Learning Centre. Also, the proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

St Lukes Primary School, Voice Session.

22nd April 2024.

Gail Currie (GC) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School and have this under the leadership of St Lukes Primary School:

All agreed was a good idea to close and move the nursery school into the same building.

Good idea – It means I will be in the same school as my brother.

In regard to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage:

All pupils agreed this was a good idea.

Good Idea – Will be good if pupils need extra support.

In regard to the Speech and Language communication provision moving to outreach:

All pupils agreed this was a good idea.

Good Idea – It means children can stay in their own school and not need to move or leave.

Further Questions:

Will the nursery be moved and where will the children go?

GC advised the nursery children will go to a local setting within Midlothian and then once the school is built they will then move back into St Lukes Primary School under the headship of Mrs McGuire.

Will the builders come and speak to us and ask questions?

GC advised Yes, the builders will attend to show the proposed site plans of what the new school campus will look like and that you could speak to Mrs McGuire if you would like to take part.

Will we still have the same uniform?

GC yeah, you will still have the same uniform.

Will there be new staff?

GC advised there may be in time, as the schools may need extra staff.

Will there be classes like P7A and P7B?

GC advised possibly in the future, there are staff who look at the pupil rolls, nursery children who are about to start school and then decisions are made with each school about class sizes.

If class numbers are made more than 33 what happens?

GC advised that if these changes were to be made, we would do a similar meeting like today and come back out to discuss any proposed changes.

Will there be blinds in the new school?

GC advised not sure, as another new school which is being built has a special type of glass. But there may be other alternatives to blinds which may be used.

Will there be outdoor space?

GC advised yes.

CM also advised that there will be another meeting to show the proposed plans which will have the outdoor space highlighted.

Will there be a school bell?

GC advised, not too sure but when the builders come back out to show the plans, they will know.

Will there be a choice of pizza toppings as it would be good to have a choice?

GC advised we are not sure.

Proposed closure of Mayfield Nursery School and re-designation to Mayfield Early Learning Centre. Also the proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

Mayfield Primary School, Voice Session.

22nd April 2024.

Gail Currie (GC) and Craig Murrin (CM) met with a selection of pupils to discuss the ongoing consultation and gain their views. They outlined the proposals and invited feedback and questions from the pupils.

In regards to the proposal to close Mayfield Nursery School and have this under the leadership of St Lukes Primary School:

All agreed it seems like a good idea.

Good idea - To have it part of the school and not just to build a new nursery as it will be a waste of money.

In regard to establishing an Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage:

All pupils agreed this was a good idea.

In regard to the Speech and Language communication provision moving to outreach:

All pupils agreed this was a good idea.

Further Questions:

What about people that walk and use the paths to get to school when it is being built?

GC advised on safe routes to school and we will ensure there are still paths and safe ways for you to enter and exit the school grounds.

What will happen with the modular building?

GC advised that it will be picked up and moved to another location which will be at the Hawthorn Family Learning Centre.

Will the nursery have their own headteacher?

GC advised there will be a deputy headteacher who will oversee the nursery.

Will Mrs Walker still be our headteacher?

GC advised yes, the plan is for Mrs Walker to still be your headteacher.

What will happen to Sure Start?

CM advised that this is being looked into and we would support sure start to find alternative accommodation in Midlothian.

Will there be new staff for the additional support needs and new teachers in the schools?

GC advised that this is possible as there will be opportunities for existing and new staff to join.

If we leave before the new school is built, can we come back to see it?

GC advised that there will be opportunities offered to be invited back to have a look.

Will there be any damage to the houses close by?

GC advised that the council have staff and teams who work hard to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved and the local community.

Will there be a pool in the new school?

GC advised that there will not be a pool, however, the high schools which have pools can be used.

Will there be an astro and outdoor play areas?

GC advised yes, there will be an astro and outdoor spaces.

Will we still have before and after school clubs?

GC advised yes, as there will be a lot more open spaces.

Will there be safe rooms?

GC advised that we call them breakout spaces, and these will be available.

Will there be a ball pit?

GC advised there are no plans for a ball pit.

Appendix 3 – Public Meeting Minutes

Proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

Location: Newbattle High School

Date: Wednesday 17 April

Attendees:

Mike Gibson, Independent Chair

Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships

Michelle Strong, Education Chief Operating Officer

Katy Johnstone, Learning Estate Resource Officer

Marc Bedwell, Programme Manager

Ross Irvine, Senior Project Manager

Julie Fox, Quality Improvement Manager

Anna Walton, Quality Improvement Manager, ASN, Inclusion and Wellbeing

Craig Murrin, Business Support Officer

Lindsay Walker, Head Teacher (Mayfield PS)

Education Scotland Representative

7 members of the public were in attendance.

Mike Gibson (MG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers.

Mike Gibson introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Mike Gibson explained the statutory consultation process and the work that would need to be undertaken by the Council in order to adhere to the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Fiona Robertson (FR) welcomed everyone to the meeting and then outlined the proposals and spoke through the presentation slides:

Statutory Consultation Process



- The duties placed on local authorities in relation to the adequate and efficient provision of school education in their area in the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980*
- The responsibilities associated with the National Improvement Framework and the new duties imposed on Education Authorities by the *Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 as amended by the 2016 Act*
- The duties placed on local authorities to secure best value in the delivery of services

Statutory Consultation Process and Timeline



- Proposal Paper including Educational Benefits Statement published 7th March 2024
- Statutory Consultation Period – 6th March to 3rd May 2024
- Representations from interested parties are sought throughout the consultation period
- Involvement of Education Scotland (3 week period) and report sent to the Education Service

Statutory Consultation Process



- Preparation of Consultation Report – after 3rd May 2024
- Consultation report published 3rd June 2024
- Decision by Midlothian Council – 25th June 2024
- Potential Call-In Notification – 8 week period for Scottish Ministers to determine whether to call in the Council's decision

Proposals



- A new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage will be established on the Mayfield Learning Community Campus;
- The ASN stage will be under the leadership of the Head Teacher of Mayfield Primary School;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision hosted within Mayfield Primary School will close with effect from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The Speech and Language Communication provision will move to an outreach service from August 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter;

Proposed ASN Provision

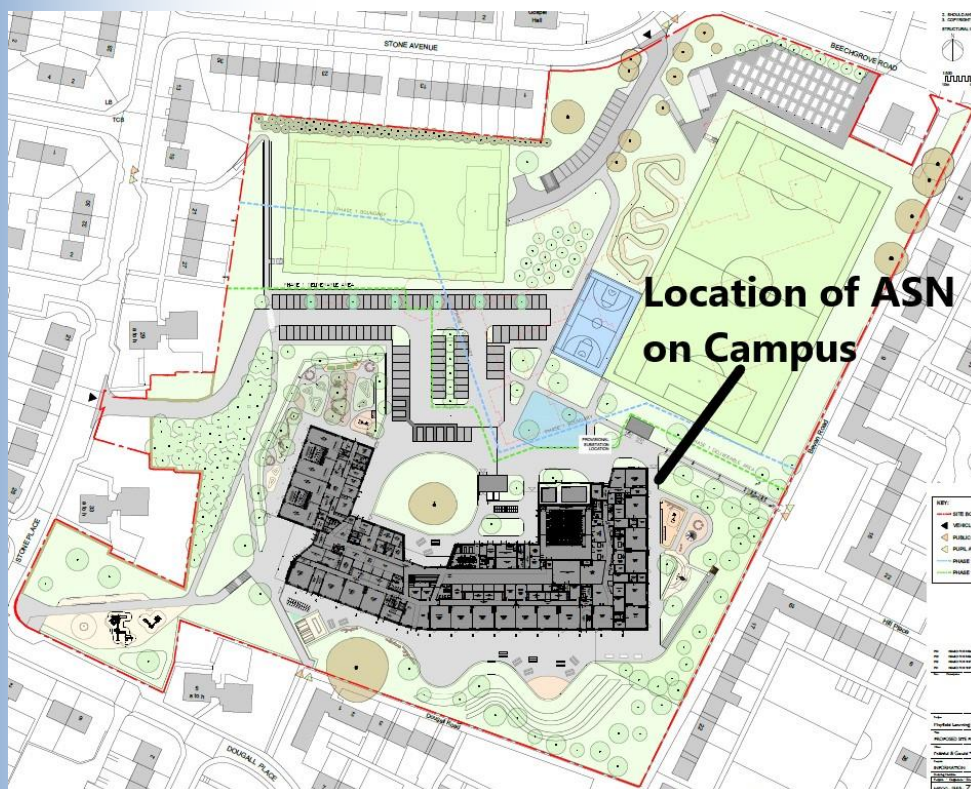


- The additional needs provision, which will initially cater for learners with complex needs, will be designed to be flexible to take account of the changing range of needs in the authority in future years.
- The specialist provision established in the school is designed as an integral part of Mayfield Primary School. It will provide a high quality, nurturing learning environment within a fully up-to-date and purpose-built educational environment.
- The new ASN facility will provide space for 48 ASN pupils across 6 classrooms. Classrooms are designed in clusters of two, with each two classrooms accessed from a shared cloakroom and sharing an Accessible WC and Quiet Room which can be accessed from directly within the classroom.
- Children with additional support needs will have their own entrance to their part of the school, as well as their own drop off point. They will all have access to an enclosed and secure garden with play equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. This includes direct access into their classroom.

Speech and Language: Outreach



- The current Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision in both the primary school and the early years setting will close and move to an outreach service in partnership with the NHS.
- The closure of the SLC provision at Mayfield Primary School and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model.
- Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language, and communication needs.



Educational Benefits



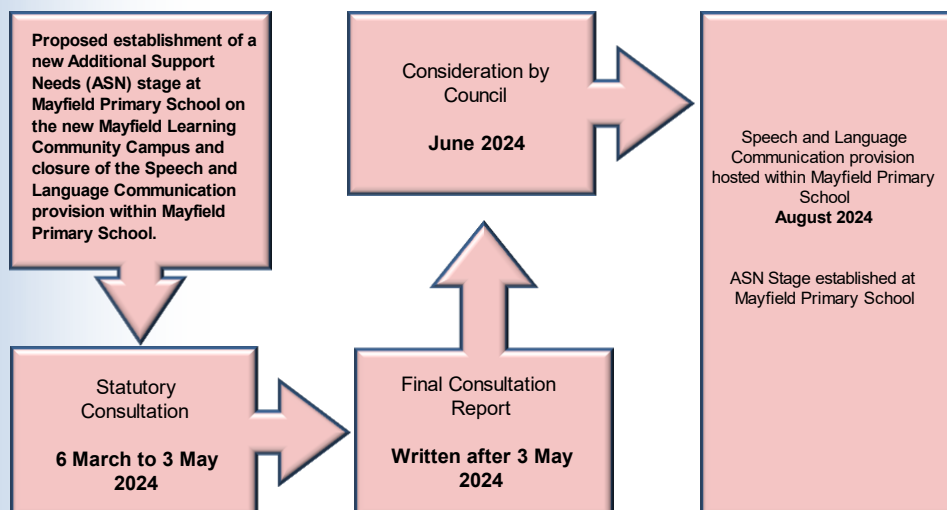
- The proposed additional support needs provision will provide a **nurturing high-quality learning environment** designed to support the specific additional support needs of the learners through a differentiated curriculum including life skills and therapeutic approaches.
- The new learning environment will support the **removal of barriers to accessing all curricular areas** as well as other learning opportunities. Where appropriate, and based on the individual needs of the child, children attending will also benefit from opportunities to access learning experiences in a mainstream provision alongside their local peers.
- **Professional collaboration for staff** will be enhanced as the new specialist provision will encourage collaboration and collegiality of staff across the whole of The Mayfield Community Learning Campus. The proposed increase in specialist staff supporting the provision working closely within a mainstream building would be advantageous and could provide more effective support to the career-long aspirations of staff.

Educational Benefits (2)



- Through the development of a Speech, Language and Communication outreach service we will provide a **more flexible, integrated range of supports across all of our schools and settings**. Providing a stronger outreach service will enable our learners to remain in their mainstream classes and build stronger relationships with their community.
- The flexible and high-quality learning environment and resources for children with additional support needs at Mayfield Primary School will encourage the **planning of learning experiences that strengthen the motivation and engagement of children in their learning and support them to achieve**.
- By locating the Mayfield Learning Community Campus, including the additional support needs provision at the new Mayfield Primary School, on the same site in Mayfield, a **hub for learning, activities and facilities** will be provided that will contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community.

Project Timeline



Questions?

For any further or more specific questions
please email
educationconsultation@midlothian.gov.uk

Mike Gibson (MG) then invited questions from the public.

Regarding the Outreach Model of the Speech, Language and Communication service. It has been mentioned that this will be in partnership with the NHS, does this education will still be involved?

Fiona Robertson (FR) advised- That education would have a team working closely with the NHS.

What is the impact on current learners who use the speech and language service which has been readily available?

Lindsay Walker (LW) stated - This year we have seen a reduction. Four children were in setting and twenty are on outreach across Midlothian. More staff having been working on outreach and working with other staff members across schools to upskill. For this session, Mayfield have been using this model and will take it forward. There have also been fewer referrals for Nursey.

FR advised - The intent would mean we are building capacity across our schools.

Anna Walton (AW) mentioned - Any individual who requires access to the provision will have a transition plan.

LW advised - They have looked at the proposed plans today, the facilities and design of spaces etc with both Marc and Ross.

Member of the public stated - It is really exciting.

FR & MG welcomed attendees to have a look at the plans and thanked them for their time.

Appendix 4 – Omissions, Corrections and Amendments

Consultation on the proposal to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield Primary School.

Omissions, Corrections & Amendments - Version 3.0 (Updated 10/04/2024)

This document highlights specific omissions, corrections and amendments regarding the published documentation relating to the above consultation. These have been identified after the documentation has been published so cannot be retrospectively included.

The document version number and date can be found at the top of this document to help establish the most recent omissions, corrections and amendments that have been made.

1) Omission: Consultation Document, Appendix 2

A further table should be included in the financial implications:

Table 4: Impact on Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) Allocation	
The Indicator determining the GAE allocation for Special Education is the population aged between 2 and 19. The pupils from Mayfield SaLT provision attending a different setting within the Council would not affect this indicator.	

2) Correction: Consultation Document, page 5, paragraph 11 and page 11, paragraph 23:

These paragraphs should state the Public Meeting date as Wednesday 17th April 2024.

3) Correction: Consultation Document, page 6, paragraph 16:

This paragraph should read:

At the end of the consultation process, Section 15 of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* enables ministers to call-in a decision to implement the proposed closure of the speech and language provision hosted at Mayfield Primary School.

Appendix 5 - Frequently Asked Questions

Mayfield Early Learning Centre (ELC) Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is Speech and Language Communication (SLC) being moved to outreach?

A. The closure of the Speech and Language Communication (SLC) provision which is currently hosted at Mayfield Nursery School, and movement of the service to outreach has been proposed to provide a locality model. Children and young people who access the SLC service will remain within their locality and their peers, this will provide the intense support and upskill all staff in supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

Q. Why is the nursery going under the leadership of St Lukes PS which is denominational, as most of the children who attend the nursey transition to Mayfield PS?

A. In designing the school estate, it is important to balance the range of provisions within each establishment. The proposed new Mayfield Primary School will have a new additional support needs (ASN) provision. The proposal to establish the non-denominational ELC at St Luke's ensures both schools provide an educational service beyond that of mainstream classes supporting collaboration and collegiate working across the campus. All early learning and childcare in Midlothian are non-denominational, even if the setting is in a denominational school and there are no catchment areas for ELC provisions.

Q. Will the changes not add more pressure onto the Headteachers/staff?

A. Mayfield ELC would be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the early years setting are carried out. The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children adhering to Care inspectorate guidelines around Safer Staffing.

Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions, and professional associations where appropriate on an implementation plan for staffing the new ELC setting. If this proposal is implemented, the Council does not envisage any adverse effects from the proposal in respect of staffing. Should issues arise however, these will be mitigated through the Council's Education Leadership Team support structure.

The proposed Mayfield ELC setting will be led and managed by a dedicated Early Years Depute Head Teacher under the overall leadership of the Head Teacher at St Luke's RC Primary School

Q. What will happen to the Sure Start building?

A. The building will be demolished by Summer 2025 but will remain operational up until that point.

Midlothian Council will work with Midlothian Sure Start, who currently operate in the building, to explore the buildings nearby.

Q. The SLC provision has benefitted and been an invaluable support to so many children, how can Midlothian Council ensure that the same level of access will be available and provided when it moves to outreach?

A. The education ASN team have explored best practice models operating in other local authorities to ensure that if the service moves to an outreach delivery model it will meet the needs of our children and young people. A number of local authorities operate a successful outreach model, and it will be our intent to provide an effective service.

Q. Will the current SLC staff move to outreach?

A. If, subject to the council's decision, the SLC provision closes and moves to an outreach service, transfer of staff from the current SLC provision to outreach would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures. Consultation will be undertaken with staff in affected schools, Trade Unions, and professional associations where appropriate.

Appendix 6: Education Scotland Report

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland 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 purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Midlothian Council to establish a new Additional Support Needs (ASN) stage at Mayfield Primary School on the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus and close the Speech and Language Communication provision within Mayfield 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. Where a council is proposing to close a school, there are specific additional obligations. These include notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the setting; 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 17 April 2024 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 Mayfield Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

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

- 2.2 The consultation ran from 6 March until 3 May 2024. The council made the consultation paper available via its website. Paper copies were also available by request and from Mayfield Primary School, Newbattle Community Campus library and Midlothian House. A public meeting was held on 17 April 2024, which seven members of the public attended. At the meeting council representatives outlined the consultation process and the proposals, and answered questions raised by member of the public. The local authority received 60 responses to its online survey. It engaged with a sample of pupils from Mayfield Primary School and parents of nursery aged children that are likely to attend the newly established ASN stage. Almost all respondents were in favour of establishing a new ASN stage at Mayfield Primary School. The majority of respondents agreed that leadership of the ASN stage should be under the headteacher of Mayfield Primary School. Most respondents were not in favour of closing the speech and language communication provision (SLCP).

3. Educational aspects of proposal

- 3.1 HM Inspectors agree that the closure of the SLCP and the move to providing only outreach support to children has potential educational benefits. At the time of HM Inspectors visiting the school, a very low number of children attended the SLCP. All children had appropriate transition plans to return to their mainstream schools, with support. From August 2024, the proposal aims to have SLCP staff providing only outreach support to children in their local schools. This has potential for SLCP staff to build further capacity in mainstream schools across the local authority in meeting the needs of children requiring support with their speech, language and communication skills. Therefore, the local authority will increase its capacity to meet national expectations of the presumption of mainstreaming. Children with speech, language and communication needs will therefore be less likely to require specialist placement away from their local school. For any children who do require a specialist placement, the local authority should continue to meet their needs through robust assessment processes and allocation of placements, as appropriate.
- 3.2 Stakeholders, that HM Inspectors spoke with, stated that they are concerned that the closure will result in a loss of additional support for children with speech, language and communication needs. The local authority should work with stakeholders to ensure that they fully understand how children with speech, language and communication needs will continue to have their additional support needs met.
- 3.3 For children requiring additional support for severe and complex needs, HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits for establishing a new ASN stage at the new Mayfield Learning Community Campus. The new community campus, expected to be completed in December 2025, provides a modern, purposefully designed and spacious school environment for children with ASN. The new community campus offers flexibility to meet a range of additional support needs including increasing opportunities for children to directly access the outdoors from their classroom to the school grounds. Architectural drawings of the new community campus show that all classrooms are on the same level. Therefore, the design of the new community campus has potential to increase children's accessibility and inclusion in a range of mainstream school activities and community facilities.
- 3.4 HM Inspectors agree that the new ASN Stage at the community campus will provide appropriate learning areas for up to 48 children with a range of additional support needs. The new ASN stage also has potential to support the local authority to meet

the projected increase in the needs of children within the local authority requiring specialist support.

- 3.5 If the council agrees to move forward with the proposal to establish a new ASN stage, children will begin to access the new ASN stage from August 2024. It is the view of HM Inspectors that the current Mayfield Primary School environment requires adaptations to meet all children's needs and to provide a high-quality learning environment. There is a need for the local authority to ensure that the educational benefits as outlined in the consultation reflect the educational experiences for any children attending the ASN stage from August 2024. For example, there is a need to improve facilities for children with mobility aids or for children who require intimate care.

HM Inspectors recommend that the local authority should work with staff to consider how to improve opportunities for children to have secure access to the outdoors. It should work with staff to provide appropriate resources to help children with their sensory needs or access to therapeutic interventions.

- 3.6 During the consultation the council identified an omission within its original proposal. The council rectified this before the end of the consultation period. It determined that the indicator determining the Grant Aided Expenditure allocation for Special Education is the population aged between two and 19. The pupils from the SLCP attending a different setting within the council would not affect this indicator.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits for children with additional support needs across the local authority. In moving the SLCP to an outreach model, there is potential for more children to receive the right support at the right time within their mainstream schools. This will help the local authority to meet the national requirements of the presumption of mainstreaming. The new ASN stage hosted in the Mayfield Community Campus will support the local authority in meeting the projected increase of children with a range and complexity of additional support needs. The new facilities have the potential to offer improved learning opportunities across the community campus.

**HM Inspectors
May 2024**