
Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2004 THE CO-ORDINATED SUPPORT PLAN - HOW TO REQUEST ONE AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

WHO CAN MAKE A REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION FOR A CO-ORDINATED SUPPORT PLAN?

Parents, professionals or a young person themselves may request that thought is given to assessing a child or young person's Additional Support Needs and compiling a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP). The request must include the reasons why an assessment may be appropriate and should be accompanied by any relevant information which would support this. The request must be put in writing or some other permanent format, such as e-mail, and sent to the Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- The Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager will acknowledge the request, in writing, and refer it to the relevant Liaison Group for discussion as to whether or not the request is reasonable.
- The Liaison Group meeting should include professionals currently involved with the support of the child or young person, parents and the child or young person if appropriate, so that an informed discussion can take place.
- The meeting will use an assessment tool (a form) to help them make their decision as to whether or not the child or young person appears to meet the criteria for a Co-ordinated Support Plan.
- If it is decided that they **do not** appear to meet the criteria for a CSP, the Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator will be notified so that he/she can formally write to the parents and young people or referring professional regarding the decision and the reasons behind it.
- If it is decided that the child or young person **does** appear to meet the criteria for a CSP the meeting will prepare the information required for a "Notice of Proposal". This "Notice of Proposal", a letter, is the formal trigger to seek advice on the drawing up of a possible CSP. The Chair of the meeting will send this information to the Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator who has a Highland-wide remit to monitor the process.
- The Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator will complete the "Notice of Proposal" letter and send it out to the parents and young person if appropriate. This is the formal notice indicating that a CSP is being considered.
- An IEP/CSP Co-ordinator will also be appointed at this meeting to be the key contact for parents, child/young person and professionals as the process moves forward.

WHAT DOES THE CSP CO-ORDINATOR DO?

The CSP Co-ordinator may be from education or they may be someone who has more of a key role with the child or young person and their family with regard to the Additional Support Needs in question, for example a social worker or health professional. They will be involved in drafting the CSP with the ASN Team and keep an overview of the support set out in the CSP.

ASSESSMENTS

Parents and young people can request relevant assessments when consideration is being given to assess a child's needs to determine the need for a CSP.

The CSP Co-ordinator will make contact with parents, the child and or young person to discuss the "Notice of Proposal" and what assessments they feel relevant and what they feel should be included in the plan. The Education Authority must follow up the assessments requested unless they believe the request to be unreasonable. If a request for an assessment is refused the Authority must inform the parents or young person of its decision and give the reason why. Parents and young people must also be advised of their right to appeal. (see Information Sheet 10)

The CSP Admin team will send copies of the "Notice of Proposal" to all agencies from whom assessments, examinations, advice or information have been requested, accompanied by their own specific request form. **All agencies must respond within 10 weeks from the date the request for information is sent and must go over their reports and findings with the family.**

The Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator will write to the parents, professionals and the young person to inform them whether a CSP is to be drawn up.

The CSP Admin team will collate the information and advice returned by the agencies making assessments and send this to the IEP/CSP Co-ordinator. When a CSP is to be drawn up the ASL Co-ordinator will then draft a Co-ordinated Support Plan based on this information. This draft plan will be shared with the parents, child or young person in order that their views can be included. They will also send a copy to the Area Service Managers with the appropriate recommendations. This draft plan will then be sent to the Area Education Manager, Culture & Sport Manager who will arrange to meet with the family and sign off the CSP.

This will be a small meeting held at about Week 14 in the process. (see Info. Sheet 8)

HOW LONG SHOULD THE PROCESS TAKE?

A signed copy of the final plan will be sent to parents within approximately 16 weeks of the 'Notice of Proposal'. If the Education Authority becomes aware that the 16 week time limit is unlikely to be met, the Area Education, Culture Sport Manager must write and explain to the parents or the young person the reason for this delay and set a new date for the completion of the process. The regulations do not specify what the new time limit should be but state that it should not exceed a further 8 weeks, or by longer than is necessary in the circumstances. This is to allow for individual circumstances surrounding the delay to be taken into consideration.

The delay may come about due to:

- The child's parents or the young person making a request for a particular type of assessment or examination and that cannot take place or
- the results will not be available, before the end of the 16 week period or
- The Education Authority have asked an appropriate agency or other persons for help and they have not been able to respond in time.

However the total time taken for the completion of a CSP should **not exceed 24 weeks.**

WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE CO-ORDINATED SUPPORT PLAN?

A copy of the CSP will be held by the Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager, a copy sent to the parents and the young person, the Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator, all the professionals involved in the Plan. A further copy will be kept at the school attended by the child or young person.

The CSP is a confidential document and should not be given to anyone other than those who have a professional requirement to see or have a copy of it but it should be used and referred to on a regular basis by those working with the child or young person.

The Area Education Office will retain a copy should parents wish to see it there.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER PLANS AND REVIEWS?

Where a child or young person and their family are involved in several planning and review processes attempts will be made to bring these together as much as possible. Duplication of effort, processes and meetings should be avoided if possible.

Integrated Children's Services (Health, Education, Social Work, Police, Children's Reporter and Voluntary Organisations) are working together to ensure planning and assessment of every child's needs are carried out in a more united approach. **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)** will underpin all multi agency working. This will work to ensure all children are **Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected and Responsible and Included (SHANARI)**.

Where more than one agency is required to work together to meet a child's needs (not just educational needs) a child's plan will be put in place to pull all the information and contacts together.

For example:

- A single multi-purpose meeting should be held annually for children and young people who have both an IEP and a CSP, in order to review all the medium and long term targets and to ensure consistency between the plans. Some targets may appear in both plans.
- For "Looked After Children" a single multi-purpose meeting can be held to review the Child's Plan, together with the IEP or CSP where appropriate.

CONTACT DETAILS

YOUR AREA EDUCATION, CULTURE & SPORT MANAGER IS:-

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| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey <i>Name:</i> Hector Robertson | 13 Ardross Street, Inverness, IV3 5NS Tel: 01463 663800 Fax: 01463 663809 |
| Caithness, Surtherland, Easter Ross <i>Name:</i> Graham Nichols | Rhind House, Wick, KW1 5LZ Tel: 01955 602362 Fax: 01955 602408 |
| Mid, West Ross, Skye & Lochaber <i>Name:</i> John Ritchie | Castle Street, Dingwall, IV15 9HU Tel: 01349 863441 Fax: 01349 863994 |

| School | Telephone Number |
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| Co-ordinated Support Plan Co-ordinator | |
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| <i>Name:</i> | |

| Chair of Liaison Group | |
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| <i>Name:</i> | |

| Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator | |
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| <i>Name:</i> | |