

The Area Inclusion Group

Information for Parents

This information sheet explains:

- What the Area Inclusion Group is
- What the Area Inclusion Group consider
- Who is involved in the process
- How decisions are made
- What to do if you do not agree with the decision

What is the Area Inclusion Group?

The Area Inclusion Group (AIG) is the forum where individual children and young people are discussed following a referral for support from a school or nursery. In reaching decisions for support, it aims to work with families and professionals to ensure children and young people in Glasgow are provided with the opportunity and environment to flourish.

The AIG is made up of a group of educational professionals from the local areas within Glasgow. They meet regularly in small groups to discuss the information sent by schools or nurseries to consider how to support and meet the needs of children and young people.

Each Area Inclusion Group has a Chair and AIG Members. The Chair is a Head Teacher and has the responsibility to arrange and facilitate the AIG meetings and collate and provide feedback. The Chair will be the link to the team around the child following the decision. The remaining members are mainly Headteachers from mainstream and ASL schools. Support is also offered from Glasgow Education Psychological Services

The group aims to explore what would be the most effective support that can be offered for children and young people with the least interruption, disruption, and transition where possible and preferably a community based support within their local community, nursery or school.

What support do the AIG consider?

Some potential supports and outcomes from the AIG include:

- Individual discussions and planning between the Head Teacher and a member of the AIG to outline further evidence or assessment that is required or further supports that could be tried.
- A meeting with a member of the AIG and the families and professionals involved to support planning.
- Additional advice and support to class staff (e.g., from an outreach service).
- Working with other teams and services available within Glasgow to support the development of bespoke packages for children and young people.
- Specific support from specialist provision.

Who is involved in the Process?

The Team Around the Child

(School/Nursery, other professionals, families)

For most of the children and young people discussed at the AIG, the team around the child will be working with you to ensure that the needs of your child or young person are being met. They are the core group of professionals working with you to gather as much information as possible to support your child or young person within their current school or nursery.

For your child, the information provided to the AIG should have been shared with you, and your views clearly represented within it.

The Area Inclusion Group

Information for Parents

How are decisions made?

The team around the child will be working with you to ensure that the needs of your child are being met within their current school or nursery. To do so, a range of assessments and interventions may have taken place and all this information will be shared with you and recorded. Where needed, further assessment and advice may have been provided by other professionals, again, this will be shared with you and recorded. All this information, with some additional paperwork, is the evidence and information given to the AIG to help them decide what would be the right supports at that time for your child.

Your views, as parent or carer, will be gathered as part of the process and considered by the AIG when making decisions.

It is important that your child is included in the decisions that impact their life and therefore, they should have meaningful input to the process, and this should be recorded and provided to the AIG.

What if I don't agree with the outcome?

For most of the children and young people discussed at AIG, the team around the child will be working with you to try to ensure that the needs of your child are being met and will keep you informed of progress. Your views would have been sought as part of this process and represented in the information provided to the AIG and they will use all the information provided when deciding on an outcome.

If you do not agree with the outcome following the decision, please inform those working with your child.

Sometimes parents and carers want a child to have a placement or pathway to an Additional Support for Learning (ASL) school or a base within a school. The AIG can disagree with this when they make a decision since they are looking at many factors. There is also a definitive amount of provision and the AIG does have to prioritise needs of children and young people across the city. Sometimes a school or nursery may consider that a child has a higher level of need, but the AIG has that holistic picture and will be able to offer other supports that may be more appropriate than an ASL pathway.

If you remain unhappy with the outcome following discussions and are requesting a school placement in a school other than your child's local mainstream school, you have the right to make a placing request. More information for parents can be found here: <https://enquire.org.uk/parents/choosing-school/choosing-school/>

