

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Enquire launches guide on how adults can involve young people**

Enquire, the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning, has launched a new guide for adults about how to involve young people.

The publication, *Involving Young People*, gives guidance on involving children and young people with additional support needs in decision-making, ranging from whole-school issues to personal learning and support.

The guide is chiefly a resource for education professionals and parents / carers, but may also be helpful to anyone who wants to help children and young people take part, including health and social work professionals, youth workers and children's charity workers.

Katy MacDougall, Enquire's information and development officer (children and young people), said: "This is an excellent new resource for adults who want to involve children and young people with additional support needs in decision making about their learning — a key principle of the additional support for learning legislation introduced nearly two years ago."

The new publication covers practical suggestions for involving children and young people, offers a useful summary of the law on involving children and young people, and provides an extensive list of resources of further information, training and support.

The guide also features statements from young people about whether they feel they have been involved by adults in decision making and learning.

The comments include:

*"Nobody knows what I need except me."*  
(Young woman, 2002)

*"It's not the talking that does it — it's the listening."*  
(Young man, 2006)

*"Adults should have to listen to what children think and then, when making decisions, remember what the young person said. But that's not really enough; the person who is receiving help should have a say in the help they get."*  
(Young person, 2006)

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### **Notes for editors:**

- Enquire is the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning. It is managed by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Executive. The service is available to parents and carers of children and young people with additional support needs, to children and young people themselves, and to professionals working with them. Enquire offers advice and information by way of a telephone helpline and through written responses to emails and enquiries via the website. It also offers training and talks, produces a range of free publications and has a legal subscription service.
- The (Education) Additional Support for Learning Act 2004 replaced the law relating to special educational needs on 14 November 2005. References in law to 'special educational needs' have now ceased. The new concept of 'additional support needs' applies to any child or young person who, for whatever reason, requires additional support, long term or short term, in order to learn and to work to their full potential.
- Children in Scotland is Scotland's national children's agency, bringing together voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals to improve the lives of Scotland's children and their families.