



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Partnership ‘essential’ for supporting children and young people’s learning**

A major conference will today discuss the importance of partnership working following the introduction of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004.

The annual national conference of Enquire, the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning, will examine the renewed emphasis on partnership work in light of the Act.

The Act promotes an integrated approach to service delivery and aims to create a stronger system to support children’s learning, so that all children and young people receive the additional support they need to help them make the most of their education.

Kathryn Hunter, Senior Manager of Enquire, said: “Partnership working lies at the heart of how Additional Support for Learning Act. To ensure that support is appropriate and properly focused on the needs of every child or young person who may require it, it is essential that parents, children, young people, agencies and professionals work together.”

The conference will:

- Look at best practice in partnership working in additional support for learning.
- Provide opportunities to consider issues and solutions in partnership working.
- Support delegates in developing their partnership working and network building skills.

The conference will be chaired by Dr Patricia Jackson, Consultant Paediatrician, Lothian University Hospitals Trust.

Speakers will include Vijay Patel from the Scottish Executive, Joseph Hughes, Convener, Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland, and Gill Bain, from NHS Borders.

**The two-day conference is being held at Crieff Hydro today and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

(ends)

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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.