

## MEDIA RELEASE



### **Accessibility at heart of new Enquire website for young people: [www.enquire.org.uk/yp](http://www.enquire.org.uk/yp)**

**Enquire, the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning, has launched a revamped website for young people.**

The updated website, which has been developed with the input of young people and AbilityNet, a UK charity helping disabled adults and children use computers and the internet, prioritises accessibility and the interaction of users.

Katy MacDougall, Enquire’s information and development officer (children and young people) said: “The website is a popular and important part of our service for children and young people. The redesign has emphasised accessibility and interaction, with a raft of new features. These include Enquiring Zod, a fun new facility that allows young people to tell others about their lives.”

The Enquire blog, which has been improved to make it easier for young people to leave comments, remains at the heart of the site.

The site also includes features such as the ‘Your Area’ guide to local services, tips for being safe online, a photograph and picture gallery, and downloads and podcasts.

Alex Stuart, Enquire’s information and development officer, said: “We’ve tried to make the site as accessible as possible where ‘accessible’ means both reaching technical accessibility targets and being liked by as wide a range of young people as possible. We’ve had a range of professionals working on this: myself, as coder, Katy MacDougall, who was responsible for involving young people, Dogood graphic designers, and AbilityNet.”

Katy MacDougall added: “Two secondary school age groups were consulted on a test version of the site and a number of changes were made based on their feedback, including having more images and simplifying the navigation and interactive features of the site.”

“The young people consulted particularly liked the Enquiring Zed feature and the ‘redesign the site’ facility, which allows the visitor to design their own colour scheme, word size and layout. This is fun but also has a serious purpose: as AbilityNet’s disabled user testing report said, ‘the colour changer used on the site is a very useful aid to the accessibility of the site’.”

In developing the site Enquire also consulted with ‘critical friends’ – adults from various organisations with expertise in websites and information for children and young people, including Young Scot, Communication aids for language and learning Scotland, and education and health practitioners working with children and young people.

An AbilityNet consultant who reviewed the results of the charity’s disabled user testing report said of the new site: “All of the users commented positively on the website, with the majority of users describing it as ‘easy to use’, ‘interesting’ and ‘useful’.”

A special event to mark the launch of the new website will be held at Children in Scotland’s office in Edinburgh on Friday 23 May.

Visit the new site at [www.enquire.org.uk/yp](http://www.enquire.org.uk/yp)

**For further information please contact Chris Small, tel 0131 222 2419 / email [csmall@childreninScotland.org.uk](mailto:csmall@childreninScotland.org.uk)**

*Notes for editors:*

- *The site reaches all priority 1 and 2 checkpoints in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 1, and all but 1 priority 3 checkpoint. In addition it has had a user accessibility audit by 8 testers with disabilities, including people using screen readers and other assistive technology, and Enquire is implementing their recommendations.*
- *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 Government.*

*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. For more information visit [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)*

- *Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.*