

MEDIA RELEASE



EMBARGOED: FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Enquire conference targets transitions

A special conference will today discuss how to support children and young people with additional support needs, during periods of change.

Enquire's annual conference, *Making Transitions Work: supporting pupils' learning during change*, will examine the skills, attitudes and approaches necessary to supporting pupils' learning during periods of transition, such as starting school, moving between school and through interruptions in education.

Anne Lennon, senior manager, Enquire, said: "The conference is a valuable opportunity to hear from children and young people directly about what they think helps them to make positive transitions. The conference will address skills, attitudes and approaches, and share and discuss current good practice from across Scotland."

Speakers will include Michael Harker, of Renfrewshire Council, who will discuss solution-oriented approaches to the management of change, and Robin McKendrick, of the Scottish Executive's education department, on the legal and policy context of additional support needs and transition planning.

The conference follows the launch yesterday (8th February) of a new education resource from Scotland – Barnardos aimed at supporting children in Scotland during periods of transition. The pack, 'Aiming for High', contains a variety of card games, worksheets, activities and a DVD called Moving On.

Hugh Mackintosh, Director, Scotland – Barnardo's said: "Aiming for High is a unique product addressing real life issues that every young person in Scotland experiences. Evidence shows that if a young person experiences a positive transition from primary to high school then they are better equipped to cope with other changes in their life."

The conference is being held today, Friday 9 February, at the Hilton Edinburgh Airport, from 9am-5pm.

For more information please contact:

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Further information is also available at: www.childreninscotland.org.uk

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.