



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**27.11.07**

**Project seeks views on additional support for learning services in North Ayrshire**

Children in Scotland is carrying out an independent consultation project with children and young people who require additional support for learning, as well as their mothers, fathers and carers.

The 'What I Think Matters': Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Project will provide an opportunity for children, young people, parents and carers to share their experiences of support and services they access or have tried to access. Findings from the work will be compiled into a report informing North Ayrshire Council where service users think things are done well and where things could be improved.

The project is coordinated by Catriona Thomson, research officer at Children in Scotland.

She said: "We are interested in hearing about experiences of accessing, or trying to access, additional support for learning services for your child. We want to hear from parents whose children have mild or short-term additional support needs as well as from those whose children have complex or life-long conditions."

In December the project is running the first in a series of consultation events where children, young people, parents and carers can share their views.

**The first two events will be held at Greenwood Teachers Centre, Irvine, on Wednesday 5 December and Saturday 8 December.**

**Sessions on the 5 December will run at 10am, 1.30pm and 6.30pm, and on 8 December at 10am.**

Catriona Thomson added: “Parents and carers can attend the meeting that best suit their personal circumstances. Your child does not need to attend the school that the meeting is being held in and you do not need to live in the local area. The meetings will be very informal. Parents can simply share their own personal experiences.”

Children, parents and carers who would like to sign up for one of these free sessions should contact Catriona Thomson, tel 0131 222 2445 or email [cthompson@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:cthompson@childreninscotland.org.uk) If your child would like to be involved please let Catriona know and she will arrange a time and place to meet that suits your child’s needs.

**Notes for editors:**

- National agency Children in Scotland is a membership network for the children’s sector in Scotland. Our members are made up of voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families. We work together 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. For further information visit our website, [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)