



What is the current situation?

There are lots of people who work with children and young people with additional support needs who are dedicated, skilled and caring and are an inspiration to others. They are doing everything they can to support children to be the best they can be, even when things get in the way. Their hard work should be noticed and appreciated.

However, Angela's work has found that additional support for learning is not given the same attention or valued as much as other parts of education in Scotland. There are laws and plans in Scotland about what additional support for learning should look like. At the moment, these aren't working the same way everywhere. Some pupils are lucky enough to have the right support to make sure they can do their best and be the best they can be. But not all pupils in Scotland are always getting the additional support they need, when they need it.

Lots of work has gone into making the laws and the plans about additional support for learning in Scotland good ones. Where it gets tricky is making sure that these laws and plans result in every individual pupil getting the individual support that they need, whoever they are, whatever their circumstances and wherever they learn.

Other research says things change when people try to do things differently and take a chance. Change also happens when plans focus on making things better for people, not just ticking things off a list.

When Angela asked people:

If things were difficult and then got better, what was it that changed?

The reply was always along the lines of:

"she/he just gets it"

"she/he cared"

"she/he listened"

This was the same for children, young people talking about adults and adults talking about the people that they work with.

People told Angela that trusting relationships mean there is respect and everyone is listened to. Professional experience and lived experience are just as important as each other.

The main thing that Angela has found out is that what is written in the laws and the plans for what should be happening to make sure children get the additional support they need to learn, isn't always happening.



Recommendation: Making sure things get better

- ☆ There should be a plan to make sure the suggestions in this report are put into place and if they have made a difference. There should be another report after a year on what has happened.
- ☆ Local councils should use what Angela has found out to update how they measure if things are going well. They should also use it to make plans for making things better in local areas.

This summary was written by members of staff at Children in Scotland and commented on by members of the Children in Scotland children and young people's advisory group, Changing our World. It is based on the Executive Summary of the **Additional Support for Learning Review**. Changes have been made to the words used and the layout of information. No changes were made to the topics included.