PE1409/B

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Response to: Consideration of Petition PE1409 (Enable, Scotland)

Q1 What are your views on the issues raised in the petition and the Committee’s subsequent discussion?

Answer Ensuring that 'all staff' are 'fully trained' applies to any industry or enterprise, including all of those run by the Scottish Government and those in the private sector. It is self-evident that all staff should be fully trained to do their jobs. Whether this particular task needs this attention at a time when Scotland faces a number of challenges is a matter for greater debate.

The isolation of one group (autism spectrum disorders) and sidestepping the key legislation (children and young people with learning disabilities rather than additional support needs) may also be worthy of consideration.

Q2 Does your local authority provide continuous professional development (CPD) for teaching staff in additional support needs? If not, what are the reasons for this and are there any plans to look at this again?

Answer Falkirk Council provides continuing professional development on a range of additional support for learning issues for staff.

Q3 What support or training does your authority provide to non-teaching staff (for example, janitors, caretakers or catering staff) to help them deal with pupils who have additional support needs?

Answer The needs of these staff are considered by their most direct employer's representative - in most cases this is the headteachers of our schools. Training on additional support needs will be arranged for these people when necessary, alongside the key health, safety and competence training in their chosen professions (for example, janitoring, caretaking or catering).

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