

# Co-ordinated support plans - What needs to change?

Last year an important report called “Support for Learning: All our Children and all their potential” was published. It said that children aren’t always getting the support they need in school.

Angela Morgan, who wrote the report talked to lots of people, (including children and young people) who were worried that people who work with children don’t always know what a co-ordinated support plan (or CSP for short) is for. She also heard that not all children who need a CSP get one.

## What is a co-ordinated support plan?

If you need a lot of support from your school and other people outside of school (like a social worker or a special nurse) you may need a co-ordinated support plan. A CSP helps to make sure all the people working with you work well together and know what’s going on with your support. A CSP is a legal document.

“Having a CSP is important to me, however having a working CSP is key. An effective CSP provides organisation and stability in my life and helps to reduce stress and anxiety during tough times.”

Young person

The Scottish Government asked a group of people who have lots of experience supporting children with additional support needs to get together to look at why CSPs are not being used properly.

Children and young people and people that support them agreed the main barriers to CSPs being used properly were:

- Children and young people, parents, carers and the people who support them are confused about who CSPs are for, and how they should be used using the CSP in the right way.
- People who are involved in CSPs and providing support do not always work together.
- There is not enough information and training for professionals about when a child should have a CSP, what information should be in one, and how long it should take to put a CSP together.
- People need more time for planning children and young people’s support and using the CSP in the right way.



## What will help make things better?



- ✔ Pupils, parents, carers and professionals should be involved in creating clear, simple and easy to use information about how learning support is planned and how CSPs fit into this.
- ✔ This information should be shared at important times in children’s lives like when a child’s needs are diagnosed, when children start nursery, primary or secondary school or when their needs change.
- ✔ The Scottish Government, local authorities and other education organisations should all work to make sure everybody supporting children with additional support needs have the same understanding of what CSPs are for and when and how they should be used.
- ✔ Professionals should be given training to help them build good relationships with other professionals, use CSPs in the right way and involve children and young people in planning.
- ✔ Professionals should be given time for planning and reviewing CSPs.

## What next?

The findings from the report will be shared with a group called the Additional Support for Learning Implementation Group (ASLIG) who will look at the recommendations and agree a plan for making improvements.