
To: Council

On: 3rd March 2022

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: Installation of Neurodivergent Communication Boards in Renfrewshire Parks

1. Summary

- 1.1 At the Council meeting on 16 December 2021, Council agreed to install neurodivergent community approved communication boards in all our parks with a report being brought to the next meeting of this Council.
 - 1.2 This report sets out the work undertaken so far and the planned activities to be undertaken over the coming months to initially install neurodivergent communications boards in six parks in Renfrewshire. These are listed in appendix 1 of this report.
 - 1.3 These initial boards will be the subject of review with the neurodivergent community to inform the approach to neurodivergent communication boards to be taken across all Parks in Renfrewshire with updates being provided to the ILE policy board on the development and implementation of this programme across Renfrewshire's parks.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:
 - (i) Notes the content of this report and the work undertaken to date to research neurodivergent communication boards
 - (ii) Notes that the communication boards, created in partnership with the neurodivergent community, will be installed in the parks listed in appendix 1
 - (iii) Notes updates on the role out of the communication boards throughout Renfrewshire's parks will be reported through the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Board.
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3. Background

3.1 Impact of a Neurodivergent Condition on Communication in Children

Neurodivergent conditions include autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyspraxia, obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette's syndrome, Asperger's syndrome, and many others. Some of these conditions affect the ability of an individual to communicate.

3.2 Neurodivergent Communication Boards

Neurodivergent Communication Boards aim to support communication, expressing simple messages, asking questions and offering choices. This is often done through symbols. For example, one screen, card or board might contain a variety of images related to a play park visit. Others might show a range of feelings, or a sequence of steps to follow

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The service are currently in consultation with Riverbrae School, and a teacher/parents/pupil stakeholder group is being set up to ensure that the signs are consistent with the tools currently being used in schools. The intention will be to trial the boards in the first 6 parks and evaluate the community response and use of the boards. The first meeting of the group took place on 9 March 2022.
 - 4.2 The service are also engaging with relevant neurodivergent community specialists and educational specialists to design communication boards with symbols that will be relevant to settings within parks environments.
 - 4.3 A sample of the communication board will be issued to parents and teachers in advance of production to test and review the signs chosen are effective.
 - 4.4 Signs will be placed in designated parks set out in Appendix 1 by the end of April 2022.
 - 4.5 The signs will be promoted, and feedback undertaken during summer 2022 before embarking on a wider role out across all parks in Renfrewshire.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The funding of the signs will be met from the playpark Investment fund.
 2. **HR & Organisational Development- None**
 3. **Community/Council Planning –**
 - Our Renfrewshire is inclusive
 - Our Renfrewshire is fair: addressing the inequalities that limit life chances
 - Our Renfrewshire values learning
 4. **Legal - None**
 5. **Property/Assets - None**
 6. **Information Technology - None**
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety - None**
 9. **Procurement** - Discussions are on-going with regard to the procurement of appropriate signage.
 10. **Risk – None**
 11. **Privacy Impact - None**
 12. **COSLA Policy Position N/A**
 13. **Climate Risk N/A.**
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List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Papers- None
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Renfrewshire Council – Environment & Infrastructure
List of Parks

Barshaw Park, Glasgow Road, Paisley
Robertson Park, Inchinnan Road, Renfrew
Thomas Shanks Park, Quarrellton Road, Johnstone
Glencoats Park, Westpark Drive, Paisley
Howwood Park, Midton Road, Howwood
Kintyre Park, Clippens Road, Linwood