Appendix 5: Questionnaire for schools and colleges on children and young people with AS

Dear SENCo/Special Needs Tutor

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has commissioned a Review of needs and services for 10-18 year olds who have been, or are currently in the process of being, diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (and those who are intellectually able with autism).

The Review is being undertaken by a team from the University of Birmingham.

We would like to hear YOUR VIEWS on the help and support provided for this group of children/students. In particular, we would like to know what you feel works well, what might be improved and what the gaps in provision are.

Instructions for the questionnaire:

Please answer the questions below, if they are relevant to you.

When you have completed the questionnaire, you should return it to:

Dr Glenys Jones, School of Education, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
(Secretary Linda Hudson 0121 414 5620)

Email: Asperger@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Website: www.niccy.org/aspergerreview/

Findings of the research

We will use what you, and others tell us, to write a report for NICCY. Please note, we will not use the names of staff, students or places in the report or any other information that would mean others could be identified. All those who complete and return a questionnaire will be sent a summary copy of the report (giving its main findings and recommendations) plus a list of references and resources on Asperger syndrome.
Statement of consent

I am happy to give my views to the Birmingham Team and for them to put these in their report to NICCY and to use when teaching others about Asperger syndrome, provided no names of places or people are mentioned and the source of the information is not given.

Signed: _________________________ Date:__________________

With many thanks in anticipation of your support.
SECTION A:
DETAILS OF THE PERSON(S) FILLING IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

1  Your name: __________________________

2  Role in the school/college
   (e.g. Principal /Headteacher/ Deputy/SENCo/Head of Learning
   Support)
   _______________________________________

3  Name of the School/College
   _______________________________________

4  Area in which the school/college is based (please tick):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5  Approximately, how long have you worked in the school/college?
   _________________ years

6  How many students in **TOTAL** are on roll at the school/college?
   (i.e. not just those with Asperger syndrome)
   _______

7  What is the age range of students at the school/college?
   ______to ______years

8  Who funds the school/college? __________________________

9  Who administers the school/college? ______________________
10 Do the children/students attend on a daily or a residential basis? (please circle)

Day only  Some residential  All residential

11 Approximately how many children/students diagnosed with Asperger syndrome does the school/college have on roll at the present time aged between 10 and 18 years? (please circle)

None  1-5  6-10  11-20  more than this

12 In addition to those with Asperger syndrome, approximately how many children/students do you have who have been diagnosed as high functioning autistic or able autistic (that is, they are of average or above average intelligence) and aged between 10 and 18 years.

None  1-5  6-10  11-20  more than this

13 Are there any students on roll aged 10 to 18 years, where a diagnosis of Asperger syndrome/able autism/high functioning autism is suspected, but has not been diagnosed?

YES, there are ____ students we suspect may have this diagnosis

NO

Comment further if you wish:

If there are NO pupils with Asperger syndrome or high functioning/able autism in this age group currently on roll, then you do NOT need to answer any further questions, but please return the questionnaire to the Review Team at Birmingham.
**SECTION B: DETAILS OF CHILDREN/STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON ROLL WITH ASPERGER SYNDROME AGED 10 TO 18 YEARS**

1. Complete the table below to give details of the children/students with Asperger syndrome currently on roll.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's/Students initials only please</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Year of birth</th>
<th>Approx length of time at the school/college</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g. IF David Hayes DH</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF Liam O'Connor LO'C</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION C: DETAILS OF CHILDREN/STUDENTS CURRENTLY ON ROLL WITH HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM/ABLE AUTISM AGED 10 TO 18 YEARS

2 Complete the table below to give details of the children/students with high functioning autism/able autism currently on roll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s/Students initials only please</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Year of birth</th>
<th>Approx length of time at the school/college</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g. IF David Hayes DH</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting the needs of those with Asperger syndrome or high functioning autism or able autism

3 In your view, how well are these students’ needs being met at the current time by what the school/College can provide? (please circle)

Very well        Quite well       Not very well       Depends on which pupil

Please comment further:

4 Do staff generally feel that the school/college is the most appropriate placement for these students?
• YES, all staff
• Some staff do, but not unanimous
• NO, most staff feel this is NOT the best placement

If NO, what type of placement do the staff feel would be better?

5 What might help the school/college to better meet the needs of these students, apart from more funding/adult support?

6 Do you have any support/advice from visiting professionals to the school/College specifically for these students?

   YES     NO

   If YES,
   from whom: _________________________________
   how often: _________________________________
   how helpful is it?

7 Do any of the staff have qualifications in autism/Asperger syndrome?

   YES     NO     DON’T KNOW

8 Have the staff received any training on autism/Asperger syndrome?

   YES     NO     DON’T KNOW

9 Are there good examples of practice in relation to these students which it might be useful to discuss further and share with others because it is innovative or very successful?

   YES definitely     Yes, possibly     NO
If YES, please give brief details of this:

10 To what extent do you feel the views of the students with Asperger syndrome/high functioning/able autism are taken into account when decisions are made?

   Good consultation    Some consultation    Not very much    Not at all

NOTE: If possible, it would be helpful if you could send a policy document or school/college brochure to the Review Team at Birmingham which outlines what the school provides for students with Asperger syndrome/high functioning/able autism, when you return this questionnaire.

1 Looking back over the last 3 years what improvements have you seen in the school/college, if any, in the support provided for students with Asperger syndrome/high functioning/able autism and their families?

2 Finally, if you had three wishes, in relation to the support the school/college might provide for these students and their families, what would they be?

   i

   ii

   iii
With many thanks for your views and time, from staff at NICCY and the Birmingham Team.

If you would be happy for the Team to contact you to discuss any of the issues you have mentioned in this Questionnaire, please give your email and/or telephone number below:

My email address is: ____________________________

My telephone number is: ____________________________

Please return this questionnaire as soon as you are able to do so, preferably before the 28 April, 2006:

by post to:

Dr Glenys Jones, School of Education, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

With many thanks for your time and views.