**SEND Regional Network Bulletin**



Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of the SEND Regional Network Bulletin, which gives an overview of national and regional developments around the SEND reforms. We would anticipate that colleagues will already be aware of the majority of the information captured in these bulletins but hope it may be useful to recap in one document. Please send any comments you have to: samantha.wasilewski@calderdale.gov.uk

**Resources**

**Wiki**

Recent updates to the Wiki include:

* Presentations from Y&H Events on SEND & Health, SEMH & SEND, SEND Decision making & the law, SEND: 19-25 year olds’ entitlement to EHC plans and Youth Justice SEND Project: online training
* Presentation slides and resources from the SEND Regional Leads Network Meeting on 8th March 2017

***Please click on the link below to access this information in the ‘Bulletins and other information’ section:*** [***https://www.rixwiki.org/gbr/home/yorkshire-and-humber-send-regional-team/***](https://www.rixwiki.org/gbr/home/yorkshire-and-humber-send-regional-team/) ***and to keep up to date with newsletters, upcoming events and and event handouts/publications.***

**Funding**

**Regional support work in 2017/18**

The DfE is continuing to fund regional support work for 2017/18. The budget for the Yorkshire and Humber Region is £21K; some of this funding will be used to continue with admin support for the regional work and the remainder will be used to support the regions priorities.

We are discussing the regions priorities with the Yorkshire & Humber 0-25 SEND Strategic Forum, however other colleagues are welcome contact samantha.wasilewski@calderdale.gov.uk with suggestions.

**Capital funding boost**

Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, Edward Timpson, announced a £215m capital funding for SEND.

Every local council will be allocated at least £500,000 from the fund, with more than half receiving at least £1 million.  Councils will be free to invest the funding as they see fit to help children and young people with education, health and care plans to get a high quality education.  It can used in mainstream schools, including academies, free schools and grammar schools, special units, special schools, early years settings, further education colleges or other provision for children and young people aged from 0-25.

It could be used for example to build new specialised classrooms for children with emotional, social and mental health difficulties, expand existing classrooms to increase their size for those using mobility aids, to purchase mobility equipment and even create new storage facilities for wheelchairs.

Councils will be expected to consult with local parents, carers, schools, and others on how their funding allocations should be used. They will have to publish a short plan showing how they will spend the funding.

Edward Timpson has written to Directors of Children’s Services and to Regional Schools Commissioners to set this announcement in the wider context of strategic planning for SEN.

For further information and to view details of individual local authority allocations, please visit the publications pages of GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-provision-capital-funding-for-pupils-with-ehc-plans>

**SEND Implementation Grant 2017-18**

Details of the 2017-18 SEND Implementation Grant (new burdens), including a letter from Edward Timpson, Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, and individual local authority allocations, have been published.

**Strategic Review Funding**

The Department for Education have allocated £23m funding to local authorities to carry out a strategic review of their high needs provision. Further information, including individual local authority allocations is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-strategic-planning-fund>.

***NB: The DfE indicated at a meeting on 8th March 2017 that they intend to keep a close eye on how the two pots of funding for the strategic review of their high needs provision and capital funding for SEND provisions is being used within Local Authorities. We are likely to have to collate information from the region on this in the future.***

Linked to the above:

**Forecasting, need & early identification - SEND regional working group**

Our regional has set up a working group (a sub group of the Yorkshire Humber School Organisation regional group) to look at the above area the first meeting took place on 7th April 2016 and looked at the following areas:

A) Forecasting and trend analysis – possibilities and pitfalls.

B) Supporting analysis – descriptive work to understand the system as it is, so that we can better plan how it will be.

C) Early identification –identifying children at risk of not accessing a mainstream curriculum.

The next meeting will follow the YHSO regional meet on Monday the 18th September. The prevailing action arising from the first meeting was to source, understand and begin using some of the key data streams highlighted at the initial meeting. The suggestion was that a number of LAs give a short 10 minute update on their progress at the meeting in September.

The majority of the colleagues attending the first meeting were from school organisation/admissions backgrounds – however a few colleagues from SEND where also in attendance.

**Funding for Parent Carer Forums and Independent Supporters 2017/18**

Multi-million pound investment to support children and families with special educational needs and disabilities. The details are included in the attached link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-special-educational-needs-support-confirmed](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-special-educational-needs-support-confirmed#_blank)

**Other News**

**Primary assessment in England: consultation launched**

The Department for Education has launched a [public consultation exercise](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-assessment-in-england) about the future of the primary assessment system in England. Details are included in a [statement](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-primary-assessment-in-england) made to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening.

The consultation proposals are aimed at ensuring that we establish a stable, trusted assessment system that supports all children to fulfil their potential, whatever their background.

The consultation sets out wide-ranging proposals for improving the primary assessment system. These include consideration of the best starting point from which to measure pupils’ progress, how to ensure the assessment system is proportionate, and how to improve statutory end of key stage teacher assessments.

A [parallel consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/primary-school-pupil-assessment-rochford-review-recommendations), also launched today, is asking for views on the recommendations of the independent Rochford Review. The recommendations focus on the future of statutory assessment arrangements for pupils working below the standard of national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2.

All those with an interest in primary education are encouraged to engage with these consultation exercises and to share their opinions and insights. ***The consultation is open until 22 June 2017.***

If you have any questions please contact the assessment policy team at PrimaryAssessment.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk or Rochford.Review@education.gov.uk.

**DfE's Publication of the 19-25 EHC Plan Guidance and PfA Outcomes Tool**

On 21 February, the Department for Education published a new guide to EHC plan eligibility for 19-25 year olds. The guidance is available on the Gov.UK website at:<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-19-to-25-year-olds-entitlement-to-ehc-plans>

Alongside the guidance is a [tool](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/all-resources/advice-from-dfe/pfa-outcomes-tool) giving practical suggestions for helping children and young people prepare for adulthood, broken down by outcome and age.

**Independent review of SEND disagreement resolution arrangements published**

The DfE has published on 29th March 2017 the independent review of SEND disagreement resolution arrangements conducted by the Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research (CEDAR) and the government’s response to the review. The DfE thank all those who have inputted to this and provided advice to help shape both the review and the response.

The review can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-disagreement-resolution-arrangements-in-england-review>.

**EHC Plan Research Report**

On 29th March 2017, [the EHC plan research report](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-health-and-care-plans-parents-and-young-people-survey) was also published by DfE. This report provides results from a 2016 survey of over 13,000 parents and young people who received an EHC plan in 2015. The report provides results for different groups at the national level and robust local results are available for around two thirds of local authorities. The report conveys positive messages overall and also indicates the parts of the EHC process that local areas may wish to develop further in terms of service users’ satisfaction.

You can view the report by the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-health-and-care-plans-parents-and-young-people-survey>.

**Action Required by 25th April ! - The consultation on revisions to the statutory school exclusion guidance**

The government are seeking views on planned changes to statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained-schools, academies and pupil referral units.

These are proposed revisions to the statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils to make the rules that apply to exclusions and the process of review clearer. The guidance is for:

* headteachers
* governing bodies
* independent review panels
* academy trusts
* local authorities

The revisions include both statutory and non-statutory information.

The consultation will be running until the 25th April 2017. You can find more detail at the following link [https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-exclusion-guidance-proposed-revisions](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-exclusion-guidance-proposed-revisions#_blank)

**Residential special schools and colleges: a call for evidence**

Edward Timpson asked Dame Christine Lenehan to conduct an independent review looking at the outcomes and experiences of children and young people attending residential special schools and colleges.

Dame Christine Lenehan invited evidence about:

* The characteristics of children and young people in residential special schools and colleges
* How and why they come to be placed in this provision
* How they’re supported both pre- and post-placement
* How we can improve experiences and outcomes for them and their families.

Feedback is currently being analysed and results will be published shortly.

**Monthly Data Collection - finalising Transfer Reviews for existing statements of SEN**

By 1 April 2018, local authorities must have transferred all children and young people with statements of SEN and who are eligible for an Education, Health and Care plan to the new SEND system. From April 2017 until the remainder of the transitional period, all local authorities will be asked to provide information on progress, on a monthly basis. This information will help DfE to assess progress, including how close we are to hitting trajectories and whether all statements will be transferred under the new system by the deadline.

The monthly data collection will include just two questions, which will remain the same for each month of the collection:

* How many transfers of SEN statements have yet to be completed?
* Of those remaining, how many does the LA expect to complete by 31 March 2018?

The survey will be issued on the first working day of every month and Local Authorities will have 10 working days to complete the return:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Data collection schedule Date of commissioning**  | **Closing response Date**  |
| **2017 Dates**  |
| Mon 03 Apr  | Tues 18 April  |
| Tues 2 May  | Mon 15 May  |
| Thurs 01 Jun  | Weds 14 Jun  |
| Mon 03 Jul  | Fri 14 Jul  |
| Tues 01 Aug  | Mon 14 Aug  |
| Fri 01 Sep  | Thurs 14 Sep  |
| Mon 02 Oct  | Fri 13 Oct  |
| Weds 01 Nov  | Tues 14 Nov  |
| Fri 01 Dec  | Thurs 14 Dec  |
| **2018 Dates**  |
| Tues 2 Jan  | Mon 15 Jan  |
| Thurs 01 Feb  | Weds 14 Feb  |
| Thurs 01 Mar  | Weds 14 Mar  |
| Tues 3 Apr  | Mon 16 Apr  |

**Participation to continue to be on the national agenda**

Council for Disabled Children are pleased to announce that together with KIDS they’ve been awarded funding to continue the ‘Making Participation Work’ programme until March 2018. It looks to increase effective participation for children and young people with SEND. You can find out more [here](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/making-ourselves-heard/making-participation-work).

**Spring CDC Digest out now**

This edition of the CDC Digest has a special focus on post-16 with top resources and info pulled together in one handy place. The Digest includes:

* BLOG: on the importance of empowering parents, by Anna Walker, founding partner of the Expert Parent Programme
* ARTICLE: on Care, Education and Treatment Reviews from NHS England
* NEWS: from around the sector
* EVENTS & RESOURCES: all the latest to help you in your practice

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/Spring%20Digest%20March%202017.pdf>

**Top Tips for professionals to support children and young people to participate in their EHC plan**

This Top Tips guide is for all professionals who are involved in supporting disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs, to fully participate in their Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan.

All of the top tips in this guide have been co-developed with disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs.

This document aims to:

 a) Raise awareness of the barriers children and young people to face when

 participating in their EHC plan

 b) Offer some advice and ideas to help eliminate those barriers.

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/Top%20Tips%20for%20Professionals%20who%20support%20CYP%20to%20participate%20in%20their%20EHCP.pdf>

**National Children’s Bureau launches ‘Listening to Young Disabled Children’ leaflet**

This leaflet includes inspiring examples of listening practice and significant updates on policy following the Children and Families Act, 2014.

It's a must-read for everyone working directly with young children and their families. It highlights why it’s important to listen to young children and provides information on how adults can do this well to enable children’s right to express their views on matters that affect them, and to have their views taken into account.

The guide covers three areas of activity;

* listening to individual children,
* everyday listening and consultation, and inclusive strategies and
* developing a listening culture.

Listening to Young Disabled Children is one of eight in the Listening as a Way of Life [leaflet series](https://www.ncb.org.uk/listening-and-participation-resources) and is free to download. You can find out more [here](https://www.ncb.org.uk/resources-publications/resources/listening-young-disabled-children?mc_cid=5ebf2c3432&mc_eid=15c30773c1).

**Short Breaks for Disabled Children:** [**A Legal Guide**](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/short-breaks-disabled-children-legal-guide)

Written by barrister Steve Broach and CDC, the purpose of this guide is to assist local authority officers and Members to understand the law in relation to short breaks and to apply it effectively. This should assist in supporting and protecting the provision of vital services for families**.**

**Information: Higher and Further Education Guides**

Disability Rights UK have a new Into [Higher Education](https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/pdf/IntoHE2017.pdf?mc_cid=5ebf2c3432&mc_eid=15c30773c1) and [Into Further Education](https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/pdf/IntoFE2017.pdf?mc_cid=8941bc3149&mc_eid=829687f04a) guides for anyone with a health condition, learning difficulty or disability thinking about studying in higher education starting September 2017.

**Bath and North East Somerset Council’s SEND Personal Budget Learning Example – Ben’s Story**

Bath and North East Somerset council have shared a learning example to show how a SEND Personal Budget can be used effectively. The example describes how Ben, a 19 year old with autism and profound and multiple learning difficulties, benefitted from a personal budget.

The case study can be found on Preparing for Adulthoods website at <http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/all-resources/learning-example-bens-story>

For more information or to get in touch with the Somerset participation team, please email SENDParticipationTeam@somerset.gov.uk.

**Somerset County Council’s Engagement and Participation Team**

The team have been In place since April 2015 and have developed a short video along with a number of useful resources to share their work so far in providing a coordinated approach to participation, this includes:

A 'Top Tips Poster' - Top Tips for working with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

* 'SEND Participation Team Annual Report 2015-2016' - The team created this document to report their journey from April 2015 - April 2016, focusing on some key events that have taken place over the year
* 'Engagement and Participation Strategy' - This document shows what will happen as a result of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms
* Summary slides providing an overview of the key messages and content from the Young Person Engagement video

The video along with the above resources can be found at <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/youngpersonparticipation>.

**Department of Health**

Lenehan review into care of children with learning disabilities

Dame Christine Lenehan was asked by the Department of Health to take a strategic overview and recommend what practical action can be taken to co-ordinate care, support and treatment for children and young people with complex needs (and behaviour that challenges) involving mental health problems and learning disabilities and/or autism.

Her final report of the review has now been published and you can read it [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lenehan-review-into-care-of-children-with-learning-disabilities).

**Special needs pupils 'lose out’**At the NASUWT's annual conference, teachers have raised concerns that with school budgets tightening, it may become harder to support special needs children in mainstream schools. General secretary Chris Keates said: "Without appropriate action and investment, the entitlement of pupils with SEN will continue to be seriously compromised." Brian Gale, director at the National Deaf Children's Society, added that while the government has put more money into local authority budgets for SEN children, it hasn't been enough to keep up with the increase in children needing support. Over the past three years the charity says, three quarters of local authorities in England have found £300m from other education budgets to fill that gap.
[*BBC News*](http://lgiu.us3.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=00e86e4f795b3722410373cd1&id=ec70dc1a6f&e=8d9e0cbe2b)

**The Communication Trust's Newsletter – March 2017**

The March Newsletter has been published and includes information about the new Talking About a Generation report and new blogs on the Developing and Using Evidence page. - See more at: <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/latest-news/our-newsletters/#sthash.emoj9OPm.dpuf>

**New free schools announced**

The Secretary of State announced 111 new free schools, including one sponsored by a grammar school and another by an independent school.  **In addition 20 local authorities have also been granted permission to open new special schools.** They will be required to select academy trusts to run the schools in the future.

[More](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-130-new-free-schools-to-create-more-good-places) information can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-130-new-free-schools-to-create-more-good-places).

**Thank you and Goodbye**

We would like to say thank you and good bye to Pam Kemp from Mott MacDonald who has been the Yorkshire and Humber contact at Mott Macdonald. Pam is effectively retiring at Easter and will only be doing a very limited amount of consultancy work for Motts after that, so will not be continuing to support the YH region. It has been a pleasure working with Pam.

Our new contact after Easter will be Mary Wood.