

## Update: Special Educational Needs Reforms: One year on.....

The Children and Families Act and Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice have been law since September 2014 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>). This briefing aims to outline the progress made in Bolton over the past 12 months.

### SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

- The SEND system now spans from birth to 25 years
- Children, young people and their parents are given greater input, control and choice over decisions made.
- Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) have been replaced with a new 0-25 Education, Health and Care plan.
- Families of children/young people with an EHC Plan are offered the option of a personal budget
- Education, Health and Social Care services for children and young people with SEN should be jointly commissioned
- Every local authority has to have a 'Local Offer' website outlining what provision is available for children and young people who have SEN.
- There is a much greater focus on preparing young people who have SEND for adulthood.

### LOCAL OFFER UPDATE

The Local Offer website is now up and running

It has taken a huge amount of work to refine this website, make it more responsive to searches, make it compatible with hand held devices and include a google translate option so that it can be accessed in a variety of languages.

We are now working on a launch event for January 2016 and the marketing of the website to increase people's awareness of it.

**VISIT THE WEBSITE AND HAVE A LOOK FOR  
YOURSELF**

<http://www.localdirectory.bolton.gov.uk/send.aspx>

### EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS (EHCP)

A Bolton 20 week EHCP assessment process and template have been developed and are in use

A Bolton transition plan detailing when children and young people who currently have a Statement of SEN or a Learning Difficulty Assessment has been published and amended in the light of learning

EHCP cease criteria have been co-produced with the help of parents

A quality assurance process has been developed

There has been a significant training plan in place for the children and young people's workforce in relation to EHCPs

We have commissioned an independent parental survey to support a review of the process and responded to the issues identified. We are in the process of undertaking a young person's survey

We have developed an EHCP pathway for young people in custody

To date we have initiated 189 EHC assessments.

We have issued 113 EHC Plans following a transfer review

Completing new assessments within the 20 week timeframe is difficult, although this is improving as we continue to tweak the system in light of learning

The DfE have recognised that completing transfer reviews within 14 weeks was an extremely difficult task and, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, have extended the timeframe to 20 weeks.

## POST 16

The Post 16 task and finish group have worked hard to develop a Post-16 pathway and have shared this with all stakeholders. It is hoped that this pathway will help to smooth the transition to post Year 11 options by bringing key decision points forward.

We are working hard to develop links with employers, following a 'Pathway to employment workshop' held in January 2015.

Current work is focussing on developing a Post 19 Health offer.

## NEXT STEPS

- Transferring those young people with LDAs to EHCPs during the next academic year
- Transferring children and young people in Years 2,6 and 11 with a Statement of SEN to an EHCP during the next academic year
- Exploring/stimulating the market regarding post 16/post 19 employment opportunities including supported internships, apprenticeships and supported employment

## PERSONAL BUDGETS

We are currently working with a small number of families to pilot our personal budget policy and mechanisms.

We are keen to work with families to personalise the support available to them in order to enable more children and young people with SEND to achieve their outcomes and aspirations.

We are working on developing a personal budget leaflet to explain the purpose and process of personal budgets more clearly. We are also planning some personal budget workshops, for parents and professionals, in order to increase confidence and understanding in this area.

## DID YOU KNOW.....

We will be holding a joint parent/professional SEND conference in January/February 2016. At this event will be launching a short film produced by The Octagon that highlights the benefits of having a diverse workforce. The film has been funded using some of the SEN implementation grant and will highlight the positive impacts of employing young people with SEND for a business. This film will then be sent to local businesses along with a resource pack aiming to empower businesses to feel more confident in employing young people with SEND

## FURTHER TRAINING

Look out on the extranet, Local Offer website and for flyers detailing arrangements for the following events/training planned for the next 6 months:

- SENCO training regarding EHCP processes, paperwork and the revised High Needs Funding file (October/November 2015 and January/February 2016)
- Person Centred Review initial and refresher training (September and October 2015)
- Local Offer Launch event (January 2016)
- Parent/Professional SEND conference (January/February 2016)
- Outcomes focussed training