

SPECIAL EDITION: SEND Reforms



Dear All,

I do hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy some of the summer. My guess is that, like us, your summer has been particularly busy as we have been preparing for the implementation of the Children and Families Act.

CDC activities seem to have revolved around training and implementation materials; we now have the 15 learning modules that make up Independent Supporter training online, with face-to-face training in practice as I write. Parent Partnership Services (now known as Information, Advice and Support Services) have started their more detailed legal training and are getting ready, with our support, for the significant change in their remit.

The CDC health team too are finishing an exciting set of interactive materials on implementation which support health staff understand their new duties, and the participation team are taking a slight breather now that the films, leaflets and posters which support young peoples understanding of the Act have been released.

Information will not be a problem, but knowing what's out there and finding it might be more of an issue. For this reason our website staff have been working hard to ensure that you can now target your searches on the CDC resources hub to be able to find what you need quickly, do have a look.

The high level of activity can be rather all consuming, but we also understand that 1st September is a beginning rather than a full stop.

We remain absolutely committed to our belief that the Children and Families Act has the potential to deliver significantly better outcomes for children, young people and families, that it can and should be a key platform for delivering support that places children, young people and families at the centre of decision making, joins up services around the needs of the family not the needs of professionals and supports young people through a positive journey into adult life.

We will be working hard to do what we can to achieve this and will also be looking at how delivery matches this aspiration. We do not see the 1st September as a big bang but rather a first step on a long road to much needed change, we do hope you will want to share that journey with us.

Best wishes

Christine Lenehan



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Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms

In March 2014, the Children and Families Bill successfully completed its passage through both Houses of Parliament and it received Royal Assent becoming the Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA 2014). Part 3 of CFA 2014 is entitled Children and Young People In England with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Part 3 places duties on local authorities and other services in relation to both disabled children and young people and those with SEN, although not all the sections of the Act apply to both groups. To read our guide to the new legislation go to <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/summary-of-the-children-and-families-act>

Commencement of the Act

The vast majority of Part 3 of CFA 2014 commences on 1 September. The only exceptions to this are the sections which apply to children and young people with SEN in youth custody and the new duties on parent carer assessments. Both of these were brought into the scope of the Act at a late stage in the Parliamentary process. The Government has therefore given local areas until April 2015 to prepare for these additional changes.

From 1 September, local authorities have a number of new legal duties they are required to meet, including:

- Having regard to the principles in section 19 of the Act, including that children, young people and their parents should fully participate in the decisions that affect them;
- Publishing an initial local offer on their website;
- Having joint commissioning arrangements in place with their partner clinical commissioning groups;
- Having processes in place for conducting Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments and drawing up EHC plans

The Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

The Code of Practice was approved by Parliament in July 2014. The Code of Practice is statutory guidance meaning that local authorities, school governing bodies, colleges, clinical commissioning groups, and a range of other bodies must have regard to it. This means they must consider what the Code says, and have legitimate reasons for departing from the guidance. The Code describes how those with legal duties in the Act should meet those duties in practice.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

The parents guide to the Code of Practice

The Department for Education has written a new guide aimed at explaining the new SEND Code of Practice to parents. The guide is a short, more accessible way to understand the Children & Families Act and the other documents that make up the new SEN and disability system.

As well as giving parents and carers guidance as to how to delve deeper into the Code of Practice, this guide is also a great place to start those who are looking for an overview of the new system. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Transitional arrangements

The Government has published statutory guidance on the arrangements for transferring children and young people from the old legal framework to the new one. The guidance sets out that:



- Local authorities must transfer all children and young people with statements of SEN to the new system by April 2018. Between 1 September 2014 and 1 September 2015 local authorities must transfer all children and young people with statements if they transferring from school (including school sixth forms) to a post-16 institution or an apprenticeship.
- Children and young people with statements of SEN must receive a transfer review in order to transfer to the new system. A transfer review requires a local authority to undertake an EHC needs assessment under section 36 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The EHC needs assessments must be person-centred and focused on outcomes.
- Local authorities should publish a local plan in September 2014 to ensure that parents and young people can access information about when they will be transferred to the new system and how the transfer process will work. The local strategy should be co-produced with children, young people and their parents.

More detail can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014

Our A-Z of the SEND reforms

A is for aged 0 to 25

The new reforms see SEND provision extend from age 0 to 25 to support early identification of children and young people's needs and early intervention to support them and support successful preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment.

For more information have a look at:

- www.4children.org.uk/Page/Supporting-the-early-years
- www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk
- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/government-resources/government-advice-on-supported-internships

B is for Personal Budgets

Local authorities must prepare a personal budget for children and young people who have an EHC plan, if the child's parent or the young person requests one. A personal budget is an amount identified as available to secure particular provision set out in the EHC plan.

A personal budget can take the form of a direct payment which a family can spend themselves as cash, a notional budget which can be held by the local authority, or a combination of both approaches.

For more information have a look at:

- www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/pb/

C is for Cultural Change

Section 19 of CFA 2014 sets out the principles that local authorities must have regard to when supporting disabled children and young people and those with SEN. These principles embody the cultural change which the reforms are aiming to achieve, including:

- the importance of taking the views, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their parents into account;
- the importance of children, young people and their parents participating as fully as possible in decision-making and
- supporting children and young people's development and helping them to achieve.

D is for Detained children and young people

Following Parliamentary debates, the Government made significant amendments to bring children and young people with SEN in youth custody within the scope of the reforms. These changes will be introduced in April 2015.

If you're interested in being involved in this piece of legislation please contact Katy Weeks at kweeks@ncb.org.uk

For more resources, best practice and fact sheets please visit the brand new CDC Resources Hub

E is for Education, Health and Care Plans

EHC assessments and plans replace statutory assessments and statements of special educational need. EHC plans should be person centred and focused on outcomes. EHC plans can be maintained when a young person is in college, undertaking an apprenticeship, or not in education, employment or training and potentially up to the age of 25.

For more information have a look at:

- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/a-step-by-step-guide-to-ehc-plans
- www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/ap/

F is for Further Education

The Act brings post-16 institutions into the new SEND legal framework. The definition of SEN is extended to include young people up to the age of 25; the definition includes 'learning difficulties' and 'disabilities'. FE colleges and independent specialist providers will be required to 'have regard to' a new 0-25 SEND Code of Practice and general FE colleges will be required to use their 'best endeavours' for students with SEND.

For more information have a look at:

- www.aoc.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/sen/projects
- www.natspec.org.uk

H is for Health

CFA 2014 places a number of new legal duties on the health service. This includes a duty on health services to put in place joint commissioning arrangements with the local authority, and a duty to deliver the health provision set out in an Education, Health and Care plan.

For more information have a look at:

- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/health-briefing-on-the-children-and-families-act-2014

I is for Information, Advice and Support Services

Every local authority must develop an IAS Service which provides information, advice and support to children, their parents and young people. This should include information, advice and support in relation to SEN, disability, health and social care law. Local authorities should build on their Parent Partnership Services when developing the IAS Service.

For more information have a look at www.iasnetwork.org.uk

I is also for Independent Supporters

Independent Supporters are individuals recruited and managed by the private, voluntary and community sector to provide advice and support for parents of children with SEN, and young people with SEN, through the statutory assessment and Education, Health and Care Plan processes.

For more information have a look at

- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/independent-support-evidence-and-build-report
- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/guidance-to-parent-carers-on-independent-support

J is for Joint Commissioning

The Act places a duty on local authorities and 'partner commissioning bodies' to put in place joint commissioning arrangements. 'Partner commissioning bodies' are the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England) and individual CCGs who provide services to children in that area. The purpose of the joint commissioning arrangements is to plan and jointly commission the education, health and care provision for disabled children or young people and those with SEN.

For more information have a look at:

- www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/slcncommissioningreport
- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/independent-support-fact-sheet-6-health-duties

L is for Local Offer

The Children and Families Act requires local authorities to publish and maintain a local offer. The local offer is information that sets out the education, health and social care provision that the local authority expects to be available for disabled children and young people and those with SEN. This specifically includes provision that will help them prepare for adulthood. The local offer should be developed by local authorities and their health partners, together with children, their parents and young people

For more information have a look at:

- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-send-reforms

M is for Mediation

Local authorities have a duty to inform parents and young people of their right to access mediation and they must make arrangements for mediation if the parent or young person request it. The mediator must be independent (e.g. not an employee of the local authority).

P is for Parent Carers

The views, wishes and feelings of parents, as well as the child or young person, are at the heart of the reforms. Parents must be listened to and fully involved in decisions that affect their children. Making sure, then, that parents have full access to the information they need about changes to the system is key.

For more information have a look at:

- www.nnpcf.org.uk
- www.cafamily.org.uk
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers

S is for Schools

School Action and School Action Plus will be replaced by SEN support: a graduated approach to identifying and meeting SEN, with schools involving parents in identifying needs, deciding outcomes, planning provision and seeking expertise at whatever point it is needed.

For more information have a look at:

- www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/media/253669/2014_code_and_the_commitment_final_july_2014.pdf
- www.nasen.org.uk

T is for Transitioning from old to new system

Children and young people with statements of SEN must receive a transfer review in order to move to the new system. This involves undertaking an EHC assessment and decision whether an EHC plan is necessary. However, no child or young person should lose their statement and not have it replaced with an EHC plan simply because the system is changing. All children and young people with statements must be moved to the new system by April 2018

For more information have a look at:

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014

Y is for Young People

A child is a person under compulsory school age. A young person is a person over compulsory school age but under 25. This distinction is important because once a child becomes a young person they are entitled to take decisions in relation to the Act on their own behalf, rather than having their parents take the decisions for them. This is subject to a young person 'having capacity' to take a decision under the Mental Capacity Act 2005

For more information have a look at:

- www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-send-reforms

Ask the Minister



Last month we asked CDC members what questions they'd like to put to the Minister for Children and Families, Edward Timpson.

What will actually happen on the 1st September?

The first thing that will happen is every local authority will publish their local offer, which sets out what support is available in your area to all 0-25 children and young people with SEN and disability. Also, any requests for new assessments will be considered under the new Education, Health and Care (EHC) process.

EHC plans are replacing statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments. The plan will place much more emphasis on personal goals and will describe the support your child will receive while they are in education or training. Under the new system, councils must be able to offer a new co-ordinated EHC plan assessment to new applicants and can issue EHC plans within 20 weeks where one is needed. Those with an EHC plan have the legal right to ask for a personal budget, which they will agree with their council. Councils must make sure there is a source of independent information, advice and support for parents and children and young people with SEN, including new Independent Supporters. Where there is disagreement, families must also have access to mediation services so disputes can be resolved locally. Families still have the right to go to the Tribunal to resolve disputes if they want to do so, but must have a certificate from the Council to show they have at least considered mediation first. These arrangements will develop and improve over time.

How will you hold Local Authorities to account for not applying the provisions in the Children and Families Act adequately/correctly?

For the first year of delivery, we will focus on monitoring and challenging local authorities on whether or not key elements of the statutory framework are in place. We will not have official statistics to see the impact of the reforms for some time, so we are proposing to replace our local authority readiness survey with an implementation survey. We will continue to ask Parent Carer Forums to complete a termly survey of LAs' implementation, to help identify areas causing concern.



We will take action – including appropriate support and intervention – where it is clear that a local authority is struggling to implement the reforms.

In the longer term, we are developing an accountability framework that will allow parents and young people to hold local authorities to account for implementing the reforms. We expect this to be in place from September 2015 and it will include an agreed approach for challenging poor performing local authorities and taking more formal intervention action where necessary.

How will teachers be supported through CPD to understand and implement the Code of Practice? What IT tools and resources will be available to them?

Schools are best placed to determine the professional development needs of their staff and it is for them to include the quality of SEN support within their approach to school improvement, professional development and performance management arrangements. We are producing supplementary materials aimed at teachers to support implementing the Code of Practice and have also funded the voluntary and community sector to provide information to schools and teachers on the reforms. This includes the development of a new SEND Gateway providing education professionals with a free, easy access to high quality information, resources and training for meeting the needs of children with SEN and disabilities.

The test for an EHC plan seems to be if the special educational provision required to meet the child or young person's needs cannot reasonably be provided from the resources normally available to mainstream settings; and

How do you define "normally available" in the new school funding system? Is this up to the nationally determined threshold of £6,000 per year? Or would you say that "normally available" also include stop-up funding from the High Needs block? Where do you draw the line?

The definition of SEN and the legal basis for issuing an EHC plan has not changed from the previous law on statements. The decision on whether to issue an EHC plan is made solely on the individual circumstances of the child or young person and the ability of educational providers to meet their needs.

"Resources normally available to mainstream settings" is not the same as





the threshold in the high needs funding arrangements, for which the costs of additional SEN support up to £6,000 are met by schools from their annual budget. There are circumstances where it would be appropriate for a child or young person to have a plan where the additional support costs are lower than £6,000, or occasions where a child might not need a plan, even though the costs of their support exceed £6,000 – it depends on what is best to meet the needs of the child or young person in question and help them achieve their outcomes, and that is the most important point of all.

How will the introduction of SEN Support mean for those with needs such as dyspraxia who need of extra support at school but are not deemed severe enough to warrant having a statement? At present the support provided seems to be purely discretionary

The new Code of Practice sets out clear guidance for educational settings on the process for appropriate identification, assessment, monitoring and securing further support for children with SEND which includes those with dyspraxia. The SEN support, which consists of a 'graduated approach', aims to ensure all educational settings have arrangements in place for monitoring the progress of all pupils and respond quickly where children are struggling to make appropriate progress. The Code makes specific reference to dyspraxia amongst examples of conditions that educational settings should be aware of when planning SEND provisions.

Furthermore, our reforms to the SEND system will ensure local authorities work with local schools and partners to publish a local offer of the support available to children, parents and families with SEND needs. This will make it easier for parents to influence and understand what their school provides to support pupils and what other support is available locally.



Specialist teacher support e.g. teacher of the Deaf or VI has traditionally been provided free of charge to schools (including for post 16) but colleges have had to buy in any such support they require for students. The rationale has been that this is because the services are funded from DSG. Do you see any need or rationale for changing this way of working in view of the Children's Act, EHC plans and the new funding mechanisms?

The arrangements for specialist teacher support are for local areas to determine. There are different ways of doing this and local authorities and their partners are best placed to decide what works best for them.

The Independent Support programme is funded until March 2016. What will happen to that service, the supporters and those that they have been supporting following the end of this period?



Government funding for Independent Supporters is intended to add to the resources local authorities should be making available to support families in the new system. In the early stages of transition, local authorities will face additional pressures to both transfer children and young people with statements onto EHC Plans, plus deal with new entrants, and funding for Independent Supporters is intended to help with that.

The Independent Support programme, managed by the Council for Disabled Children on behalf of the Government, includes an element of work to consider how to ensure an appropriate legacy is put in place once central Government funding ceases.

Critically, Independent Support is only one element of support available to families – local authorities are responsible for ensuring that families have access to impartial information, advice and support and those duties continue beyond March 2016.



Update on CDC networks

Independent Supporters in the field

Since the last edition of the CDC Digest, work on the Independent Support programme has been racing along. In June the Evidence and Build phase came to an end and in July we released the **Evidence and Build phase report** which set out the key findings for what an effective IS service should look like.



The tender to deliver Independent Support went out shortly after and resulted in over 100 bids from a variety of organisations and providers. We procured 39 small providers to deliver an IS service across 66 local authority areas and 8 larger organisations were commissioned to cover the remaining 86. In addition 148 Parent Partnership Services (now known as Information, Advice and Support Services or IAS Services) have also been provided funding to ensure that they can offer an IS service and extend their service offer up the age range to 25. To find out who will be delivering IS in your local area please go to www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/638840/listoforgsundercontract-august2014-final.pdf

With contracts confirmed, face-to-face and online training is currently underway and it is expected that there will be around 1,000 Independent Supporters in place by the end of September and with a further 300 in place by next year.

As of this month we can say that there will be an IS agency in every local authority area from September 2014 to help parents and young people. That's national coverage, subject to contracts, and an offer to feel good about. However, it will not be perfect in every local area and there will be challenges and obstacles ahead, some of which you will see and experience firsthand. Local success of course will be judged over time, but at least the journey has started and more importantly it has started ready for 1 September 2014.

Do you have any questions about Independent Support?
Please email independentsupport@ncb.org.uk

NPPN becomes the IASS Network

From the 1st September Parent Partnership Services will become Information, Advice and Support (IAS) services with an extended remit to help children and young people aged 0 to 25 and parent carers access the SEND provision they need.



Accordingly the National Parent Partnership Network, hosted at CDC, will also be changing to reflect the changes in local areas. From the 1st September they will become the Information, Advice and Support Services Network (IASS Network).

What does the IASS Network do?

- Provides a range of information, advice and support to IAS Services.
- Promotes the development and standards of IAS Services.
- Provides training to IAS Services on relevant subjects including the law on SEN and disability, health and social care (with IPSEA).
- Promotes service impartiality and arrangements that ensure IAS Services are operating at arm's length from their local authority.
- Provides a national picture of the work of IAS Services through the annual 'Benchmarking' report.
- Promotes dialogue and collaboration between IAS Services and other partners.
- Engages strategically with DfE on key issues arising for IAS Services.
- Supports an e-forum for all IAS Services which relevant information can be sent and discussed.
- Works with the National Network of Parent Carer Forums to improve the working relationships between IAS Services and parent carer forums.
- Facilitates the SEN Information Group - a network of organisations that provide direct advice and support to families of children with SEND.

For further information see - www.iassnetwork.org.uk or contact us on iassn@ncb.org.uk and 020 7843 1900.

Update on CDC networks cont'd

Preparing for Adulthood work with Pathfinder Champions

As one of 10 Delivery Partners commissioned by the Department of Education to support local authority Pathfinder Champions, Preparing for Adulthood have been busy delivering training and developing resources to support the transition to the new reforms.



The PfA team are offering a range of support to help local areas prepare for implementation including help with regional clusters; networks for post 16 providers and local authorities and they also have a small number of days to provide 1:1 support.

If you are interested in the support that the PfA team are offering you can contact them via your [Regional Pathfinder Champion](#) or via the [PfA Regional Facilitator](#)

In addition to the regional support PfA have a number of national initiatives on:

- Employment pathways and [supported internships](#)
- Joint commissioning for young people aged 14-25
- Mental health and employment and
- Workforce development

Preparing for Adulthood Resources

All the resources that PfA have been busy developing, including their latest fact sheet on the links between the Children and Families Act and the Care Act, can be found on their website at www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk. If there are any other resources you would find helpful then do get in touch with one of the team at robrien@ncb.org.uk. You can also keep up to date on the latest news from PfA via their [e-bulletin](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Preparing for Adulthood is delivered by a partnership between **NDTi** and CDC

EPIC members pass on the baton

In July, EPIC held an open day to recruit new members. After a successful application process the shortlisted candidates were invited to London to take part in a series of activities with current EPIC members and, as a result, 6



young people were offered a seat on EPIC.

It means it's a sad farewell to some of our long-standing EPIC members who have been incredibly dedicated in representing the views of disabled young people and passionate in their role advising the Department for Education. But we also give a warm welcome to the new recruits who will continue in their footsteps and ensure the reforms deliver in practice.

Health team working with NHS to develop training resource for Health practitioners

CDC, funded by NHS England, has developed online modules and resources for Clinical Commissioning Groups and health services which explain the reforms to the SEN and disability system in relation to health commissioners and practitioners. The resource will help areas to implement the reforms locally using good practice examples from local areas and newly developed tools.

The modules will detail the joint commissioning duty, focus on outcomes and health service involvement in the Education Health and Care assessment process and the development of the local offer. Following events earlier in the year, several areas were identified as needing further clarification including the role of the Designated Medical/Clinical Officer and data and information sharing between services; the resource will look in detail at these areas.

The resource includes briefings and tools for download, interactive explanations of the reforms as well as film clips from children, young people, parents, senior NHS representatives and professionals involved in the pathfinder process. This will be available on the CDC website after being launched on 24 September. We are also hosting a series of events on 24th and 30th September and 10th October. To find out more have a look at our events section on page 26 or contact Georgie Lund at **GLund@ncb.org.uk**

CDC launches new resource hub

To mark the commencement of the new reforms we have launched a new and improved Resource Hub which will enable users to filter information by the key reform themes as well as helping people find more targeted materials.

The new resource hub has also been updated with a whole host of new information including case studies, fact sheets, guides, toolkits, films and posters. But if you still can't find what you're looking for then please let us know and we'll make our best efforts to fill that gap. Or if you'd like to add your resource to the hub please contact Hannah Mackay at **HMackay@ncb.org.uk**

SENDirect

Opening up Opportunities for families

Supporting choice and control for children, young people and families

SENDirect is a new online service developed to help people search for, compare, and buy services. It also provides high quality information that will inform the decisions they make and give them confidence in having their voice heard.



For the last year the SENDirect team have been working with 10 pilot local areas to co-produce a service that will make a real difference to families and provision for children and young people with SEND. The 'beta-launch' of the website is scheduled for September, with advanced functionality introduced in stages before an official launch in March 2015. Whilst the majority of services and activity will be concentrated in and around the pilot areas in this initial period, anyone can visit and use the website and ALL providers are encouraged to register and list their details.

What are the benefits for service providers?

SENDirect offers much more than a directory listing, enabling providers to:

- Handle enquiries: keep track of who is contacting you and whether you've responded to their queries;
- Build relationships: take away the pressure that can often come with face to face interactions. Letting people go at their own pace gives them the space and opportunity to say what they really want and need.
- Co-produce and personalise: tailor what you can offer to an individual child or young person through dialogue. Find out their strengths, preferences and needs to shape your offer;
- Manage payments: use SENDirect's simple and safe platform to allow families to buy direct from you online;
- Assess service performance: find out how many people have viewed your listing and keep track of feedback and reviews;
- Access market data: understand how your service is performing against competitors and identify gaps and opportunities in the market. Find out how small adaptations could enable your service to grow.

Register NOW!

SENDirect are calling on providers of education, social care, health and leisure services to register their services. To register go to www.sendirect.org.uk/get-involved/list-your-service/

SENDGateway

Quality information for educational professionals

How education professionals find high quality SEN resources: A one stop shop to support implementation of the SEND Reforms

Developing and producing excellent resources and training for the special educational needs and disability (SEND) market is part of everyday work for CDC members and with the implementation of the new SEND Code of Practice: 0 – 25 uppermost in the minds of education professionals at the start of the school year, where do they go for the latest independent information and support?



Over the past three years nasen has been listening to and using feedback from the thousands of SENCOs and other education professionals we have worked with, to develop the SEND Gateway.

What is the SEND Gateway?

The SEND Gateway is an online portal offering education professionals free, easy access to high quality information, resources and training for meeting the needs of children with SEND. It provides an opportunity for the education workforce to develop new skills and understanding, navigate the recent and upcoming reforms to SEN and access resources and training materials from the UK's leading voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations.

How does the SEND Gateway help get resources into schools?

The SEND Gateway brings together training and support materials from the Department for Education (DfE), National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, schools, settings and other education providers in one place, making them easier for front line teaching staff to access when they need them.

In just over three months since the SEND Gateway was launched by Edward Timpson, Children and Families Minister the website has achieved:

- Over 2,800 registered users
- A total of 21,309 visitors to the website, over 13,000 of whom are new visitors and over 8,000 are returning visitors
- An amazing 103,661 page views covering the 512 resources currently available on the SEND Gateway

For more information visit www.sendgateway.org.uk and 'sign up' to find out how you can add details about your resources to the SEND Gateway or email webadmin@nasen.org.uk or call 01827 311 500 for more information.

Best practice

Learning from the Pathfinder Champions

Overview

Between September 2011 and March 2013 the Department for Education provided funding to 20 SEND pathfinders, consisting of 31 local authorities and their partners, to aid them in trialling the reforms outlined within the March 2011 'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' Green Paper and subsequent Children and Families Bill (enacted 13th March 2014). Following this, between April 2013 and March 2015, a number of these pathfinders were selected as regional and national SEND pathfinder champions to support all local areas in preparing to implement the reforms.

Pathfinders and champions have provided valuable early learning which has supported the development of the legislation coupled with practical tips and tools which local areas have benefitted from in preparing for the reforms. The Mott MacDonald Pathfinder Support Team has worked closely with these pathfinders and champions since September 2011 and currently supports a number of regional and national pathfinder champions in helping local areas implement the reforms. Further information on the pathfinder champion programme can be found on the SEND Pathfinder website at www.sendpathfinder.co.uk.

2014/15 support offer for local authorities and their partners

Support is available to all local authorities and their partners between now and March 2015 to help implement the SEND reforms. The offer is organised on a regional basis and delivered by a 'regional SEND Reform Hub' consisting of the regional pathfinder champion and other organisations with expertise in various elements of the reforms including: Mott MacDonald, Preparing for Adulthood, The National Network of Parent Carer Forums, Early Support, The National Parent Partnership Network and Contact a Family.

Each regional SEND Reform Hub has its own dedicated website including details of how to access this support offer. A list of these websites can be found on the SEND Pathfinder Champion web page at www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/pathfinderchampions/.



In addition to regional support, expertise on the main areas of reform is also available in the form of national pathfinder champions. A list of national pathfinder champions for 2014-15 is also available on the SEND Pathfinder Champion web page at www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/pathfinderchampions/.

Mott MacDonald Information Packs

Working in close partnership with the pathfinders and champions, CDC and delivery partners, Mott MacDonald has developed a suite of information packs covering the following 6 thematic areas:

- 0-25 Coordinated Assessment Process and Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan
- Local Offer
- Personal Budgets
- Joint Commissioning
- Preparing for Adulthood
- Engagement and Participation of parent carers, children and young people

These information packs provide useful top tips for implementation and draw together a number of helpful resources and case study learning to support local areas in implementing the SEND reforms.

Updated versions of these information packs are regularly published. The latest version of these packs (December 2013 and April 2014) can be found at www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/info_packs. An updated version of these packs will be published shortly via the same link.

Who's your Pathfinder Champion?

North East (NE):

In the North East, Darlington will be the champion lead LA in conjunction with Early Support.

Yorkshire and Humber (YH):

North Yorkshire, Calderdale and York City

North West (NW):

Wigan, Manchester, Salford and Lancashire

East Midlands (EM):

Leicester City and Nottinghamshire

West Midlands (WM):

Solihull, Birmingham City, Coventry City, Dudley, Sandwell, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire

South West 1 (SW1) & South West 2 (SW2) :

The South West region have been divided into two with the regional champion role being delivered by a partnership of Cornwall, Portsmouth and Southampton supported by Mott MacDonald.

East of England (EA):

Hertfordshire and Bedford

London 1 (LO1):

Bromley, Bexley and Enfield

London 2 (LO2):

SE7 consortium which consists of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, Medway, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey

South East (SE):

SE7 consortium which consists of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, Medway, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey



Contact details, examples of best practice and further information can be found at www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/pathfinderchampions

SEND Reform Delivery Partners

The Delivery Partners are funded by the Department for Education to support the implementation of the SEND reforms. They provide training and advice to local authorities and have a vast range of targeted resources on different aspects of the reforms which are accessible on the links below.

Contact a Family support the families of disabled children providing information, advice, and training and ensuring representation and participation of children and their families.

www.cafamily.org.uk

Early Support works across the English regions working to ensure that early support is extended from birth to adulthood and embedded in local areas across..

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/earlysupport

Information, Advice and Support Services Network provides training, support and advice to local Information, Advice and Support Services (formerly Parent Partnership Services).

www.iassnetwork.org.uk

National Network for Parent Carer Forums represents over 150 PCFs working to effect local and national service improvement through participation and co production with parent carers.

www.nnpcf.org.uk

NatSIP, the National Sensory Impairment Partnership, is a partnership of organisations working together to improve outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairment.

www.natsip.org.uk



Delivery Partners cont'd

Preparing for Adulthood have expertise in paid employment, good health, independent living and friends, relationships and community inclusion.

www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk

The Autism Education Trust coordinates, supports and promotes effective education practice for all children and young people on the autism spectrum.

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

The Communications Trust supports people working with children and young people with their speech, language and communication.

www.thecommunicationstrust.org.uk

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust supports the communication between government, leading dyslexia organisations, parents, schools, colleges, teachers and the sector.

www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/



Latest Resources

Briefing on the Children and Families Act

The Council for Disabled Children have produced a brief summary of the Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014: children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Although not intended to provide a complete description of every section in the Act, the briefing does highlight and explain the most significant requirements of the new legislation and provides a really useful summary of the key themes.

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/summary-of-the-children-and-families-act

Parents guide to the Code of Practice

The Department of Education has published a new guide for parents explaining the new SEN and disability (SEND) Code of Practice. This guide is a short, more accessible way to understand Part 3 of the Children & Families Act and the other documents that make up the new SEND system. As well as giving readers guidance as to how to delve deeper into the Code of Practice, this guide is also a great place to start for parents or the wider public who are looking for an overview of the new system.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers

A step-by-step guide to EHC Plans

This guide brings together the primary and secondary legislation and the statutory guidance in the SEND Code of Practice on EHC plans. Along with a summary of the legislative framework the guide features notes and additional guidance from the Council for Disabled Children on how to complete different sections of EHC plans.

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/a-step-by-step-guide-to-ehc-plans

What Works

LAUNCHED THIS WEEK! To mark Parliamentary approval of the new SEND Code of Practice, The Communication Trust have launched a fact sheet which highlights sections of the Code that relate to evidence-based provision and suggests ways in which What Works can support practitioners in light of the 2014 Code



www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/whatworks

Information for young people on the changes to their SEND support

Making Ourselves Heard has been working with the Department of Education and disabled children and young people to co-produce a range of information materials for children and young people on the SEND reforms.

As well as a series of leaflets and posters there are also a collection of short films that talk about four key areas of the reforms; Education, Health and Care plans, Decision making, Post-16 support and The Local Offer.

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-send-reforms

Making the reforms work for children who need palliative care

Together for Short Lives has held events across England to link professionals involved in caring for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions with commissioners and providers across health, social care and education services. The events aimed to improve understanding of children and young people who need palliative care and how to support them. Together for Short Lives has written a short report which sets out delegates' feedback on what is working well, what the challenges are and what SEND agencies can do to make the new system work for children who need palliative care.

The report - as well as all the presentations from the events - can be accessed online at: **www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/professionals/projects/send_project/resources**

Special Needs Jungle, SEND system flowcharts

Special Needs Jungle have worked with the Department for Education on a series of flow charts which clearly demonstrate several aspects of how the reforms will work in practice, aimed at parents and carers.

www.specialneedsjungle.com/new-send-system-flow-charts-together

See the **BRAND NEW** CDC Resources Hub for a huge range of information and best practice
www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources

Events on SEND Reforms

Engaging disabled children and young people in the SEND Reforms

When: Thursday 27th November 10am - 4pm

Where: National Children's Bureau

Take advantage of our Early Bird Rate if you book before 30th September 2014.

Many young people do not have access to adequate and appropriate information about the SEND reforms, how it affects them, and how they can be involved in decisions about their changing support.

This seminar offers expert speakers in disabled young people's participation as well as interactive workshops to share learning and best practice.

Join us to hear directly from disabled young people from EPIC about the impact of involving them in decisions about the SEND reforms.

Take advantage of our Early Bird Rate and save a third off the full price of £150 if you purchase your ticket before 30th September 2014. Book your ticket here:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-ourselves-heard-expert-seminar-tickets-12632858219?aff=affiliate1

Supporting health practitioners with the implementation of the SEND reforms

London: 24th September 9.30am - 4.00pm

Birmingham: 30th September 9.30am - 4.00pm

Leeds: 10th October 9.30am - 4.00pm

FREE to attend

The Council for Disabled Children, funded by NHS England, is hosting these events to launch an online resource for Clinical Commissioning Groups and health professionals to inform them of their duties relating to children and young people with SEN and disability under the Children and Families Act 2014. These events will include workshops relating to various aspects of the reforms as well as presentations on implementation.

Who should attend: Clinical Commissioning Group representatives with responsibility for children and young people with SEND, joint commissioners and health professionals who work with children and young people with SEND.

To reserve your place at the conference please go to

- **London Registration**
- **Birmingham Registration**
- **Leeds Registration**

Anti-bullying Week and free training

When: Monday 17th Friday 21st November

Co-ordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), Anti-Bullying Week is a high-profile campaign that places a national spotlight on the effects of bullying on the lives of children and young people across the UK.

Running from Monday 17th - Friday 21st November 2014, this year's Anti-Bullying week is calling on children and young people, schools, parents and carers to come together and take action to stop the bullying of ALL children and young people - including disabled children - who research shows are significantly more likely to experience bullying in schools and the wider community. To find out more about Anti-Bullying Week go to www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week.aspx

ABA, as part of their SEND Department for Education funded programme are also offering FREE training to schools, parents and carers and the wider children's workforce on preventing and responding appropriately to the bullying of children and young people with SEND.

Find out how you can access this training programme at www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/the-project/free-training.aspx

No Pens Day Wednesday returns in 2014 with a SEND Reform focus

When: Wednesday 15th October 2014

No Pens Day Wednesday is a national speaking and listening event run by The Communications Trust which provides free resources to support schools and settings put down their pens and pick up their language to teach a full day of lessons that don't involve writing!

To mark the implementation of the SEND Reforms, in 2014 they are extending NPDW to support early years settings and special schools. They'll be producing new resources and lesson plans specifically for these settings as well as improved resources for parents as part of supporting schools to engage with the 2014 SEND reforms.

With 3,000 schools already signed up you can register your interest for No Pens Day Wednesday 2014 below and be the first to access new for 2014 free resources as they become available. If you don't work for a school but still want to access the resources please do register- all are welcome to get involved!

www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/projects/no-pens-day-wednesday/sign-up-for-no-pens-day-wednesday/



more events on SEND Reforms

Transforming early years and post-16 autism education

When: Early Years: Tuesday 21st October 10am - 4:20pm. Post-16: Wednesday 22 October 2014

Where: Early years: Holiday Inn, Birmingham City Centre, B5 4EW. Post-16: Holiday Inn London Regents Park, W1W 5EE

Following its successful schools programme, training over 33,000 school staff since 2012, the Autism Education Trust is launching an early years programme and a post 16 programme - three tiers of training for early years professionals and post-16 professionals across the full range of settings.

These free launch events will cover the potential of the new SEND legislation for the early years sector and post 16 sector and the importance of professional development in realising it, with speeches from Charlie Henry HMI (Ofsted lead for SEND) and Stephen Kingdom (Head of SEND, Department for Education).

[Click here to register for free tickets to the early years launch event](#)

[Click here to register for free tickets to the Post-16 launch event](#)



Early Support launch new App

Who is it for?

Parent carers

What does it do?

The Early Support app has been designed to provide an easy way for parents and carers to store, share and organise information about their child and the support and services they receive. It's up to you as a parent what information to upload, and who you want to share that information with; be that doctors, nurses, teachers or social workers.

Practitioners, managers, family and friends will only be able to access the information from the primary user (the app 'owner') that they have been invited to view.

Education, health and care plans

Another key aspect of the app is that it provides a single plan format that can form the basis for the new Education, Health and Care Plan. This should save time for all those involved in the assessment process.

Finding and using the app

You can download the app from the Apple Store, Google Play or online. and there is an accompanying guide to the app which is straightforward to use and is divided into sections that match the sections of the App.

Download the guide here.



“It’s vital that children and young people with SEND can have their say on important decisions affecting their future. The pioneering early support app will give young people a simple, single place to set out their needs to those who work with them - creating a digital link between the young person and their key professionals.”

Edward Timpson, Children and Families Minister

Find the app on the **App Store**, **Google Play** (for Android devices), and **online**.

About the Digest

The CDC Digest is a quarterly round-up of all the essential policy, practice and other news involving disabled children and young people, and their families.

You can **download the latest issues from the CDC website**.

If you would like to be added to the list to receive this digest, email **hmackay@ncb.org.uk** with 'Subscribe to CDC Digest' in the subject line.

About CDC

The **Council for Disabled Children** (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations. We are the only national body that brings together the diverse range of organisations that work with and for disabled children to support the development and implementation of policy and practice. Our work impacts on over 800,000 disabled children and their families.

CDC hosts **Early Support, Making Ourselves Heard** network, the **IASS Network**, the **Special Educational Consortium**, the **Transition Information Network**, the **Independent Support** programme and the **Every Disabled Child Matters** campaign.

Find us on social media



www.councilfordisabledchildren.wordpress.com



www.facebook.com/councilfordisabledchildren



[@CDC_tweets](https://twitter.com/CDC_tweets)



linkedin.com/company/council-for-disabled-children



The views in this e-bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council for Disabled Children