

Excellent, joined-up care for everyone

SEND Reforms Torbay – Briefing Sheet – Dec 2013

From September 2014, there will be a new process for supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability:-

“All children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) should be able to reach their full potential in school. They should also be supported to make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.” – *Department for Education.*

What’s changing?

- For children and young people with more complex needs a co-ordinated assessment process and the new 0-25 Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC plan) will replace statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs).
- All SEN duties to apply equally to all schools including academies and free schools.
- Local authority, health and care services to commission service jointly re SEN and disabilities.
- Offer of a personal budget for families and young people with a plan, extending choice and control over their support.
- Local authorities must publish a clear, transparent local offer of services for all children and young people with SEN.
- There is new guidance on the support pupils and students should receive in further education and training settings.
- There is a greater focus on multi agency support that enables those with SEN to succeed in their education and make successful transition into adulthood.
- There is a clearer focus on the views of children and young people and on their role in decision-making.

Which organisations does this affect?

The changes are significant and as such the impact will be on a wide range of organisations, outlined below:

- local authorities (education, social care and relevant housing and employment and other services)
- early years providers
- schools
- further education colleges
- sixth form colleges
- academies (including free schools)
- independent special schools and independent specialist providers
- pupil referral units and alternative providers
- NHS England
- clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)
- NHS trusts

How are we preparing in Torbay?

A participative approach

In order to manage the change over the next 9 months, Torbay has put together a structure to ensure that all the necessary preparation will be in place.

A multi agency steering group chaired by Richard Williams (Director of Children’s Services) has been set up, with the principle tasks of coordinating the roll out of the new process and ensuring that project plan remains on schedule.

Task groups are in place with the role of developing three key areas of work (below). The initial focus has been on ensuring that all stakeholder groups are represented and can participate in the development of the new processes. The first meetings were used to agree membership and group objectives. The groups include representatives of the Parent's Participation Forum, the Voluntary Sector, and links are being developed with young people's forums.

Task Groups (links):

- [Preparing for Adulthood](#)
- [Education, Health & Care Plans](#)
- [Local Offer](#)

For further information relating to steering group / task group membership, please see the **Torbay Project Structure** document on the [SEND Reforms web page](#).

What's happened so far?

Preparing for Adulthood

-Identified a cohort of young people with SEN who will be approached to pilot the new preparing for adulthood process.
-Identified the settings that will be affected.

Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP)

-Activity in progress gaining feedback from staff, young people and parents on plan formats. This will be used to help shape the Torbay version of the EHCP.
-Produced data to understand the number of young people that will be affected in Torbay (current estimate 960).
-Considering cultural changes which need to occur prior to implementation.

Local Offer

-Agreed where the Local Offer will be hosted.
-Developed initial templates of questions to gather statutory and further information about service provision.
-Distributed template to specific services to trial.
-Primary School group formed to identify additional services and start to apportion costs.

What can I do to prepare?

The SEND reforms project team will ensure that all relevant information is made available on the [SEND Reforms web page](#) over the next 9 months. In addition, events to communicate changes will be arranged within organisations or externally and these will be publicised by email and via 'SEND champions' who sit on the task groups.

Further support

If you require any further information, please email SENDreforms@torbay.gov.uk or contact Matthew Gifford (SEND Reforms project manager) on 01803 208953.

Useful links

- Torbay SEND: <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/index/yourservices/fis/fiseducation/sen/sendreforms.htm>
- Council for Disabled Children: <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources/cdcs-resources>
- SEND Pathfinder information: <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk>
- Devon SEND Pathfinder: <http://www.devonsendpathfinder.info/>
- Torbay Parent Participation Forum: <http://www.torbayppf.co.uk/>