



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ALN

Additional learning needs (ALN) transformation programme

What's changing?

We want to transform expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN).

To do so, we have developed the ALN transformation programme, which transforms the separate systems for special educational needs (SEN) in schools and learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) in further education, to create a unified system for supporting learners from 0 to 25 with ALN.

The transformed system will:

- ensure that all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential
- improve the planning and delivery of support for learners from 0 to 25 with ALN, placing learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process
- focus on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes.

New legislation and statutory guidance is only one aspect, albeit a fundamental one, of the wider package of reforms needed. The ALN transformation programme also focuses on skills development for the education workforce, to deliver effective support to learners with ALN in the classroom, as well as easier access to specialist support, information and advice.

Why it's changing

We are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education system for learners in Wales. A system where needs are identified early and addressed quickly, and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

Around 22 per cent of all learners at maintained schools in Wales have SEN. Overall the academic attainment of learners with SEN is poor compared to the rest of the learner population.

Under the new system, planning will be flexible and responsive, our professionals will be skilled and confident in identifying needs and deploying strategies to help learners overcome their barriers to learning, and the learner will be at the centre of everything we do.



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A 0–25 age range

There will be a single legislative system relating to the support given to children and young people aged 0 to 25 years who have additional learning needs (ALN) and are receiving education and/or training.

Welsh language

If a child or young person needs ALP in Welsh, this must be documented in the IDP and 'all reasonable steps' must be taken to secure the provision in Welsh.

A mandatory ALN Code

The ALN Code will ensure the new ALN system has a set of clear, legally enforceable parameters within which local authorities and governing bodies that are responsible for supporting children and young people with ALN must act.

Clear and consistent rights of appeal

All children, their parents/carers and young people up to the age of 25 will have the right to appeal to the Education Tribunal against decisions made by a local authority or further education institute (FEI) in relation to their ALN or their IDP.

Children and young people must be provided with access to independent advocacy services.

A unified plan

Individual development plans (IDPs) will replace the existing variety of statutory and non-statutory plans for learners of compulsory school age and below, as well as for those learners over compulsory school age in school or further education.

This will ensure consistency and continuity, and that provision and rights are protected regardless of the severity or complexity of needs.



Increased participation of children and young people

Children, their parents/carers and young people will be supported to understand and participate in the decisions which are taken that affect them, provided with appropriate reassurance, and offered opportunities to raise concerns and have their questions answered.

Avoiding disagreements and earlier disagreement resolution

If a child, their parents/carers or a young person is not happy with decisions that have been made about their ALN or IDP by a school, they may request that a local authority reviews or reconsiders it.

Increased collaboration


Where necessary, IDPs will include additional learning provision (ALP) agreed by health services, social services and other services, as well as education. IDPs will contain an action plan that is clear about which agency is responsible for delivering the individual elements.

Find out more

Online

www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme

Twitter

 #additionallearningneeds #ALNWales #ALNAct

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