

Implementing the 0-25 special needs system

Government advice for local authorities and health partners

December 2013

Selected pages from the implementation pack

Questions for local strategic leaders

The following questions are intended to assist local strategic leaders in thinking about implementing the new approach in their area. They are drawn from pathfinder experiences.

- What can I be doing personally to support this reform agenda and change cultures?
- Who is responsible for each of the major steps of implementation; and who has overall accountability for ensuring we are ready for implementation in September 2014?
- What does my local area's data tell me about outcomes for children and young people with SEN?
- How does SEN reform link to other reforms we're leading locally (e.g. health, education, adult social care, youth services, youth offending, housing, early intervention)? What new relationships do I need to develop (e.g. with post-16 education and training providers)?
- What are the value for money arguments for reform? If we get this right, can we secure better outcomes for children and young people by deploying resources more efficiently?
- How can we ensure a genuinely person centred approach from birth to age 25, which fully involves children, young people, parents and carers?
- How can I ensure providers across a range of services are supported to implement the reforms, particularly those who the local authority has had little involvement with in this area, such as further education providers?
- How will I know my local area is performing well to help children and young people with SEN achieve in education and employment (outcomes)?

Summary of responses to the October 2013 local authority readiness survey

- In September, the Department for Education wrote to Directors of Children's Services asking them to complete a short survey assessing their readiness to implement the whole spectrum of the SEN reforms from September 2014. We are grateful to the 120 local authorities which responded. We intend to repeat this survey on a termly basis.
- The survey showed a strong degree of engagement with the reforms. Local authorities were asked to report their readiness in 17 areas of the reforms. The most common response (the mode) from local authorities was that they were in the early stages (63%) or that good progress was being made (35%) in the areas of the reforms we asked about.
- Performance against these indicators is as we would expect nearly a year before the reforms come into effect. Local authorities reported good progress in securing senior-level engagement, including appointing a senior responsible officer, engaging parent carer forums and partners in education and social care.
- The survey identified several areas where many local authorities asked for further information and exemplars of good practice:
 - Co-ordinated assessment process and EHC Plans
 - Joint commissioning
 - Personal budgets
 - Engaging with partners – particularly with health
- The resources outlined in this pack will be of considerable value. In particular, local authorities will want to read the information packs developed by the Pathfinder programme (www.sendpathfinder.co.uk) which provide a wide range of case-studies and examples of effective implementation.

To read the full pack please click on this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/264198/Implementing_a_new_0_to_25_special_educational_needs_system_Dec_13_-_Gov....pdf