



The purpose of this project is to ensure that the Central South Region is able to meet the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act in transforming expectations and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN). Implementation of the new requirements will begin in September 2020 and be completed by the end of 2023.

This 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; and
- 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.

The Central South region will do this by:

1. Creating a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary regional implementation plan that underpins the successful transition to the new way of working
2. Delivering an awareness raising programme that ensures all professionals, parents, carers, children and young people and the third sector receive timely information about the reforms and associated timescales.
3. Implementing a comprehensive workforce development plan that is compliant with the ALNET Act and complementary to the wider national education reforms.
4. Developing support and provision for post compulsory school-aged learners through identifying local offers and where possible consider regional solutions to meet complex needs.
5. Ensuring that the new statutory expectations for early years are understood and delivered and that appropriate support is provided to increase capacity in early years' settings.
6. Improving strategic engagement with health to support the establishment of the statutory role of the Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officer and develop shared expectations and supportive working practices.
7. Reviewing and improving Welsh medium provision and specialist support to increase regional capacity.
8. Supporting the rights of the child and young person with ALN through the development of user-friendly practices that clearly explain and promote their rights of appeal.

This project plan is funded by the Transformation Grant, allocated on a formula funding basis (70% pupil numbers and 30% school numbers). The grant is available for 4 years and is currently in its second year. The Central South region has £783,000 for this financial year to support the above priorities.

This project plan is underpinned by more detailed operational plans for each priority which include measurable outcomes, milestones and costs. The progress of the project is monitored by the Regional Project Team and the Regional ALN Steering Group.



Summary of strategic priorities and objectives

PRIORITY 1: Create a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary regional implementation plan that underpins the successful transition to the new way of working

Objectives: Funding allocation £35,000	
1.1	Establish a steering group to provide strategic direction in developing a joint and shared vision for effective multi-agency collaboration for the new way of working.
1.2	Develop strategic partnerships with local health boards
1.3	Develop collaborative working arrangements with children's and adult social care services
1.4	Improve strategic links at a regional and local level with further education colleges to develop an agreed vision for inclusion and supporting the needs of learners with additional learning needs.
1.5	Create a multi-disciplinary ALN Transformation Project Board to ensure a consistent and regional approach to local implementation.
1.6	Increase capacity within the region to develop effective principles, policies and working practices to meet needs of the Act.

PRIORITY 2: Deliver an awareness raising programme that ensures all professionals, school governors, parents, carers, children and young people and the third sector receive timely information about the reforms and associated timescales.

Objectives: Funding allocation: £25,000	
2.1	Develop an agreed communication strategy to support the implementation of the ALNET Act
2.2	Ensure consistency in approach by creating capacity at a regional level to co-ordinate the communications strategy
2.3	Ensure that all activities, materials and documentation are provided bilingually.
2.4	Continue to use a range of strategies to engage and raise awareness of all partners working with children and young people with additional learning needs.
2.5	Promote effective practice in relation to ALN and Inclusion by working with all partners, identifying best practice, developing case studies and sharing through local and regional systems.



PRIORITY 3: Implement a comprehensive workforce development plan that is compliant with the ALNET Act and complementary to the wider national education reforms.

Objectives:	
Funding allocation: £373,000	
3.1	Develop a coherent and comprehensive professional learning offer for staff working with pupils ALN.
3.2	Develop school-led collaborative improvement models for ALN.
3.3	Increase the capacity of professionals to become research-engaged and well-informed about good practice in meeting the needs of pupils with ALN.
3.4	Develop support for schools to implement the principles of schools as learning organisations to include the needs of all pupils.
3.5	Ensure that all school improvement professionals are competent in supporting schools to implement the new way of working.
3.6	Ensure that LA-based staff are well-informed about the ALN Transformation Programme and how it supports the wider educational reforms.



PRIORITY 4: Develop support and provision for post compulsory-aged learners through identifying local and potential regional offers.

Objectives: Funding allocation: £100,000	
4.1	Work in partnership with further education colleges to scope what is available at a local level and identify gaps in provision.
4.2	Work collaboratively with strategic partners to consider the feasibility of regional specialist provision for learners with complex needs.
4.3	Create guidance for young people detailing the local offer.
4.4	Identify professional development needs of further education staff to meet learner needs.
4.5	Implement the transition protocols developed by each LA to improve transition to further education.
4.6	Support innovative pilots to enhance transition arrangements from schools to colleges.

PRIORITY 5: Ensure that the new statutory expectations for early years are understood and delivered and that appropriate support is provided to increase capacity in early years' settings.

Objectives: Funding allocation: £50,000	
5.1	Secure engagement from strategic partners to improve multi-agency working and develop a shared understanding of assessment and evidence-based practice to meet needs.
5.2	Develop a regional approach to the early years' ALN lead role to secure compliance by 2019
5.3	Develop a regional training plan that covers raising awareness of the ALNET Act, trains practitioners in PCP, identifies and disseminates good practice in early years' provision across the region.



PRIORITY 6: Improve strategic engagement with health to support the establishment of the statutory role of the Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officer and develop shared expectations and supportive working practices.

Objectives: Funding allocation: £70,000	
6.1	Map and gap analysis undertaken across each local health board to identify strengths and areas for development.
6.2	Formal strategic liaison mechanisms established between local health boards and LAs to develop joint assessment approaches.
6.3	Develop and promote shared understanding of preventative approaches and evidence-informed interventions.
6.4	Identify training needs of health professionals in relation to the ALNET Act.
6.5	Provide support for appropriate health professional to develop person-centred-practice.

PRIORITY 7: Review and improve Welsh medium provision and specialist support to increase regional capacity.

Objectives: Funding allocation: £12,000	
7.1	Conduct an analysis of the prevalence of ALN and level of need in the Welsh medium sector in each LA.
7.2	Map Welsh medium provision and support available across the region.
7.3	Increase sharing of good practice for ALN in the Welsh medium sector.
7.4	Analyse pupil transfers from Welsh medium to English medium settings and establish if they are related to ALN.
7.5	Ensure that the regional ALNET Act transformation implementation plan supports and complements regional WESP priorities.



PRIORITY 8: Support the rights of the child and young person with ALN through the development of user-friendly practices that clearly explain processes and what support they can expect to receive as well as promoting their rights of appeal.

Objectives:

Funding allocation: £118,000

8.1	Embed the practice of ensuring that all pupils with ALN have a say in what is important for and to them.
8.2	Establish parent forums and consultative groups of children and young people to actively seek views of how best to provide support about the new ALN system.
8.3	Ensure that children and young people are fully consulted on developing easily accessible mediation and dispute resolution services that meet their needs.
8.4	Work with schools, early years' settings and colleges to develop a shared understanding of the role of informal mediation at the most local level possible.
8.5	Develop mediation and dispute resolution pathways for children and young adults who wish to challenge the contents of their IDPs or its provision