
Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 – New Responsibilities Briefing & Presentation

The Welsh Government have developed the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act, which will transform 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 additional learning needs.

The new act includes legislation and statutory guidance. 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.

The principles of the Act :

- The introduction of the term Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- A 0-25 age range
- A unified plan
- Increased participation of children and young people
- High aspirations and improved outcomes
- A simpler and less adversarial system
- Increased collaboration
- Avoiding disagreements and earlier disagreement resolution
- Clear and consistent rights of appeal
- A mandatory Code.

All CLA with ALN will have an LA maintained Individual Development Plan (IDP)

There are approximately 220 looked after children of statutory school age that are likely to require an IDP. There will also be a significant number 0-3 and post 16.

Cardiff Local Authority will be responsible for the IDP even if child is living or attending school outside of Cardiff (with the exception of those living in England)

The IDP will be combined with the PEP to create one unified, person-centred plan

Statements of SEN have become synonymous with funding – this was never the intention and IDPs will not include mention funding and resource will be a separate discussion.

There is a mandated roll out program that means we will be working with both the SEN and ALN systems for a number of years.

Timeline of rollout:

What we know so far about the mandated roll out:

- The new system became live for newly identified learners with possible ALN in September 2021.
- **First Year.** From January 2022 the system will be live for those learners on School Action or School Action Plus (already on the SEN register) in the following mandated year groups: Nursery, Y1, Y3, Y5, Y7, Y10.
- **Second Year September 2022 – August 2023:**
Yr 1; Yr 5; Yr 9 and Yr 10
- **Third Year September 2023 – August 2024:**
Yr 4 and Yr 8
- This does not include learners who have Statements of SEN. Welsh Government have to yet given any information about if and when current statements will be transferred to the new ALN System.

Response and key work to date:

- The LACE Team have worked with the Achievement Leader for Inclusion (Planning, Monitoring and Review) to provide training for staff. This includes Social Workers and IROs, Designated Teachers in Cardiff schools as well as colleagues in independent and non-maintained schools and settings.
- The LACE Team have appointed a LACE Inclusion Teacher to increase capacity to attend person centred meetings, oversee the creation and writing of IDPs and provide specialist support and advice to schools regarding LACE with ALN.
- A thorough piece of planning work has been completed on the LACE in the mandated year groups at School Action and School Action +. We now know that out of the 61 children that might require an IDP (based on current SEN status) only 21 will definitely require an IDP from January 2022. The other 40 have needs that can be met by the schools universal provision.

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