



SEN+D Reforms Newsletter

Please share far and wide

16th June 2014 Issue 06

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEN+D) Reforms Implementation Project for 0-25yr olds

The new Children and Families Act 2014 is now in place and will see better integrated support for children and young people with special educational needs and disability across Education, Health and Social Care for 0 – 25 year olds.

NEWS FLASH

Code of Practice

Final Code of Practice has been laid before Parliament, whilst we are waiting for Parliamentary approval, we are told not to expect any more changes [Code of Practice](#)

A Government response to the consultations that have taken place during the Draft Code's phases, has also been published <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/special-educational-needs-sen-code-of-practice-and-regulations>

New Draft Transitional Guidance

Draft documents have now been published and are being shared for consultation regarding the conversion of the current system into the new from September 2014.

[Transitional Order 2](#) [Response proforma](#) [Draft Transitional Guidance](#)

SEND Briefings

Four SEND Briefings to update and inform practitioners and parents have been organised around the county

10th July 9.30 - 11.30 @ Brackenborough Hotel, Louth, LN11 OSZ
10th July 12.30 - 2.30 @ Bentley Hotel, Lincoln, LN6 9N
11th July 9.30 - 11.30 @ Toft Country House Hotel, Bourne, PE10 0JT
11th July 12.30 - 2.30 @ Boston venue to be confirmed

Please contact SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk or 01522 550925 for the Project Team to book a place on these events

Children and Young People and Parent Engagement:

On-line surveys are still being completed by children, young people and parents/carers to tell us about their journey, what works well, what doesn't work so well and suggestions for going forward. Information is being collated and will be used to inform the project.

Results from activities through educational settings, the Project's Stakeholder Group and the Project's wider distribution group are also being received and will be collated and used in the same way.

Book the date – Saturday 12th July

We are facilitating a free fun day at the Frieston Centre (near Boston) on 12th July 10am – 3pm for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. There will be lots of activities and games to enjoy including a climbing wall, treasure hunt, pond dipping, outdoor games, arts and crafts, music and lots of interactive stalls where you can find out information and be part of the developments of the forthcoming SEND Reforms. There will also be a barbeque or you can bring your own picnic! For more information or to book your place please call 01522 555532

[Freiston Fun Day Flyer](#)

The county-wide events are continuing until the end of July, where we are encouraging families to be part of these developments and changes. You do need to book a place for these sessions (as it may be necessary to cancel if there are not sufficient numbers booked). The sessions are a mix between information sharing and updates, but most importantly an opportunity for everyone to share their experiences and make suggestions to help shape the new developments. There will sometimes be table-top activities to get involved in if you wish.

See our 'Get Involved' page within www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration

This isn't the only way to get involved, we welcome your emails to SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 550925

We have extended the EHC Plan and process focus event on 2nd July at Myle Cross Centre, Lincoln, to include a focus on the Local Offer too – these sessions are for parents or professionals: all welcome.

Please note: the morning session will now start at 10am

We will repeat the session at 1.30pm

There are still spaces for the afternoon – book via SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 550925

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum are also facilitating parent workshops

[LPCF SEND Workshops](#)

Please also see the '**book the date**' information above

EHC Plan & Process update:

As per above

We have extended the EHC Plan and process focus event on 2nd July at Myle Cross Centre, Lincoln, to include a focus on the Local Offer too – these sessions are for parents or professionals: all welcome.

Please note: **the morning session is fully booked and will now start at the earlier time of 10am**

We will repeat the session at 1.30pm

There are still spaces for the afternoon – book via SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 550925

At these Myle Cross sessions, it is hoped the most up to date Lincolnshire EHC Plan and Process will be shared and discussed, together with sharing how to navigate and feedback comment on the Local Authority web-based Local Offer

Personal Budgets:

Young people and parents have the right to ask the local authority to prepare a personal budget once the authority has completed an EHC assessment and confirmed that it will prepare an EHC Plan.

A child's parent or a young person may make a request to a local authority for a personal budget, including a request for direct payments, at any time during the period in which the draft EHC plan is being prepared in accordance with section 38 of the 2014 Act; or the EHC plan is being reviewed or re-assessed under section 44 of the 2014 Act. Where a request for direct payments has been made, a local authority must consider that request.

(Extract from The Special Education Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014)

Personal Budgets cont.....

Our draft proposal is currently in circulation and open for comment. Please send comments via SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk
[Draft Personal Budget Statement](#) [Personal Budget Regulations](#)

Transitions Planning:

Meetings have taken place with SENCOs around proposed protocols of transitions. Discussion is now taking place as to whether this should be an integral or 'bolt on' part of the EHC Plan from Year 9 onwards.

The Transitions Working Group meets on a monthly basis. The next meeting will be held at the end of July 2014, anyone interested in attending should contact Elita Cozens on 07557172815.

Our engagement sessions with children, young people and families are now complete. The information gathered from the sessions have been used to develop the framework for the transitions plan and process. We have formatted a draft transitions element which is based on the 'Getting a Life Pathway' and focuses on pathways including good health, employment, independent living/housing and friend/relationships and community. A wider event will be organised for the end of June/early July to share the outcome with children, young people and families who were originally involved in the early stages of co- production.

The aim of the working group is to have a child/young person friendly version of the plan; as well as a pathway and timeline which will sit within the Local Offer. We are working closely with the Local Offer Working Group to ensure information on transitions will be easily accessible and in appropriate versions for children/young people/families as well as professionals. We have met with SENCOS to develop a framework and guidance which will inform the transitions plan and process. The nature of our undertakings have been defined by the feedback we have received from children/young people, families and professionals.

Local Authority Local Offer for SEN + D update:

The Local Offer is intended to improve information about the SEN&D services available to children, young people and families. It aims to pull information about available services into one place and make it easier for all families to find. The Local Offer will also host the Local Authority criteria/threshold information.

The Local Offer is part of the Family Service Directory website and can be found by clicking on the Local Offer for SEN and Disability button or by going directly to: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer

We would very much welcome your views on the site. You can do this by completing a short questionnaire. This will help with our developments over the summer ready for a full launch in September 2014. You can either click on the 'Tell Us' link in the top right of the page or by going to: http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/lincs/fsd/tell_us.page

If you have any other queries regarding the site please contact children_information@lincolnshire.gov.uk

The following article appeared in the Skegness Standard Friday 30th May;

County Council launches revised online Family Services Directory

A newly revised Family Services Directory has been launched by Lincolnshire County Council to help parents give their children the best start in life. It provides families with comprehensive information and support, activities and services to help them get the most for their children, as well as information and advice for children with special educational needs and disability. Comments from Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, who says the directory has been revamped to make it as easy to use and accessible as possible.

Also featured online at [Rutland and Stamford Mercury](#) and [Bourne Local](#)

We have also had an article in the East Lindsey Target and the Horncastle News

SEND educational offers;

Also within the Local Authority Local Offer, we must provide a description of the educational and training provision that children and young people with SEN or disabilities can expect to be provided including early years, schools and a range of post-16 providers in Lincolnshire.

Schools must develop and publish more detailed information about their arrangements; identifying, assessing and being transparent and clear of their provision that is available for pupils with SEN and disabilities.

We are supporting all educational settings in what they need to have ready for September 1st 2014.

Middlecott School in Kirton has published their information for the Local Offer. This, and Bucknall Schools information have been added to our www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/localoffer site, we will continue to add more for your interest as we receive them.

Training & Learning Development update:

A programme for Learning and Development is being compiled to ensure all relevant staff are equipped for the new ways of working from September. Training on the EHC Plans and the legislative system has been delivered by Mark Small of Baker Small Solicitors to internal staff and more training on Person Centred Planning and Managing Change in the workplace is planned.

- **To keep up-to-date with any new documents available** go to our [Support and Aspiration web pages](#):
 - **For previous newsletters, up-to-date information and to share your suggestions and ideas**
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration
SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Or call 01522 550925 for the Project Team
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Wider Information

Independent Supporters (IS)

The voluntary, community and private sector tender for Independent Supporters has been launched. It invites organisations to bid for the 2 years of allocated funding and states that the total funding could provide up to 1800 IS nationally. The tender document outlines the role of IS, which is to work with CYP and their families during the EHC process (both new entrants and conversions). It also states that bids must *provide information on how you have and will work in an effective partnership with the local authority, Parent Partnership Service and other local relevant service providers that result in a local referral protocol to access Independent supporters from 1 September 2014 onwards* – so we should hopefully have contact with bidders soon, although there is scope for large providers to bid across several LA areas.

Some of the funding has been ring fenced for Parent Partnership Services (PPS) to bid for £25k to work alongside the Information Supporters. This bid includes developing capacity of PPS to become an Information Advice and Support Service, providing one Independent Supporter who can ensure that families will have access to Independent Support and all the accredited training undertaken.

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust

Announced the launch of new guidance to support schools and local authorities to implement the SEND reforms with a specific reference to children and young people with literacy difficulties, specific learning difficulties and dyslexia.

The guidance includes case studies and examples of good practice; a series of individual support resources by a range of providers; and links to training materials which local authorities and schools can use to support their practice. This guidance will help schools and local authorities to:

- Deliver a comprehensive Local Offer to those children and young people with literacy difficulties, specific learning difficulties and dyslexia
- Review existing resources and materials which can support their graduated response
- Signpost to existing resources and training materials to enrich professionals' understanding and develop their skills in universal and targeted provision
- Select good practice to support all pupils experiencing literacy difficulties in schools and colleges.

To access the guidance please click here<<http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/4/resources/2/for-schools-and-local-authorities/279/online-guidance-on-the-sen-reforms/>>.