



## SEN+D Reforms Newsletter

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 Issue 03

### **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.

We are expecting the new Code of Practice, which will lay out the legislative duty, to be published nationally this June

As a local authority, by September 2014, we must have in place:-

- A single system giving support , across Education, Health and Social Care
  - A joint commissioning approach across Education, Health and Social Care
  - An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) to replace the current SEN Statements and Learning Difficulties Assessments (139a)
  - A personal Budget offer for those with an EHC Plan
  - A clear and transparent 'SEN&D Local Offer'
- Educational settings 0-25 will also be required to publish their own SEN Local Offer
- Support towards preparation for adulthood

- A strengthened (ideally single) redress process, to include mediation support

**The main drivers of the new Reforms are:**

- To improve the outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families.
- To improve the process for accessing services by having clear, single, cohesive pathways
- To improve the level and transparency of information and support available to families
- To increase the level of choice and control children, young people and their families have over the services and support they receive.

Lincolnshire is to receive £975,833 to support this implementation. This will be used to cover the cost of reviewing existing Statements and migrating to EHC plans appropriately. It is hoped this will be carried out over a shorter 2 year period rather than the allowed 3 years. We are also committing funding to up-skill practitioners so they can meet the requirements of the new ways of working.

**New arrangements for SEND Pathfinder support**

Leicester City and Nottinghamshire County Councils have been appointed to the Pathfinder Champion role over 2014-15 for our region. Their joint role is to offer more support from their areas and from other partners, including Early Support and Preparing for Adulthood.

**Parent/Carer Events**

There are county wide events where we are encouraging families to be part of these developments and changes – please see Flyer No 6 below. 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 new developments. There will sometimes be table-top activities to get involved in if you wish. This isn't the only way to get involved, we welcome your emails to [SEND\\_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:SEND_Reforms@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or call 01522 550925 We are also busy collating feedback and questions from these events – see Frequently Asked Questions below

**Children and Young People Engagement**

We are working with the School Improvement Service together with Action for Children and the Shadow Transition Board as well as

parents, children and young people to establish the right way to ensure up to 25yr olds are able to co-produce developments. There may be occasions when specific documents are shared – eg.EHC Plan with groups where appropriate, however, we are asking young people to help us put together a bank of ways they can share with us what currently works well for them and they don't want to lose, together with what doesn't work well and suggestions going forward.

We hope to have these available to share these with you in the next newsletter.

**EHC Plan & Process update:**

There will be 2 trails of the Draft EHC Plan – Draft 1 will begin over the next 2 weeks

See below for Draft 1 template

The referral and assessment process is still being drawn up within the working group made up of multi service areas and parents, plus through the locality events with parents

**Personal Budgets:**

For families to be able to request if they an EHC Plan

A Draft Personal Budget Statement and flow-chart is now being shared more widely with families at the locality events and can be accessed below, we welcome your feedback please.

**Transitions Planning:**

The working group is looking at ways to improve preparation into adulthood

The group's next step is to look at the synergy between Yr9 transition and the Draft 1 EHC Plan

**SEN Local Offer**

This will be pre-dominantly a web-based portal of information for all children/young people and their families to easily find information, support services and activities across education, health and social care in one-place.

700 providers currently in the family service directory have been data cleansed.

A first view of the web-based Local Authority SEN Local Offer is planned for w/c 28.4.14

The working group is now focusing on quality assurance processes

Education setting's Local Offers will be available through each setting's own website and signposted via LA SEN Local Offer.

SENCO events have started with good discussions regarding the development of a School's Local Offer.

**Joint commissioning and strategic collaboration update:**

Stronger links are now being established throughout the work streams of this Project. The letters recently sent out by Department for Education to our Health colleagues, have supported this – see below

- **New national documents available** on our [Support and Aspiration web pages](#):

[Draft 1 EHC Plan](#)

[Draft Personal Budgets Statement and Flowchart](#)

[Flyer No 6](#)

[SEND Pathfinder Evaluation Readiness and Champion research Report](#)

A document detailing further government advice for local authorities and health partners:

[Implementing a new 0 to 25 special needs system LAs and partners](#)

The following letters are from Department for Education and Department for Business Innovation & Skills tailored to each area, outlining; implementing new arrangements for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

[Letters for LA and Health Partners](#)

[Letter for Colleges](#)

[Letter for Teachers](#)

[Letter for Parents](#)

- **Frequently Asked Questions**

The SEN & D reforms [frequently asked questions](#) are constantly being updated to answer key questions from everyone

involved in the project.

- **To keep up-to-date and share your suggestions and ideas**

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration)

[SEND\\_Reforms@Lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:SEND_Reforms@Lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Or call 01522 550925 for the Project Team

**May we also take this opportunity to sign-post you to:-**

- **4All**

Information for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-19 with a disability and/or additional needs

Personalised welcome pack and a 30 page colour newsletter 3 times a year

For more information and to receive a referral form please visit [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/4all](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/4all) or email [4all@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:4all@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

or call 01522 555517.

Dates and Updates in regard to the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEN+D can be found in each newsletter

