

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: Reforming Additional Learning Needs provision in Wales

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 19th November 2015

Venue: Park Inn Hotel, Mary Ann Street, Cardiff CF10 2JH



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jenny Rathbone AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Disability, National Assembly for Wales and Governor, Ysgol Pen y Groes
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision in schools and colleges in Wales**
Jassa Scott, Assistant Director, Estyn
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.35 **The introduction of Individual Development Plans - identification, content and funding**
Will the replacement of Statements, post-16 assessments and Individual Education Plans with new Individual Development Plans (IDPs) deliver the Welsh Government's aim of improving the quality and consistency of care for young people with ALN? What will be the key implementation challenges to make the introduction of IDPs a success? What impact will IDPs have on the levels of funding required by councils in order to deliver the care requirements set out in the plans? Is there a case for introducing Direct Payments for ALN support? How should the new Code of Practice support early identification of ALN, and to what extent will the new Early Years Development and Assessment Framework help improve earlier identification?
Denise Inger, Chief Executive Director, SNAP Cymru
Dr Lorraine Silver, Additional Learning Needs Complex Cases Manager and Lead Educational Psychologist, Bridgend County Borough Council
Dr Carmel Conn, Senior Lecturer in SEN, University of South Wales
Nick Woolley, Additional Learning Needs Coordinator, Gaer Primary School, Newport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Jenny Rathbone AM, Member, Cross Party Group on Disability, National Assembly for Wales and Governor, Ysgol Pen y Groes
- 10.40 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
David Melding AM, Deputy Chair, Cross Party Group for Children and Chair, Cross Party Group for Looked After Children, National Assembly for Wales
- 11.15 - 12.00 **Reforming dispute resolution and the Education Tribunal**
What systems will local authorities need to put in place to ensure schools, colleges etc. are delivering their obligations, as set out in IDPs? What key features should any pre-tribunal local dispute resolution system include in order to be effective and, with this stage becoming obligatory before a case can reach tribunal, what steps can be put in place to ensure the process won't result in 'unreasonable delay'? What will be the likely impact of the new requirement for all local authorities to appoint an independent mediator for all disputes? What can be done to address issues caused by the expected significant increase in caseload resulting from the extension of access to the Education Tribunal to 25 and young people themselves being able to bring forward cases?
Michael Charles, Head of Education Law, Sinclairs Solicitors
Jacquelyn Elias, Service Manager - Additional Learning Needs, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Jane McIlveen, Development Officer, Down's Syndrome Association
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Delivering better support for ALN - the new Code of Practice and extending provision to age 25**
Beyond increased caseload, what will be the impact of the extension of ALN support, via an IDP, to age 25; what should this extended support look like in practice and what are the implications for local authorities? What lessons can be drawn from the similar extension recently introduced in England? What training and support should Welsh Government put in place for the respective local authority, schools and colleges workforces to make sure that the new Code of Practice is understood and implemented as intended? Will the new Code of Practice lead to improved multi-agency working and what further action can Welsh Government take, outside of legislative means, to encourage this? Could more be done to build links between special schools and mainstream schools, particularly in sharing best practice and teaching expertise?
Kevin Tansley, Headteacher, Ty Gwyn School, Cardiff
Jessica Turner, Regional Organiser, UNISON Cymru/Wales
Zoe Richards, Young Person and Carers Manager, Learning Disability Wales
Nichola Jones, Head of Inclusion, Pembrokeshire County Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
David Melding AM, Deputy Chair, Cross Party Group for Children and Chair, Cross Party Group for Looked After Children, National Assembly for Wales
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales