

SEN Reform

Issue 1: July 2014

What are the SEN Reforms?

New government legislation means that from September 2014 there will be a new [code of practice](#) relating to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). This will mean that from September 2014 the current SEN 'statements' and 'learning difficulty assessments' (LDAs) will be replaced with something called an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). These plans will support young people from the age of 0 to 25 and will link closely with partners in health, education and social care to ensure children and young people are appropriately supported right through to adulthood.

Worcestershire County Council, with partners, is developing a clear, transparent 'local offer' of services for all children and young people with additional needs including local information, advice and support and mechanisms for review. We are also identifying services which could be provided through a personal budget and developing the market of provision.

Over a transition period of three years, children and young people who already have statements or LDAs will have them reviewed and in most cases these will be converted into EHCPs. The review will address any changes of need and in some cases could result in a statement or LDA being ceased. However, in no case will the change of system be the reason for the cessation of a statement or LDA. Education, Health and Care planning will be supported by a personalised approach. This will include giving parents/carers the option of accessing a personal budget for elements of the package of support.

Local authorities across the West Midlands are receiving a share of government funding to help prepare for this transformation. There will be a lot of changes for service users but information, guidance and support will be provided to help with the transition period.

Regular updates on SEN Reform and the developments in Worcestershire will be provided to staff, service users and other stakeholders.

Further details about the SEN Reform in Worcestershire can be found [on the website](#).

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (previously Parent Partnership Service)

The [SEND Code of Practice](#) requires that local authorities must provide a SEND Information, Advice and Support Service and this **must** be developed from the existing Parent Partnership Service. This will mean that from 1st September 2014 the Parent Partnership Service will be changing to the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service. The new service will continue to provide the same support that it currently does now to parents but will be expanding its offer.

Below is a brief list of what the new SEND Information, Advice and Support Service will be statutorily required to do from the 1st September 2014:

- Work with parents/carers and children and young people between the ages of 0-25 with special educational needs or disability (SEND)
- Give advice and information on matters relating to SEND to parents **and** children and young people
- Provide information, advice and support on personalisation and personal budgets, local policy and practice, the local offer, education law on SEND and related law on disability, health and social care
- Help children, young people and parents to gather, understand and interpret information and apply it to their own situation
- Provide advice through individual casework and through work with parent/carer support groups, local SEN youth forums, local disability groups and training events
- Be accessible by young people independently from their parents/carers
- Be impartial, confidential, arm's length, free and easily accessible
- Have the capacity to handle face-to-face, telephone and electronic enquires.

SEN Reform Conference and FAQs

On Monday 23rd June, Worcestershire County Council held a conference for the SEN workforce to provide information about the Local Authority's approach to the SEN Reform. Attendees were asked to leave their questions to be answered through a series of FAQ documents. As expected, there was a high response to this and we will be publishing a series of FAQ documents in order to provide answers over the coming weeks.

The first document, and others to follow, is published [on the website](#).

If you have any additional questions, please contact SENReform@worcestershire.gov.uk