



What you need to know about the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Reforms

What are the SEND Reforms?

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a series of reforms relating to special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Part 3 of the Act places duties on local authorities and other services in the local area in relation to both children and young people with disabilities and those with special educational needs (SEN) and their families.

The Reforms aim to improve outcomes for children and young people from birth to 25 years with SEND and their families by changes in the provision of services as well as greater involvement of their parents and carers over how their needs are met.



For more information, please see the [SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342222/SEND_Code_of_Practice_0_to_25_years.pdf) at www.gov.uk



The SEND Code of Practice

Vision and Aspiration

Our vision for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

Foreword, SEND Code of Practice, January 2015

‘With high aspirations, and the right support, the vast majority of children and young people can go on to achieve successful long-term outcomes in adult life. Local authorities, education providers and their partners should work together to help children and young people to realise their ambitions...’

Foreword, SEND Code of Practice, January 2015



Section 19 of the Act sets out the general principles that local authorities must have regard to when supporting disabled children and young people and those with SEN under Part 3 of the Act. Local authorities must pay particular attention to:

- the views, wishes and feelings of children and their parents, and young people;
- the importance of them participating as fully as possible in decision-making and providing the information and support to enable them to do so; and
- supporting children and young people’s development and helping them to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.

Children & Families Act 2014, Section 19

What does this mean for you?

Nottingham City’s local area message is to put ‘Citizens at the Heart’.

This means everyone can play a part in helping our citizens no matter what your role is in the range of local area agencies and services.

The SEND Reforms

- 1** Introduction of **Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans**
This is a new single assessment process to assess needs of children and young people who have SEND and to identify the support required. The single assessment will replace SEN statements
The EHC plans will support children and young people up to the age of 25, and their parents and carers
- 2** Introduction of **SEN Support**, to replace school action and school action plus, in the identification of pupils who require additional support to meet their SEND
- 3** Requirement of a **Graduated Approach** to provide support to pupils with SEND
Recognising that there is a continuum of special educational needs, requiring a continuum of support, ranging from quality first teaching in the classroom, additional support provided in mainstream schools for those on SEN Support, through to specialist provision for those with the most significant needs
Example of this can be seen on Provision Maps available on the Local Offer website
- 4** Requirement for local areas to **involve children, young people through a person-centred approach and their families in discussions and decisions** in relation to their care and education, as well as to **provide impartial advice, support and mediation services**
- 5** **The right to a 'personal budget'** for children and young people with SEND and their families, giving them more **control over the services and support they access**
- 6** Requirement that **SEND services for children and families be made available in a clear, easily read manner**. This is known as the '**Local Offer**' www.asklion.co.uk/localoffer
- 7** **Commissioning and planning of SEND services** for children, young people and families will be run **jointly by health services and local authorities**

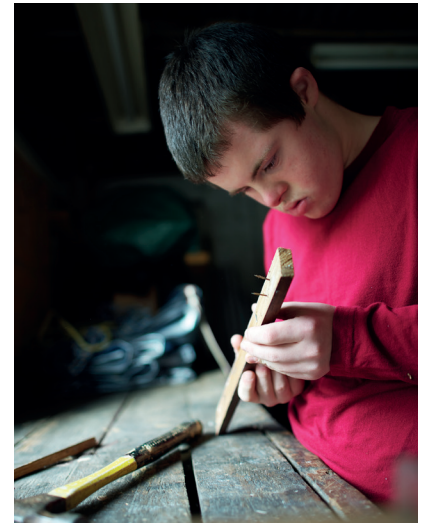


What does this mean for you?

- Being ambitious and aspiring to achieve the best outcomes for the child or young person
- Putting the child or young person at the centre of their plan and your work when identifying, assessing, meeting needs and improving outcomes through effective multi-agency working
- Involving the child or young person and family in decision making and planning
- Identifying a child or young person's aspirations; what's working well and what isn't working well, the child or young person's strengths and what is important to them, what they would like to change and the type of support they feel they need to make the changes
- Understanding the type of support available from universal and targeted services and knowing when an Education, Health & Care plan may be required to access specialist support

For more information, please visit the Ask Lion Local Offer website
www.asklion.co.uk/localoffer

The Inspection of The Local Area's Effectiveness in Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People who have SEND



Local Area Reviews have been introduced to support implementation of the legislation. The Local Area is a wide range of stakeholders and agencies, including the local authority, schools, clinical commissioning groups, public health and social care.

This is a joint **Ofsted** and **Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection** using 'The framework for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities' (April 2016).

The purpose of the inspection is to evidence how well Local Areas are implementing the changes, as well as evaluate the general quality of their SEND offer.

The inspection will involve a wide range of stakeholders across the Local Area. The inspections are intended to be constructive for Local Areas as well hold them to account.

Inspections are due to take place from 2016 through to 2021. Local Areas will have a five-day notice period and the inspection will last for 5 days.

The inspectors will follow the journey of children and young people who have SEND and their families, and will visit a variety of settings, which will include early years, education, health and social care settings.

There will not be a graded judgement but a letter providing a narrative to summarise areas of strength and areas of development.

What does this mean for you?

- **Know the children, young people and families that you are working with**
- **Ensure your case records and evidence is up to date**
- **Be able to demonstrate that decisions are made through clearly established processes**
- **Understand how data analysis has supported service development**
- **Be able to show evidence of impact and outcomes achieved to date**
- **Be able to show evidence of the child or young person's voice and involvement**

**For more information, please visit the Ask Lion Local Offer website
www.asklion.co.uk/localoffer**