

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Next steps for SEND - implementing the Code of Practice, broadening provision and improving outcomes from 0-25 years

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 22nd October 2015

Venue: The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sharon Hodgson MP, Shadow Minister (Education)
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Moving forward: changing attitudes towards special needs and disability**
Philip Connolly, Manager of Policy and Development, Disability Rights UK
- 9.15 - 9.40 **The SEND Code of Practice - priorities and next steps**
Jane Friswell, Chief Executive Officer, nasen
Questions and comments from the floor with **Philip Connolly**, Manager of Policy and Development, Disability Rights UK
- 9.40 - 10.30 **Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans - transition challenges and variability in provision**
What initial lessons have been learnt from the Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan pathfinder programmes and how effectively have local authorities managed the transition from SEN statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) to EHC plans; what measures can be put in place to ensure the new system is implemented smoothly? Given concerns over the variability of EHC plans, what steps can be taken to encourage greater collaboration between local agencies and services and to ensure consistency in provision? Is adequate advice available to parents to help navigate the complexities of the new assessment process; might legal disputes, such as appeals to SEND Tribunals, be likely to increase as a result? To what extent do EHC plans provide a 'personalisation' of services from 0-25 years and how can it be ensured that they sufficiently reflect the interests, views and aspirations of the young person or their parent/carer?
Melinda Nettleton, Manager, SEN Legal and Co-Author, *Special Needs and Legal Entitlement*
Chris Harrison, Group Manager, SEND Policy and Provision, Nottinghamshire County Council
Beth Grossman, Head of Policy and Research, Scope
Maisie Sammon, Associate Principal, Swiss Cottage School, London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Sharon Hodgson MP, Shadow Minister (Education)
- 10.35 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Thomas of Winchester
- 11.10 - 12.00 **The Local Offer and personal budgets: implementation, impact and choice**
What has been the impact of the requirement for local authorities to provide a Local Offer, designed to show the kinds of SEND support available to families in their local area, and to what extent has this measure improved parents' confidence and understanding of local services? Is adequate advice available to local authorities when deciding the content of a Local Offer and what steps can be taken to ensure the quality of information provided remains of a sufficiently high standard and consistency? Will the introduction of a Local Offer be likely to provide an evidence base for securing better outcomes at a local level - to what extent will it develop an evolving 'road map' of regional SEND services and flag up areas where there is a paucity of provision? How likely will the offer of personal budgets, allowing parents and young people aged 16 and over the right to buy the provision set out in an EHC plan, give families adequate choice and control over the support they receive; is sufficient information available to families to help them understand how best to access and use these budgets?
Gill Hoar, Head of School Place Planning and Access, SEND Reform Lead, Oldham Council
Heather Stack, Director and Chief Executive Officer, The Local Offer
Dr Amelia Roberts, Lecturer in Professional Development, Special Educational Needs Joint Initiative for Training (SENJIT), Department of Psychology and Human Development, Institute of Education, University College London
Yvonne Newbold, Author, *The Special Parent's Handbook*
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Support into adulthood - post-16 provision, skills and employment**
What more can be done to improve the educational prospects of young adults with SEND and widen access to further education and university courses? Given that around one-third of young people with statements of SEN are not in education, employment or training (NEET) by the age of 18, what more can colleges do to effectively engage employers; what has been the success of 'supported internships' to date? What has been the impact of government's Disability Confident and Accessible Britain Challenge - to what extent have they succeeded in removing barriers to employment for young adults with SEND and what further steps might be taken? What models of successful employer engagement exist abroad and what lessons can be learnt from examples of international best practice?
Alison Boulton, Chief Executive, The Association of National Specialist Colleges (Natspec)
Graham Quinn, Executive Principal, New Bridge School, Greater Manchester
Ros Sturley, SENCO, Northampton College, Northamptonshire
Ellen Atkinson, Associate, National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Thomas of Winchester
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum