



Implementation Board

Interim Briefing Paper March 2015

Engagement and decision making of children and young people in connection with the SEND reforms

Context

1. Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 makes clear that local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the Act, must have regard (among other things) to the importance of children and young people, and their parents and carers, participating as fully as possible in decisions about their individual care. Local authorities must also ensure that children, young people, parents and carers are involved in decisions about local provision. They need to ensure that children, young people, parents and carers are provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions.

SEND Reforms

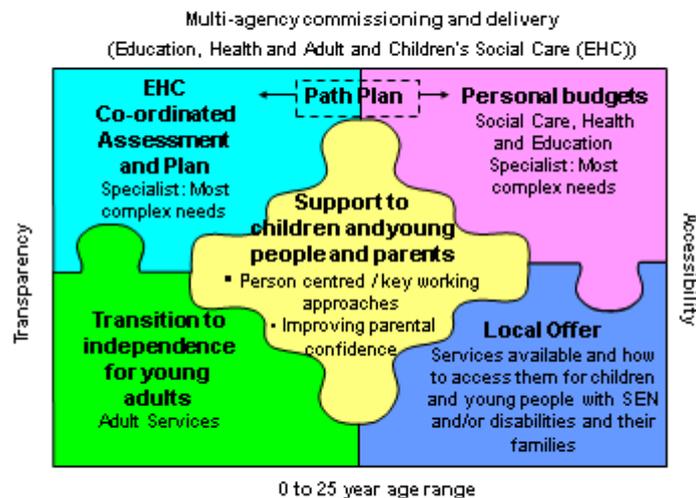
2. The code of practice (January 2015) states the following in connection with engagement and decision making of children and young people:
 - At a strategic level, partners must engage children and young people with SEN and disabilities and children's parents in commissioning decisions, to give useful insights into how to improve services and outcomes. Local authorities, CCGs and NHS England must develop effective ways of harnessing the views of their local communities so that commissioning decisions on services for those with SEN and disabilities are shaped by users' experiences, ambitions and expectations. To do this, local authorities and CCGs should engage with local Healthwatch organisations, patient representative groups, Parent Carer Forums, groups representing young people with SEN and disabilities and other local voluntary organisations and community groups. **(Section 3.18)**

Meeting the objectives

3. To implement the SEND reforms introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014 the island set up three task and finish group that report to the implementation board.
4. The three work streams are:
 - EHCP Task Group,
 - Local Offer Task Group,
 - Personal Budget Task Group

5. The Implementation Board Terms of Reference (February 2014) state:
 - “The Implementation Group should put in place arrangements to ensure that their discussions and decisions are strongly informed by the experiences and views of disabled children and young people, and resolving issues of concern for them”.
6. The process for this shown within the ‘jigsaw’ map below, and are underpinned by the principles of joint commissioning, transparency, accessibility and working across the 0 to 25 age range.

Isle of Wight SEN Reforms Implementation Workstream Map



7. To support the work streams to engage with children and young people an “Engagement” task and finish group was set up in October 2014
8. The Engagement task and finish group comprised of:
 - Andrew Briggs, Commissioning Manager 14-19 in Education and Skills
 - Sue Holman – St George’s
 - Sammi Kirkly – Medina House
 - Sam Rooney – IW College
 - Dorothy Harrington – Parent Partnership Officer
 - Emma Morris – Parent Partnership
 - Andy Newman – Event Campaign & Youth Council Support Officer
 - Stephen Woodford - Children Rights & Participation Officer
 - Michelle Jones – CCG
 - Kristy Moore – Involvement Officer – Short Breaks
 - Darren Poplett – Youth Offer Quality & Performance Officer

9. The task and finish group looked at engaging children and young people to help design and tailor the SEND reforms and included:

- Piloting materials
- Seeking advice
- Involvement/invitations to task & finish groups
- Support with communication/social media
- Designing leaflets/websites
- Case studies
- Using quotes from learners
- Information on extracurricular activities
- Support at launch events
- For 0-5yr old via observations and consultations with parents/education psychologists

10. Activities were be set up through:

- Schools/college which would also engage support and teaching staff
- Parent Voice directly with their children/young people
- Small task/focus groups after school
- Invitations to task and finish groups
- Launch events
- Using local agencies/providers i.e. WISE, Branstone Farm, FIZ, IW CHYPS, Health Centres, Youth Centres, UKSA, IWAC, Challenge and Adventure, Isle of Wight Community Action, Isle of Wight Community Rail Partnership, Southern Vectis etc.

11. The target cohort/audience included the 20% of children that access SEN Support (previously School Action and School Action Plus). It also included the 3% of children with statements and young people with moving on plans (S139a) this could include adults up to the age of 25.

Outcomes from the task and finish group so far

12. **Scoping paper** (June 2014) on how children and young people can engage in the working groups

- Focus events Face to Face – Specific Feedback (Small group work)
Young Inspectors
- Wide range events - i.e. surveys enable all

13. Creation of an **Action Plan**:

- Capturing work already carried out 0-25
- Existing groups with children i.e. IW Youth Council/Parliament, Short Breaks, FIZ. School/College Councils
- Links to Existing Activities e.g. Short Breaks Fun Day, Careers/Jobs Fairs, School/College Open day events
- Work to be done with timeline

14. Using young people with additional needs to evaluate the works carried out by the three work streams this is being carried out through “Short Breaks” through the **“Young Inspectors programme”**

15. On line Surveys linked to the three work streams – Local Offer

16. Open days – Fun Day, Jobs/Careers Fair, National Apprenticeship Event

Impact so far:

17. **Awareness raising:** Successful events with good feedback from children, young people at Fun Day, Jobs/Career Fair, Apprenticeship day – Lord Louis Library

- **Impact:** Over 60 young people engaged & feedback

18. **Evaluation :** Young Inspectors presented their findings at the November Implementation Board (Local Offer and EHCP)

- **Impact:** Changes to my story, our story and Local Offer
- **Impact:** National recognition- IoW Young Inspectors referenced in Edward Timpson speech that the minister gave to an FE audience:
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/edward-timpson-supporting-send-students-in-further-education?utm_source

19. **Seeking advice:** General on line survey's : Survey Monkey –Local Offer

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/local-offer-survey>

- **Impact:** school children awareness of local offer + feedback

20. **General impact:**

- Case studies to DfE and Council for disabled children
- Round Table Discussion at DfE with minister Edward Timpson MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families 2nd Feb
- Refreshed Local Offer launched on 2nd March 2015
- Changes in paperwork for EHCP
 - ❖ My Story
 - ❖ Our Story
 - ❖ Introduction of K3 Education Advice (FE)
- IW College Short Breaks evaluated by Young Inspectors Cooking & Boom Whacker Orchestra

21. **Key to success:**

- Partnership Working
- Engagement of key bodies – Educational Providers, Parents
- Reacting to what we have – Keep it simple
- You said – we did - attitude

Processes established:

Formal mechanisms for capturing the voice of children and young people

22. Yearly awareness raising activities:

- Apprenticeship Event (March), SEND Fun Day (June/July), Careers/Jobs Fair (Oct/Nov)

23. General evaluation tools and procedures via

- Surveys (Survey Monkey) – Local Offer, ECHP, Personal Budget
- Young Inspector Programme
- Local Offer –Rating a page

24. Focus groups

- Schools (targeting year groups/School Councils)
- College (Targeting groups/Student Councils)
- Youth Parliament (Thematic approach)

25. Local Offer workstream used to inform joint commissioning of future services

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. For the continuation of the “Engagement” task and finish group to October 2015

27. To carry the work on as in **Appendix 1**

28. For the group to provide a report to the Joint Child Care Commissioning Group in October 2015

APPENDIX 1

Further suggested activities linked to task and finish groups

EHCP Task Group

29. From 1st September 2014 local authorities will be required to consider new requests for an assessment of special educational needs under new legislation, and coordinate services around a child or young person. No new assessments for statements of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDAs) will be offered from 1st September 2014. Children and young people should be transferred to the new system in a phased way, prioritised at key transition points. LDAs should be phased out by September 2016, and statements should be phased out by April 2018
30. Support from children and young people could support part 2 of the EHC Plan as follows:
- Seeking advice on designing “My Story”/“Our Story”
 - Pilot the “My Story”/“Our Story” documents
 - Web page design
 - Designing leaflets/pamphlets
 - Communication
 - Launch events
 - SEN Young Persons Entitlement (Embracing Education, Social Care and Health)

Local Offer Task Group

31. From 1st September 2014 local authorities will be required to consult with families and providers of services and publish a local offer of provision for children and young people who are disabled or have SEN, so that parents, carers and young people understand the range of provision available. A significant change is 0-25 focus. Partners, including health, colleges, schools and early years, need to co-produce the local offer.
32. Support from children and young people could take place in the following areas:
- Web Page design
 - Pilot the local offer from a child’s view
 - Provide young people’s quotes/case stories
 - Produce a young person’s local offer (what to do and see on the island)
 - Promoting local events/societies/support i.e. transport training
 - Social Media Twitter/Facebook/

Personal Budget Task Group

33. Children and young people assessed as needing and EHC plan have the right to request a personal budget so they can choose the service which is best for their family
34. Support from children and young people could take place in the following areas:
- Involvement in the personal budget policy by

- Seeking advice from young people on designing the personal budget policy
- Provide examples/case studies of how children/young people could spend their personal budget
- Designing leaflets/pamphlets around the personal policy
- Listing equipment to aid children and young people

Health

35. Through the CCG expand the work with the Young Inspectors and the Hampton Trust to capture the voice of the young people linked into the new “Check it out” app.