



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

31 March 2022

Dear colleagues and stakeholders,

I continue to be grateful for the way in which organisations involved in supporting children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) in Wales have worked together throughout the pandemic to ensure they receive the support they require. I am also thankful for the patience you have shown whilst the Welsh Government has worked to develop plans for moving young people (post-16) to the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system and your continued engagement with Welsh Government officials during that time.

On 28 March 2022, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language [published](#) a written statement setting out plans for implementing the ALN Act for young people who are post-16, which will involve a ‘flow through’ approach.

In arriving at these plans, the Welsh Government has engaged with a range of key partners and listened carefully to concerns, including regarding the continued disruptive impact of the pandemic and its impact on moving or preparing to move children from the SEN system to the ALN system.

I am writing today to set out further detail on what the ‘flow through’ approach means in practice. Under this approach:

- Those currently in year 10 and below, who are being moved to the ALN system by a school, PRU or local authority during the implementation period will ‘flow through’ into post compulsory education with an individual development plan (IDP) already in place (where they require one), starting from 2023/24.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

[Address]

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre
0300 0604400

- Where a child currently in Year 10 or below moves into further education without an IDP, and the school, PRU, local authority or FEI thinks they may have ALN, they will have to prepare an IDP for that young person (subject to consent).
- Where a school, PRU, local authority or FEI thinks a child or young person currently in Year 11 and above may have SEN or LDD, the young person will receive support via the SEN and LDD systems.
- Any young person not on the ALN system at the end of the 2024/25 school year will move to the ALN system at that point. This will include those currently in Year 11 and above who may still be in the education system at that time, although it is anticipated the vast majority will have completed their education by that date.
- Until the ALN Act applies to a young person, the Education Act 1996 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000 will continue to apply and schools, local authorities and FEIs should continue to provide high quality support to young people via the SEN and LDD systems.

The flow through approach will involve most young people moving into further education with an IDP from 2023/24. This mirrors the way the system will work in the long term and avoids placing excessive burden on FEIs, schools and local authorities at a time of significant pressure due to the pandemic and the wider education reform agenda. FEIs and local authorities will begin to maintain IDPs for young people in a gradual, managed way, ensuring they are fully prepared to undertake their duties and that the IDP process is person-centred.

Specialist post-16 placements

In relation to specialist post-16 provision, under the Learning and Skills Act 2000, the Welsh Government is currently responsible for securing and funding specialist placements at specialist further education establishments for young people who could not otherwise receive education and training suitable to meet their needs. As part of the ALN Act, this responsibility will transfer to local authorities.

Under the arrangements outlined in the Minister's statement:

- The transfer of responsibility will take place gradually, with local authorities becoming responsible for those who have been moved to the ALN system from 2022/23 (those currently in year 10 and below).
- This means local authorities will begin making decisions from 2022/23 for those currently in year 10 who will be in their final year of school next year.
- The Welsh Government will continue to secure and fund specialist post-16 placements for those young people who have not yet been moved to the ALN system (those currently in Year 11 and above).
- In order to facilitate this, and in line with the current process, Careers Wales will continue to undertake assessments and produce Learning and Skills Plans for those young people for whom the Welsh Government is responsible for making decisions.
- It is our intention that full responsibility will transfer to local authorities at the end of 2024/25 school year. However, funding for placements agreed by Welsh Ministers

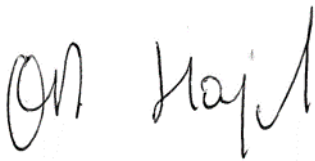
before the end of the 2024-25 school year will remain available to young people until they complete their agreed programme of study

- Officials are currently working to consider the details of the funding arrangements during this period and a further update will be provided in due course.

I hope the information I have set out today provides some further clarity on the approach and assists you in planning for the changes. Further information about how commencement will work for post-16 will be published in due course.

Thank you once again for the incredibly important work you are doing to support children and young people with ALN through what has been an exceptionally difficult time. I would be grateful if you could share and disseminate this information across your partner organisations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owain Lloyd', written over a faint dotted line.

Owain Lloyd - Director of Education and the Welsh Language