

Covid update

On the 2nd of February 2021 Kirsty Williams MS, minister for education (GOV.Wales 2021) released an update statement on the proposed phased implementation of ALNCO. as of January 2018, the phased implantation from SENCO (special educational needs coordinator) to ALNCO (additional learning needs coordinator) began and was predicted to be in full force by September 2020. However due to the impact of the national pandemic, covid-19, there has been a heavy impact on resources and time, for educational establishments. This now meaning that children already on the special educational provision via a statement, will not be included onto the ALNCO act transfer for the first year. However, children of a compulsory school age who have additional learning needs will follow the new ALN system from September 2021. A phased implementation will now roll out from September 2021 (Dauncey, 2021)

A unified plan.

Point 3, explains an aim for a unified plan - The Act creates a single statutory plan (the individual development plan (IDP)) to replace the existing variety of statutory and non-statutory SEN or LDD plans for learners in schools and further education. This replacing two separate plan systems of SEN up to sixteen, and a change of legislation for those of ages 16-25. (Dauncey 2018) providing statutory protection for children and young people with additional learning needs within wales. It is important to note that the Welsh government have noted that the Act has not been passed to extend higher education, as it is believed this would be unappropriated to pass these duties to employers.

There is an area of concern however as It has been stated that the change over to be able to see each child with a learning disability have an individual development plan is too costly and could lead to financial complications. (Estyn 2018) The RIA released a summary explaining the positives and negatives to the change, explaining a detailed analysis of the acts (Dauncey 2021) It has been estimated by the RIA that the total estimate of the legislation reform will come to around £7.2 million over a four-year period. (.GOV 2021)

However, in March 2017, the minister write to the finance committee, providing more information, advising that £10 million of the £20 million package is being financed from the £100 million which the Welsh government has pledged. This meaning that £20 million is being allocated from ALN transformation programme and the welsh government. The cabinet sectary for education provided an update on how the £20 million will be allocated and profiled (Dauncey 2021)

Previously it has taken up to 26 weeks under the SEN system to conduct a statutory assessment and to issue a statement, however .Gov claims the proposed timescales for individual development plan is around 13 weeks. (.gov 2021)

Clear and consistent right of appeal.

The **ninth** aim of the act sets to have a ‘clear and consistent right of appeal.’ (Additional learning needs (ALN) transformation programme, 2021) This meaning where the individual development plan creates a disagreement which can not be resolved at a local level, it can be taken further into the additional learning tribunal. This giving parent's access to appeal to the additional learning needs tribunal against a decision made by the educational establishment not to have an individual development plan, refusal of a review, the content of the individual development plan, the refusal to allow changes, a decision to cease to continue the individual development plan. All of which applying to children and young people from the ages 0 to 25. (ALN/SEN Reform - SNAP Cymru, 2021)

**SENCO TO ALNCO**

ALNco (Additional Learning needs co-Ordinator) sets to replace the existing term and duties of SENco (special educational needs co-ordinator).

The new Additional learning needs code will set out details of the reforming framework, providing detailed guidance for practitioners to be able to conduct clear and mandatory requirements which will be accessible to families. ((ALN/SEN Reform - SNAP Cymru, 2021) The chosen additonal learning needs co-ordinator needs to be a senior individual in which at a stretigic level can ensure the needs of all additonal needs learners are met. Making sure that all aspects of there individual learning plan are being maintained and achieved. However implications of this role can include a heavier work load. This could affect funding and the mental health of staff. The concern of the staff members mental health is an area of concern made by The Welsh Network of Healthy schools scheme, and supported by World Health organisation (1948) (health well-being

conclusion

The RIA have explained there was two options to take in regards to the conflict within the special educational needs act (1996), which was to leave things as they were or to lean towards a ‘preferred option.’. The change from SEN to ALN means that new legislation can be passed to contribute to the aims of reducing previous conflict of the old SEN system, to help improve the education of children and young people with additional learning needs. (Dauncey 2021) However with the majority of drafts being vague with particular detail, it is hard to dictate whether all issues raised by the public will be answered.

As a result of being in the centre of a national health pandemic it is uncertain as of now the depth and detail in which come from the roll out September 2021. It is with hope that the aims for a more unified, structured, unconflicted plan will ensure the benefit and guidance from children who have additional learning needs, giving them a stronger base for education,

