

Implications of impending changes to ALN legislation on early year practitioners.

What is the new additional learning needs (ALN)?

The ALN system is the new statutory support system for children and young people aged 0 to 25 in Wales with ALN that is due to come into force in September 2020 (Welsh Government, 2019).

- **ALNCO.**
- **LEARNING COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 2019 explains The Act creates the legislative framework to improve the planning and delivery of additional learning provision, through a person-centred approach to identifying their needs early, putting in place effective support and monitoring,
- however from the salamanca statement in 1994 it shows that these issues were raised then, as it states the importance to invest greater effort in early identification and intervention strategies, this was a priority to ensure in 1994
- however if they were taken on board sufficiently, there would be no need for further change? The new ALN is stating the same change. This could be the same issue for the new ALN system and no great implication for practitioners

ALNCO to SENCO.

- From Snap Cymru 2020 The current system covers children aged 0-16. The key legislation concerning post-16 learners is the Learning and Skills Act 2000, which deals with the planning and funding of post-16 education. The legislation uses the term 'learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) rather than SEN.
- The new system will support children and young people from 0-25.
- The Welsh Government 2019 states Under the current SEN system, the process of statutory assessment and issuing a statement can take up to 26 weeks
- The Welsh Government 2019 explains how the equivalent period in the case of a local authority is 12 weeks.
- The Welsh Government 2019 explains how the current SEN assessment process is inefficient and costly, as well as being insufficiently child-centred and user-friendly. Needs are sometimes identified late, and interventions are not planned or implemented in a timely or effective way. Families say they feel they have to battle at each stage of the process to get the right support for their child, and that they do not know where to turn for advice and information.

Individual development plan.

- Dauncey 2016 explains the second objective of the new ALN is an integrated, collaborative process of planning and monitoring that has early and effective interventions (including duties on health boards and local authorities to collaborate with each other to meet a child or young person's ALN through an Individual Development Plan.
- The new system replaces existing support plans (including Statements of SEN, individual education plans (IEPs) for learners on school action/ school action plus. and Learning and Skills Plans for post-16 learners) with a new statutory plan called an Individual Development Plan (IDP). Will practitioners have enough time to complete this for every individual child with ALN? practitioners already struggle with time Both Cambone, 1995, Fullan and Miles, 1992, and Gandara 1999 and Little, 1987) explain how Every analysis of the problems of change efforts that we have seen in the last decade of research and practice has concluded that time is the biggest issue".

Practitioner implications.

Welsh Government 2020 explained in 2017 that there will be Interactive materials to help all those in the system understand the evidence for best practice – have we seen this?
Kotter and Schlesinger 2006 discuss the resistance to change all people who are affected by change experience some emotional turmoil. Even changes that appear to be "positive" or "rational" involve loss and uncertainty, therefore practitioners may feel this.

Conclusion

hopeful that the new proposals for ALN go some way to meeting these aspirations, we can see from the positive information from Organisations such as Snap Cymru 2020 and Welsh Government 2019 however looking at the implications this will have on practitioners also it is questionable whether the system has fully prepared for the change then again as we have not reached September 2020 we do not know