



ALN IN Wales Introduction:

The reform of the special educational needs sector is currently in progress in Wales, In 2018 the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act was passed (Snap Cymru, No dateA). These changes have been long awaited and is a change that will now affect 1 in 5 children . Dauncey (2021) wrote that the Welsh Government see these changes as a complete overhaul. Within the new reform the Welsh a government (2020a) wanted to remove the term previously used of Special educational needs (SEN) and use a more appropriate term of Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

SENco to ALNco transformation :

According to the Welsh Government (2020b) previously the role of the Special Educational Needs coordinator (Senco) was not a role that was required under the statutory framework. However Welsh Government (2020b) state that under the new reform the role of an ALNco has been created

The Education through Regional Work (2020) state that the role of an ALNco is a new vital role within any educational setting.

according to Osbaston Church in Wales School (No date) they highlight that the role of an ALNco is much more than that of a SENco by having the responsibility of ensuring that all learners in a school setting who have any form of ALN are being provided for and are having their needs met . Further information about the legislation available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2020/1351/made/data.xht?view=snippet&wrap=true>

Individual Development Plan:

Previously in Wales a child with additional learning needs would require a legal document know as a statement of special educational needs (Contact, No date). In 2012 it was reported though over 50,000 statements had been issued in Welsh primary schools. Within the changes of the ALN act the Welsh Government have decided to change the documents required for an individual and this one document called an Individual Development Plan (IDP) can be used and updated from the ages of 0 to 25 (Welsh Government,2019).

According to Welsh Government (2018c) the process of transferring and replacing the statements to IDPs began back in September 2020 and is target to take 2 academic years to complete. IDPs must include a one page profile that will detail information regarding the child or young person the document is about. The information in this profile will be specific to the individual and the content included should be agreed and ensure the individual is happy with what is recorded. (SnapCymru, No dateB).

Increased cooperation:

Welsh Government (2020a) an integral part of the new ALN is the focus put on a collaborative and cooperative approach.

Welsh Government (2017a) state the use of a cooperative approach would see all agencies working together and creating the single IDP for an individual.

The Welsh Government (2021,p37) state that the use of collaboration needs to be integrated through the act to ensure that the coordination allows for the best support to be agreed upon and put in place correctly. if a

cooperative and collaborative approach is successfully delivered it means that Article 23 of the UNCRC will be successfully achieved. This specific article is described on the Children's Commissioner for Wales (2021) Wales shall recognise those children who are mentally or physically disable and be allowed to enjoy a full and decent life. Welsh Government (2021,p40)

sees a requirement for public bodies to work better together and work close with the people they are in contact with. As a result of this the Welsh government are hoping the collaborative approach will see the parties involved take the best interests of the children involved to provide the best support possible.

Conclusion:

- The implementation of the code in September 2020 has seen the introduction of the new ALNco role which brings new responsibility and also stresses.
- The IDP brings a centred approach to ensure that everyone has the best interests of the individual in mind.
- The new code sees a wide range of agencies working together across the board, however clarity for all involved needs to be a focal point.