

New Additional Learning Needs Legislation (ALNCo)

Introduction- SENCo to ALNCo

Starting in September 2020, The Welsh Government (2018) explains that the ALNCo programme will take over from the SENCo programme as the new system will-

- ✓ Benefit all learners with ALN from 0-25 years old
- ✓ Improve the support given by all the professionals from planning to physically supporting
- ✓ Focus on the early intervention of learners so that the needs are identified and an action plan is created early on

Role of Practitioners

Welsh Government (2017) explain that the role of the practitioner in the new ALNCo system will be dependent on which category they come into regarding the level of training being put out by the Welsh Government. The **SENCo**s professionals will have specialist training to **become ALNCo**s whereas all other practitioners will be trained to help assist the ALNCo in this ALN system and learn about the roll-out of a person-centred practice which is the primary aspect in the new ALNCo system. Additionally, there will be funding to support professional master degree training to specialise in support services needed in certain settings such as visually or hearing impaired.

Individual Development Plan

The Welsh Government (2018) states that the Individual Development Plan (IDP) will come into place to replace Statements of SEN and the LDD plans depending if the learner was in compulsory school or further education. The Welsh Government (2019) explains that unlike the SEN statement, there will be a IDP for each child with ALN no matter on the severity, however how complex the needs of the child will affect the length and depth of this document. The Welsh Government (2018) also go on to state that the IDP should be much easier to use which will allow practitioners, parents and learners to create a plan to get the outcomes and achievements that each learner can achieve.

Multi Agency Working

The Welsh Government (2018) suggest that the new system will allow an improved collaboration between agencies in multi-agency working. They explain that moving forward, they hope that there will be excellent information sharing between the agencies to ensure that each learner with ALN needs are identified, met and supported to result in the best possible outcome.

Children and Parents Right to Voice

The Welsh Government (no date) state that the new system aims to put the learners needs and views at the centre of the learning process.

Implementation Period

The Welsh Government (2018) explain that the new system will go live in September 2020 with an implementation period lasting 3 years until the SEN system comes to an end in summer 2023.

Process Change

- ✓ **SENCo** → **ALNCo**
- ✓ **Age Range**- from 0-16 years old → 0-25 years old.
- ✓ *Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments to Individual Development Plan (IDP)*
- ✓ *Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) to Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo)*

Age Range

In the current SENCo system, the age range where children get support is from 0-16 years old when children leave compulsory education and then require another systems support (Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2009). The Welsh Government (2018) explain that the ALNCo system will progress as one system to support both children and young adults in their ALN learning.

Furthermore, as the new system will support all learners from the ages of 0-25, this will ensure early intervention to provide effective support to children as early as possible who are at risk of poor outcomes before these problems actually occur (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020).

Conclusion

Overall, I believe that the new ALNCo system will be very successful as it has adapted the downfalls of the last SENCo system to create a more effective learning environment for ALN learners and as long as the Government keeps a close eye on some of these potential issues, it is exciting to see where this system will take us in the field of ALN.

ALN implementation timeline



(Education through Regional Working, 2020)