Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

How will the Bill affect social services?

A unified plan

Individual development plans (IDPs) will replace the existing variety of statutory and non-statutory plans for learners of compulsory school age and below and those over compulsory school age in school or further education, including statements of special educational needs (SEN) and learning and skills plans.

In relation to most looked after children, IDPs will be incorporated into the personal educational plans (PEPs) that form part of their care and support plan.

A 0–25 age range

Social services and education services will work together in supporting learners with additional learning needs (ALN) from 0 to 25 years.

Avoiding disagreements and earlier disagreement resolution

Social services should ensure that children, young people and their parents are offered opportunities to raise concerns and have their questions answered at an early stage, to prevent disagreements arising.

A mandatory Code

The Code will ensure the new ALN system has a set of clear, legally enforceable parameters within which local authorities responsible for supporting children and young people with ALN must act.

Increased collaboration

The incorporation of IDPs into PEPs for looked after children will avoid the duplication of effort and confusion which arise where multiple plans are produced for the same individual, enabling the much closer alignment and integration of otherwise separate planning processes.

Education and social services departments will work together to plan effective transitions into further education.

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