

**Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses**  
**Young Persons Responses**

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# Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses

## Young Persons Responses

ALN040:

Trystan Williams

### Goal 1 questions

Do you agree that the new term 'additional learning needs' (ALN) should be used for children and young people up to the age of 25 who need support when they find learning difficult?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

The current term of SEN for children with learning need should stay for those children. ALN should be used for those pupils who have different barriers to their learning i.e. young carers, MAT pupils etc. There is a danger to forget these if ALN is changed to refer to the current SEN children only. If the term must be changed - ALN is not the correct term, this already exists and has a different meaning. This will cause a lot of confusion in schools and local authorities.

Do you think that IDP's should replace statements of SEN and other plans and assessments in schools and colleges?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

IDP's are a good idea if completed correctly. They are much more useful in school settings than IEP's as it gives more in depth information on difficulties and how to overcome them. I do worry who will be responsible for ensuring that a young person has an IDP if they are entitled to one! Protocol needs to be in place for information sharing across education, health, social services as this can be a nightmare if permissions aren't in place. For the IDP system to work, any law that is passed would need to ensure streamlining of the services that will be involved.

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 1 are good?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Training for this new system is imperative for its success.

Comment



### Goal 2 questions

Do you agree that all the people responsible for education, health and social services should have to work together to support children and young people who need help with learning?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Who is responsible for coordinating this work?

Comment

Do you think that an IDP should be given to all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority instead of the plans they have now?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Yes, because quite often the paperwork is duplicated.

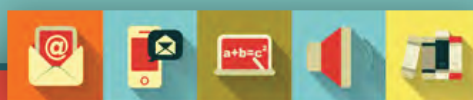
Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 2 are good?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

I am worried about the ALNCO coming instead of the SENCO. Renaming a job with a term that is already widely used for other duties is asking for problems.

Comment



# Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses

## Young Persons Responses

### Goal 3 questions

Do you agree that all children and young people up to the age of 25 should be able to appeal to the tribunal when they have an issue with any part of their IDP that can't be worked out with the local authority first?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

This will differ from school to school. It opens the door to all parents to question educational decisions that are made by education specialists. I agree that there needs to be some kind of monitoring of what schools are doing to support children with SEN. There has to be some sort of common sense approach as there have been a number of examples where schools are doing above and beyond what is needed and the parents still insist that this isn't enough. These cases would be a waste of time and money if they went to tribunal.

It is worrying how much pressure and legal responsibility is being put on the SENCO when that role quite often isn't a Senior Management role. The creation and implementation of IDP's is a massive job in itself. Meeting all parents, pupils and other specialists involved means that all of a SENCO's time will be diverted to producing these IDP's and that actual provision in the classroom will suffer. This must be addressed.

Do you think it's a good idea to have to try to work out problems before they can go to a tribunal for a decision?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 3 are good?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

On paper the changes look good. In practice I am very worried about the additional time and responsibility that will fall on schools and especially the SENCO's

Comment



### Final question

Is there anything you think we've left out from all these plans?

The idea of an IDP is a positive step forward. The traditional IEP must disappear if the IDP is introduced. Schools are very good at target setting across the curriculum and IEP's just create extra targets for the sake of paperwork.

Detailed training will be imperative.

Information sharing across all parties involved in the new system must be ensured at the highest level if the system is to work.

The status of the SENCO role within a school management structure must be reviewed as the SENCO under these changes will be responsible for not only the education of approx 25% of the school (The number of pupils on the SEN register), the paperwork involved will increase, the number of meetings with parents, pupils and partners will increase drastically. The SENCO will be answerable legally if there are any problems.

### Conclusion

We think these changes will make a real improvement to the learning and lives of children and young people who have ALN.

### Next steps

Please send you answers in by 25 July 2014 to:

Additional Learning Needs Branch  
Support for Learners Division  
Department for Education and Skills  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ  
Tel: 029 2082 6098

or e-mail: [SENReforms@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SENReforms@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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# Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses

## Young Persons Responses

ALN048: ANONYMOUS

### Goal 1 questions

Do you agree that the new term 'additional learning needs' (ALN) should be used for children and young people up to the age of 25 who need support when they find learning difficult?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

Do you think that IDPs should replace statements of SEN and other plans and assessments in schools and colleges?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know


After looking at an example of IDP I can understand why they would be beneficial as they hold so much information for each pupil. However, they look extremely time consuming and when there are a lot of pupil's who will need them, I worry about how long it will take to complete them. I feel that they would be useful for children who are statemented but I think that it would be too much for pupil's who are only at the School Action stage/School Action + stage. I think that the current IEPs and IEP reviews are fine as they are as they show targets, how targets can be met and review children's progress. Currently these are reviewed 3 or 4 times per school year with new IEPs being created. I am not sure how often the IDPs are meant to be updated but as it looks like such a time consuming process, I do not think it is doable for schools update the IDPs several times per year. The IDP seems unnecessarily long.


Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 1 are good?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Comment




### Goal 2 questions

Do you agree that all the people responsible for education, health and social services should have to work together to support children and young people who need help with learning?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

Do you think that an IDP should be given to all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority instead of the plans they have now?






☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 2 are good?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

## Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses Young Persons Responses

### Goal 3 questions

Do you agree that all children and young people up to the age of 25 should be able to appeal to the tribunal when they have an issue with any part of their IDP that can't be worked out with the local authority first?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Comment

Do you think it's a good idea to have to try to work out problems before they can go to a tribunal for a decision?

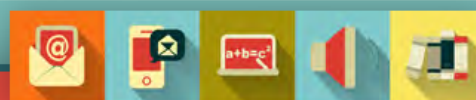
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 3 are good?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Comment



### Final question

Is there anything you think we've left out from all these plans?

Comment

#### Conclusion

We think these changes will make a real improvement to the learning and lives of children and young people who have ALN.

#### Next steps

Please send you answers in by 25 July 2014 to:

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# Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses

## Young Persons Responses

ALN060:

ANONYMOUS

### Goal 1 questions

Do you agree that the new term 'additional learning needs' (ALN) should be used for children and young people up to the age of 25 who need support when they find learning difficult?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know






Do you think that IDPs should replace statements of SEN and other plans and assessments in schools and colleges?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 1 are good?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment



### Goal 2 questions

Do you agree that all the people responsible for education, health and social services should have to work together to support children and young people who need help with learning?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

I welcome strengthened multi agency planning, working and reviewing.

I believe that this new way of working will require a 'culture change' so that staff accept responsibility for the IDP.

Do you think that an IDP should be given to all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority instead of the plans they have now?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know






If the IDP will replace the Care Plan and be a truly multi agency plan then yes. This plan will be person centred, require joint ownership and review. Will this plan be transferable when a pupil moves out of county? School (and LEA) and health, will change, however the social worker will remain constant.

This will require a very sensitive approach. I do not believe that children and young people should have a school IDP just because they are looked after. Some may already have an IDP on entry to care and this continuity will be welcomed. There are some pupils who perhaps have been in stable care long term and do not have additional learning needs. The definition of ALN will be important here. There may be points in care where a pupil requires an IDP i.e. on entry to care and at important times of transition and change.

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 2 are good?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment





## Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses Young Persons Responses

### Goal 3 questions

Do you agree that all children and young people up to the age of 25 should be able to appeal to the tribunal when they have an issue with any part of their IDP that can't be worked out with the local authority first?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know


Do you think it's a good idea to have to try to work out problems before they can go to a tribunal for a decision?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 3 are good?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment



### Final question

Is there anything you think we've left out from all these plans?

Staff awareness and training regarding these changes and new ways of working will be key to future success. This will need to include all involved - schools, education, health, social service and other staff as well as parents/carers and young people.

### Conclusion

We think these changes will make a real improvement to the learning and lives of children and young people who have ALN.


### Next steps

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# Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses

## Young Persons Responses

ALN092:

Moira Williams

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

### Goal 1 questions

Do you agree that the new term 'additional learning needs' (ALN) should be used for children and young people up to the age of 25 who need support when they find learning difficult?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

The actual name does make much difference, this is a vague term and would cover most of us

Comment

Do you think that IDPs should replace statements of SEN and other plans and assessments in schools and colleges?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

Statements are statutory legal documents and need to be followed and reviewed. Not many children have them in recent years unless they have a learning disability or more profound educational needs and the fact that they have a statement of SEN does highlight to all agencies concerned that they have significant needs. The process also allows for input from the community pediatricians who would not otherwise be involved. My understanding is that all children with statements already have IEPs (Individual Educational Plans) which are similar to proposed IDPs. Too many children with too many plans just makes for too much paper work for schools and other agencies

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 1 are good?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

The tenure of this goal appears dictatorial. Eg Parents have a right to send their children to an independent if they choose, however it is sad that the LEA will not support a child's needs within such schools. Teachers and staff in all schools have experience and various expertise, why do they have to be so controlled, can they not identify a child's needs and be judged as making justifiable requests for support without the need for so much bureaucracy. There needs to be some check from the LEA that children's needs are being met in individual schools but if targets and assessments are needed in abundance this distracts from the focus of nurturing and teaching our children as individuals



### Goal 2 questions

Do you agree that all the people responsible for education, health and social services should have to work together to support children and young people who need help with learning?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

We do, however everyone is constrained by lack of staff and reducing budgets so in practice this would need additional resources

Comment

Do you think that an IDP should be given to all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority instead of the plans they have now?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Change for the sake of change is unhelpful. These children need to feel stability, support and nurturing of their abilities. I could not comment without more information

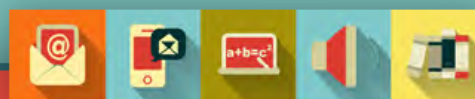
Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 2 are good?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

They appear to put a financial burden on other agencies/authorities

Comment





## Legislative proposals for additional learning needs Responses Young Persons Responses

### Goal 3 questions

Do you agree that all children and young people up to the age of 25 should be able to appeal to the tribunal when they have an issue with any part of their IDP that can't be worked out with the local authority first?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

As a final resource if all else fails

Comment

Do you think it's a good idea to have to try to work out problems before they can go to a tribunal for a decision?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Comment

Do you think all the other changes we want to make to reach goal 3 are good?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

Surely most of these are common sense and should be dealt with in school without racing through a costly protocol

Comment



### Final question

Is there anything you think we've left out from all these plans?

These plans have evidently been given considerable thought, however there are too many plans trying to deal with too many eventualities. In times of financial restriction, I believe that more responsibility should be given to the teachers within the schools and less time spent on assessments. If schools are concerned about the need for support for a particular child, then they should be listened to. The process should be easier and less, not more, bureaucratic. Resources are needed at school level; the less forms which need to be filled in the better. Assessments by Educational psychologists need to be brought back as these focus the needs for support as well as the strengths of children and used to be vital for other services when supporting children in the community and making assessments for diagnoses.

What are plans for children in the rest of the UK? What happens when a child with a statement of SEN moves from England to Wales, or vice versa, do they get immediate support or will they have to go through another assessment process?

### Conclusion

We think these changes will make a real improvement to the learning and lives of children and young people who have ALN.

### Next steps

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