

The future Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) system

March 2023



HM Government

Below we have set out how the changes in the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan will benefit children, young people and families, education settings and local systems.



National Standards

- will give clarity to children, young people and families about what evidence-based support should be in place for their child.
 - will give clarity to education settings and providers about the provision they will need to make available for different needs.
 - will give local authorities and health and care partners clarity about the support that should be available.
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Workforce

- children and young people will have access to a highly trained workforce in their classroom, and from health and care partners.
 - we will introduce a new leadership level SENCo NPQ (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator National Professional Qualification) for schools, and practice guides will offer evidence-based support for frontline professionals.
 - health partners will have increased specialist capacity and local authority SEND Casework teams will be well placed to deliver high-quality support.
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Education, Health and Care

- families will engage with a standardised Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process, with increased use of digital technology, making it easier to navigate.
- for education settings, a standardised EHCP process with increased use of digital technology will reduce bureaucracy.
- Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforces will help deliver wraparound support in alternative provision schools.
- for local systems, each area will be encouraged to have a Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO). Local multi-agency panels will aid decision making, with standardised EHCPs.



Preparation for Adulthood

- children and young people will have improved transitions and access to a range of suitable, ambitious pathways post-16.
- education settings will support children and young people to experience smoother transitions, due to transition standards.
- for local systems, adjustment passports and more Supported Internships will support more young people into sustained employment and higher education.



Accountability

- families will be part of Local Inclusion Partnerships, and help to develop local inclusion plans. Strengthened accountability across the system will increase confidence.
- for education settings, inspections under the Education Inspection Framework must show that children and young people with SEND achieve good outcomes to deliver a good or outstanding judgement.
- for local systems, inclusion dashboards will improve transparency and inform decision making. Local areas will be held to account under new Area SEND inspections.



Financial Sustainability

- children and young people who need a specialist placement will have access to a suitable school, promptly.
- for education settings, the National Funding Formula will give clarity to schools and new funding approaches for alternative provision will be aligned to preventative work.
- for local systems, local authorities will be supported to address current financial deficits and bands and tariffs will give clarity about costs of provision.

The National SEND and Alternative Provision Implementation Board oversees the implementation of the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan, leading and driving change across the sector.