

Reforming services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Welcome to the second newsletter about the Hampshire SEND Pathfinder programme. Since our [last update](#), the Government have announced that they intend to bring forward the legislation and we're now expecting the Children and Families Act to come into force in early 2014, which presents additional challenges to deliver the expected outcomes within shorter timescales.

We are continuing to work with six other authorities in the south east to develop and trial the proposed new approaches to services for children and young people (aged 0-25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), across education, social care and health. These activities will help to shape the draft Children and Families Bill, which is due to be published for consultation this summer. The revised timescales for the programme are shown in the table below:

March 2011	Department for Education (DfE) published Green Paper: Support and aspiration: A new approach to special education needs and disability
September 2011	SEND Pathfinder commenced
15 May 2012	DfE published 'progress and next steps' response
Summer 2012	Draft Children and Families Bill to be published for consultation
March 2013	SEND Pathfinders report
Early 2013	Bill introduced to Parliament
Throughout 2013	Pathfinder experience to inform debates on Bill and details of draft regulations and statutory guidance
2014	Legislation

Local Pathfinder activity

In Hampshire, there are seven multi-agency work streams underway to test the Government's proposals. Interested people and organisations, including parents/carers, the voluntary and community sector, schools and health have been fully involved in all aspects of the programme from the start, with representatives on each work stream, the Project Group and the [Hampshire SE7 SEND multi-agency Change Board](#), which drives activity and makes decisions about the programme in Hampshire.

[Terms of reference](#) and action plans have been developed for each work stream and work stream leads report into the Change Board. Information about the Change Board, including papers and the governance structure can be [viewed online](#). The workstream map below shows the aims of each work stream and how they are interconnected.

Hampshire SEND Green Paper Pathfinder Workstream Map

Workstream updates

Assessment and single plan

New approaches to the birth to 25 assessment process and single plan have been developed, that could replace both the statutory SEN assessment and statement for children and the Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments. 19 families have been recruited to trial the new approaches, which will include testing the role of the key worker. The trial will take place between July and November, with the evaluation and report on findings available at the end of 2012.

Personal budgets

A work plan is in place to explore the ways in which the offer of a personal budget can improve choice, control and outcomes for children and young people and their families. The Hampshire approach for enabling personal budgets is initially focussed on social care and a process (resource allocation system) is currently being developed, which will be ready to trial with eight families in the autumn 2012.

Local offer

This work stream is being led by the SE7 regional Parent Partnership Services. In conjunction with the Parent/Carer Network, they have set out a 'Local Offer' of all services available to support children and young people with SEND, and their families, for the SE7 area. It will be finalised during August and populated with local information from September onwards. In Hampshire, a working group is in place to develop a process for adding local information to the agreed 'model'.

Strengthened multi-agency strategic commissioning and collaboration

This work stream is focusing on improving joined up working across agencies and a multi-agency workshop event is planned for September 2012, to develop the approach in Hampshire. In March, an event was held for health partners to raise awareness of the Pathfinder and support engagement. Following its success, a second event for health colleagues is planned for the autumn 2012. Additionally, a conference for Governors with a responsibility for SEN will be held in September 2012, focusing entirely on the SE7 SEND pathfinder.

Support to parents and carers

This workstream is being led and developed jointly between Hampshire and Brighton and Hove. A work plan has been developed and the focus is on the role of the key worker, resolving differences of opinion/problem solving (including informal and formal mediation) and how to increase parental confidence.

Age range and employment

In Hampshire, this work stream is concentrating on the transition to adult age range (14-25 years). A work plan has been developed to explore pathways to employment and the group are working directly with young people to progress this.

Vulnerable children

The main focus of this work stream is children in care, particularly the portability of plans when children transfer from one authority area to another. Regional terms of reference have been developed and Hampshire attended the first regional workshops in March and May 2012.

Participation of children and young people

The national disabled children's charity KIDS have been awarded a regional contract to evaluate the involvement of children and young people in the Pathfinder. During autumn 2012 the focus will be on testing proposals with families.

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Please put in the subject title of any email 'SE7
SEND Pathfinder'

Useful links:

SE7 regional pathfinder website
www.se7pathfinder.co.uk

Hampshire SE7 SEND Pathfinder
www.hants.gov.uk/SE7sendpathfinder

Council for disabled children
www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk