

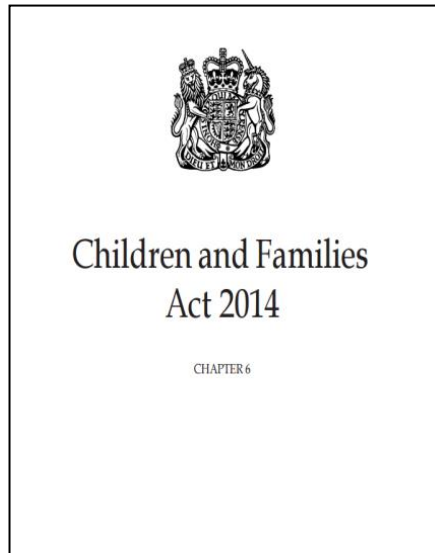
The SEND reforms in England: Supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs





**THANK
YOU**

SEND reforms in England

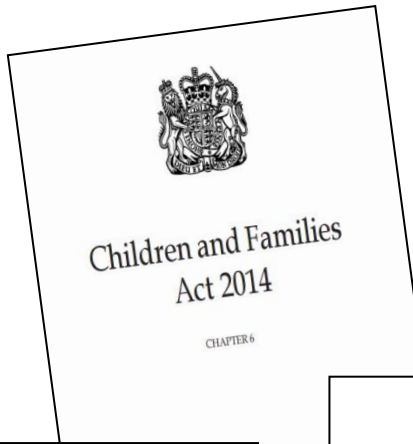


- **Successes**
- **Concerns**

SEND reforms in England



Biggest education reforms in a generation



Welcome to the webinar:

SEND reforms: an introduction for SLTs

26th January 2015
#SEND

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms toolkit: information, tips and resources for speech and language therapists

Children and Families Bill



- Key areas of concern/engagement:
 - classification of speech and language therapy as special educational provision
 - joint commissioning for children and young people without education, health and care (EHC) plans
- Expert legal advice highlighted gaps in the joint commissioning duty. There was concern that in practice local authorities and health partners may not secure support for children without EHC plans.

Joint commissioning



Coalition of support

Royal College of
Nursing

Nasen

National
Association of
Headteachers

British
Association for
Community Child

Special
Educational
Consortium

Royal College of
Paediatrics and
Child Health

Every Disabled
Child Matters

National
Autistic Society

Children's Heart
Federation

The
Communication
Trust

Afasic

Independent
Parental Special
Education
Advice

British
Stammering
Association

Guide Dogs

Rainbow Trust
Children's
Charity

Selective Mutism
Information and
Research
Association

Children's
Services
Development
Group

Jean Gross CBE

Brian Lamb OBE

Joint commissioning



Action following implementation

2015 General Election:

- further legal advice from David Wolfe QC
- manifesto asks regarding children and young people
- meetings with ministers and shadow ministers, including Edward Timpson MP

SEND reforms report – why now?



- Member feedback
- Full implementation

SEND reforms report



The SEND report developed in response to member concerns:

- support for children without EHC plans
- cliff edge in support for young people
- variable implementation of joint commissioning arrangements

In July 2016, we commissioned SQW to conduct a survey of our members to find out more about their experiences of the SEND reforms.

SEND reforms report



- Our new report brings together:
 - survey findings
 - case studies of good practice and challenges faced by services
 - practical policy recommendations

SEND reforms report



Key headlines

- Involvement of parents and carers in decision-making and partnership working – highlighted by 87% of respondents
- SLTs' confidence in helping deliver the changes – highlighted by 66%

SEND reforms report



Key headlines

- Children without education health and care (EHC) plans are not getting the support that they need.
- Joint commissioning arrangements are patchy, and in some cases SLT services are not being commissioned for children and young people.
- SLTs have experienced capacity challenges in terms of engagement in the EHC planning process.

SEND reforms report



SLTs reported a refocus of resources to support children with EHC plans, which has often been to the detriment of children without EHC plans.

- Nearly half (45%) of SLTs said that they lack the time and resources to support children without EHC plans
- Just 40% of SLTs said that they were able to support children without EHC plans.
- 15% of SLTs responded don't know or other.

SEND reforms report



Survey findings: joint commissioning

- Members reported that joint commissioning arrangements are patchy, and in some cases speech and language therapy services are not being commissioned for children and young people.
- SLTs reported varied and inconsistent joint commissioning arrangements between health, education and social care agencies at a local level.

SEND reforms report



Survey findings: 0-2s

- **43% of respondents reflected that SLT support was not being commissioned for children aged 0-2 years following implementation of the reforms.**
- SLTs who shared further information regarding why they did not feel that support was being commissioned for children aged 0-2 highlighted reductions in, and a lack of funding/resourcing for early intervention and early years work.

“Our early years service has been stripped back to the point where it is difficult for the under threes to get seen by SLT”

SEND reforms report



Survey findings: 18-25s

- **43% of respondents reflected that SLT support was not being commissioned for children aged 18-25 years following implementation of the reforms.**

- SLTs who shared further information highlighted the following:
 - reductions in or a lack of local funding
 - a lack of clarity regarding how support should be commissioned for young people
 - resistance from post-16 education providers and adult health to support the age 18-25 group

SEND reforms report



Survey findings: engagement in the EHC planning process

SLTs have experienced capacity challenges engaging with the EHC planning process:

- SLTs have reported that they lack capacity to attend EHC planning meetings (33% of respondents said that they or their team felt unable to attend meetings as a result of capacity issues).
- Respondents also raised issues regarding a lack of notice being given by local authority colleagues to provide inputs to the EHC assessment and planning processes.

SEND reforms report



Policy recommendations

Reductions in speech and language therapy support for children and young people without EHC plans

- Calling on government departments to provide clarity on, and reinforce, the responsibilities of local authorities, schools and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to commission services for children without EHC plans.
- Working with the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) to develop advice and information for schools regarding how to support children with SLCN and how they can buy in speech and language therapy services directly.

SEND reforms report



Policy recommendations

Variable implementation of joint commissioning and a lack of speech and language therapy support for children aged 0-2 and 18-25

- **0-2s:** Calling on the DfE to develop guidance and a national framework regarding children's early language and communication skills as part of the forthcoming early years workforce strategy and consultation on children's centres.

SEND reforms report



Policy recommendations

- **18-25s:** we are calling on the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families and the Department for Education to:
 - Provide clarity regarding which local agencies are responsible for commissioning speech and language services for young people aged 18-25.
 - Conduct research which will map gaps in the commissioning of local speech and language therapy services for young people aged 18-25.
 - Identify how existing financial resources can be reallocated to address commissioning gaps regarding speech and language therapy services which support young people aged 18-25.
 - Incorporate a review of how areas are responding to the extension in commissioning for young people aged 18-25, as part of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission joint SEND inspection process.

SEND reforms report



Policy recommendations

Capacity challenges associated with the EHC planning process

- We are calling on the Department for Education to recognise the challenges faced by SLTs and other practitioners in attending EHC planning meetings, and the need to increase capacity within the system in order to deliver requirements within the allocated timescales. The combination of inflexibility within the system and high caseloads are leading to poorer results.
- We are calling on the Department for Education and local government sector partners to develop resources that can support local authority areas with the paperwork associated with EHC planning meetings and resource allocation systems.
- We are calling on local government sector partners to develop training and resources that can help to support and develop the skills of case workers who are responsible for coordinating and developing EHC plans.

SEND reforms report



Policy recommendations

Continuing partnership working with families and other professionals

- In 2017, the RCSLT will hold a joint roundtable with social care sector organisations to discuss ways to support partnership working between speech and language therapy services and adult social care colleagues to improve outcomes for young people with SLCN.
- In 2017, the RCSLT will work with external partners, including SEND support services and voluntary organisations that support children with SLCN to develop resources that can help support greater involvement of children in decisions regarding their care.

How the APPG can help



- Highlight the report's findings in parliamentary arena and express support for policy recommendations
- Seek a response from the Government

- Thank you
- Any questions