

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee**

12th September, 2019

**Report of the Head of Transformation**  
**Andrew Thomas**

**Matter for information**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Additional Learning Needs Reform**

**Purpose of the Report**

- To provide Members with further information in relation to new legislation and statutory guidance for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
- To provide Members with information and progress in relation to the ALN Transformation Programme.

**Executive Summary**

Members have previously received a report which set out Welsh Government's objectives for transformation from the current system for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) of statutory schools age, to a unified system for supporting learners from 0 to 25 years of age with ALN. The report provided Members with an overview of the Additional Tribunal Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (ALNET), an overview of the draft Code of Practice for ALN and the wider implications for local authorities in implementing the transformation programme.

This report will provide an update on activity and timescales in relation to the new legislation, the local authority's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and the progress and challenges to date.

## **Background**

The ALNET Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales in December 2017 and became an Act in January 2018 after receiving Royal Assent. The Act creates the legislative framework for a change in the delivery of ALN provision. The Act and further legislation will have a significant impact on local authorities, schools and other agencies and services, increasing statutory responsibilities for both a wider age range (0-25) and through creating a single statutory plan to replace current statutory and non-statutory plans.

The Welsh Government consultation on the new draft Additional Learning Needs Code closed in March 2019. A response to the consultation has been published and it is anticipated that the final Code will be published in January 2020.

The new legislation will be implemented from September 2020, with the phased introduction of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) to replace all statutory and non-statutory plans. LAs are currently preparing for a period of transformation from 2020 to 2023. During this time there will be a requirement to work within two legal systems. The current system will be phased out entirely by 2023.

Members have received a report on the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) for 2018 – 2019. The Inclusion Service has made the expected progress in all areas against this plan. This has included:

- The implementation of a range of awareness raising activities with key stakeholders including school staff, parents/ carers, social services, Swansea Bay Health Board and colleagues within the wider Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Services (ELLS) directorate.
- Collaborative working with the University of Trinity St David's to develop and deliver a Graduate Certificate in ALN, which is offered to staff within specialist provisions and Additional Learning Needs Coordinators (ALNCOs).

- The provision of appropriate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for LA specialist staff, in order to ensure there is a highly skilled, sustainable workforce within NPT that is able to meet the needs of all learners with ALN.
- The accreditation of four Inclusion Service staff members as trainers in Person Centred Practice (PCP).
- The development and delivery of a rolling programme of PCP training, which is available in a range of formats to suit the requirements of different audiences.
- The identification of a PCP champion within each cluster to enhance the support available to school staff and assist the LA in quality assurance.
- The appointment of an Early Years ALN Development Officer to assist the LA in its preparation for reform.
- The implementation of a range of initiatives to strengthen parent partnership, including termly drop in advice sessions with senior Inclusion Service officers and high quality training packages i.e. Embracing Autism and ELKLAN.

The Local Authority (LA) Inclusion Service has produced a LIP for 2019-2020 which sets out actions and timescales and will include of allocation of grant funding once confirmed, in order to plan, monitor and review our progress in readiness for reform.

The Inclusion service is currently working through each priority area on a regional and local level. The Inclusion Service is the regional lead for Pupil Parent Partnership. A multi-agency ALNET Steering Group for Neath Port Talbot has been established to consult with and monitor progress and a readiness survey is being completed with schools.

## **Recommendations**

That Members note the content of this report and the information provided in the verbal update.

## **Appendices**

Local Implementation Plan

### **Officer Contact**

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