



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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**Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education  
Tribunal (Wales) Bill: outline of plans for legislative changes to  
be implemented across Wales**

**OGL**

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## Outline of plans for legislative changes to be implemented across Wales

The draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill (“*draft Bill*”) sets out proposals for a new legislative system for supporting children and young people, aged 0-25, who have additional learning needs (ALN). The new system would replace the existing legislation surrounding special educational needs (SEN) and the assessments for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) in post 16 education and training.

Consultation on the draft Bill was launched on 6 July 2015 and closes on 18 December 2015. It can be accessed on the Welsh Government’s website: <http://gov.wales/consultations/education/draft-aln-and-education-tribunal-wales-bill/?lang=en>

To support effective understanding of how the proposed legislation could be implemented, the Welsh Government has developed an indicative implementation plan that identifies the activities required to deliver the legislative reforms set out in the draft Bill.

The implementation plan is based on a number of principles that we believe would ensure a smooth transition from the existing system to the proposed new statutory arrangements. The key principles being that:

- there is sufficient time for learners, families and relevant professionals to become aware of the proposed changes and to prepare for the impact that these changes will have;
- a programme of training delivered to professionals who will be actively engaged in delivering Individual Development Plans (IDPs); and
- IDPs should be phased in over a set period of time to allow local authorities and education settings to review plans and policies currently in place to support learners with SEN or LDD.

We have engaged with key stakeholders on the principles of the plans for implementation, which has helped us identify the key delivery work streams and the linkages to wider, supporting policies such as person-centred practice and workforce development.

Based on these principles, there would need to be a suitable transitional period that will allow for:

- a programme of co-construction with stakeholders to include children, young people and their families, local authorities, education practitioners – ranging from early years to further education, SENCos, specialist providers and the third sector (this has already begun but will continue to build momentum both before and after the passage of the Bill);

- formal consultation on regulations and key guidance;
- the delivery of training on statutory requirements placed upon on relevant bodies and on the delivery of Individual Development Plans (IDPs); and
- the phasing in of IDPs with all of these becoming statutory by the end of the transitional period.

We would expect that all new arrangements would be fully implemented within 3 academic years of a Bill receiving Royal Assent. The next Welsh Government will wish to review the deliverability and effectiveness of the implementation plan at key points throughout the legislative process and its lifespan beyond Royal Assent of the Bill, and continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure the impact of the proposed legislative changes are implemented as smoothly as possible.

## Outline Implementation Plan

