



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

A unified plan

Individual development plans (IDPs) will replace statements of special educational needs (SEN) and individual education plans (IEPs) for learners currently supported through Early Years Action or Early Years Action Plus.

If the provider suspects that a child may have additional learning needs (ALN), it could refer that child to the local authority. The local authority will decide whether the child has ALN and, if so, put an IDP in place.

Welsh language

If a child or young person needs additional learning provision in Welsh, this must be documented in the IDP and 'all reasonable steps' must be taken to secure the provision in Welsh.

Clear and consistent rights of appeal

Children and their parents/carers will have the right to appeal to the Education Tribunal against decisions made by a local authority in relation to their ALN or their IDP.

A mandatory ALN Code

Non-maintained early years education providers in receipt of local authority funding must have regard to the guidance set out in the ALN Code.

A 0–25 age range

Improved transition between early years education providers and schools.

A new local authority Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officer role is intended to contribute to the wider objective of improving early identification and intervention in relation to ALN and ensuring better planning for future provision. The lead officers will have an important part to play in improving the early identification of lower level needs, which may not be identified under the existing system, and in preventing the development of ALN; establishing referral routes and raising awareness among multi-agency partners; and helping ensure the early years workforce has the appropriate skills, mechanisms and tools for preventing the development of ALN and supporting young children with ALN.

Increased collaboration

Where necessary, IDPs will include additional learning provision (ALP) agreed by health services, social services and other services, as well as education. IDPs will contain an action plan that is clear about which agency is responsible for delivering the individual elements.

