



Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Directors of Children's Service

September 2013

Special Educational Needs Reforms – making sure you have the support you need

Excellent progress has been made over the past few months on legislation that will bring together pre- and post-16 support for children and young people with special educational needs and learning difficulties into a single, birth-25 system. The reforms will deliver a more simple, joined up system for the provision of education, health and social care for children and young people up to the age of 25. Children and young people will be able to receive the support they need to achieve in education and make a successful transition to adulthood including paid employment and independent living.

Implementing reforms successfully

The new legislation provides the framework for meaningful reform, but Local authorities, working with local partners, parents, children and young people, have an overall responsibility in making sure that these reforms are a success. I know that many of you have been preparing for their introduction already, and have had contact with the pathfinder champions in each region, together with DfE's contracted delivery partners, to access support and advice. We want to make sure that the support is really helping you to be ready to implement the reforms from September next year.

To help us understand your support needs I would be grateful if you could complete a short survey about your progress towards implementation and the support you are already receiving and what additional support you would find useful. The short survey is based on a number of questions from the pathfinder champion self-evaluation tool you may have seen and which we hope will enable you to respond easily.

You can access the survey here

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K2PFM6Q>.

I would be very grateful if you could respond by 11 October. The information you provide will be extremely helpful to us in thinking about what more we could do to support you over the next year and to steer the work of the pathfinder champions and delivery partners to meet local authority needs.

The information will be treated in confidence and is intended for internal use only within the Department. We will provide you with an aggregated version of the survey results but will not provide or publish information at individual authority level. You will of course be aware that all information related to government business is potentially subject to FOI, but should we receive any requests for data at individual authority level we will consult the authority concerned to take views about the sensitivity of information requested.

I would also like to draw your attention to another survey, which will be run by SQW in October, as part of a more formal evaluation. This survey will be a more in depth assessment and will include local partners such as schools, colleges and parent-carer forums. The results of the SQW survey will be anonymous and will be vital in understanding overall progress in each region towards implementing the SEN reforms. However, it will not tell us the support needed by individual local authorities, hence we hope you will understand the importance of also completing this survey.

We may be in touch again later in the year to get an up to date picture of progress and see how things have changed.


Additional funding to help support implementation

To help you prepare for implementation, we are making available £9m of new funding for local authorities in 2013-14. This will be paid out to local authorities in October this year, and we will be in touch with you very shortly to confirm exactly when this will be.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for helping to ensure these wide-ranging reforms have the long-lasting impact we all want to see.

If you have any questions please contact the Department at – sen.implementation@education.gsi.gov.uk

Many thanks for all of your hard work so far and for taking the time to complete this survey.

Yours sincerely,


Edward Timpson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families