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**Dear college principal,**

## **IMPLEMENTING NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES**

We wrote to you recently about forthcoming changes to arrangements for supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These reforms are designed to enable young people with SEND – with the support of colleges – to realise their full potential and achieve the best possible outcomes in life, including independent living and finding paid employment.

The Children and Families Act received Royal Assent on 13 March and implementation will commence from this September. Further education colleges, sixth form colleges, and special post-16 institutions that seek approval under s.41 of the Act will have some important new responsibilities, including new duties to admit young people when named in their education health and care (EHC) plan, to use best endeavours for all young people with special educational needs, to co-operate with the local authority and to have regard to a new 0-25 SEND Code of Practice.

### **Local offer**

Local authorities must publish details of post-16 education and training provision for young people who are disabled or have SEN in their area as part of a new 'local offer'. We have written to all local authorities, asking them to work with you when developing this. You should be reviewing your provision now and sharing information with them.

## Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans

For young people with complex needs, the current system of statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDA) will be replaced by a 0-25 education, health and care (EHC) plan. Further education colleges, sixth form colleges and approved special post-16 institutions will be under a new duty to admit a student if, following consultation, they are named as the education provider in a young person's EHC plan. By August 2016, all young people with existing LDAs will have transferred to the new arrangements. We will publish further detailed information on how this transition period will operate before September.

## Support for implementation

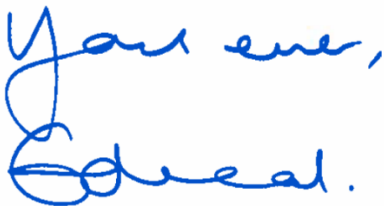
We have produced a short [implementation pack](#), with more detail of how the changes will affect colleges – including clarifying the position for 19-25 year olds – and information about sources of support for FE providers. You might also find [this briefing](#), produced by the Council for Disabled Children in collaboration with AoC, NATSPEC and Preparing for Adulthood, helpful.

## Workforce development

To support FE providers to develop further their capacity to improve outcomes for students with SEND we are investing in bursaries for high-calibre graduates to undertake the specialist Diploma in Teaching Disabled Learners. Further information, including a guide for applicants, is available [on this page](#). You can find more resources to support the professional development of your staff on the [Excellence Gateway](#).

Please start thinking about these changes now, and if you have not yet started, put plans in place to ensure that your institution is prepared for these fundamental changes.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to make these reforms a success.



**EDWARD TIMPSON MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for Children & Families



**MATTHEW HANCOCK**

Minister for Skills and Enterprise