Local Authority Perspectives on the SEND Reforms

Julie Hicklin
SEN Reforms

- Local Offer
- Engagement and participation of parents, children and young people
- Coordinated Assessments and Education, Health and Care Plans – with focus on clearly defined outcomes
- Personalisation and personal budgets
- Joint Commissioning
Opportunities provided by the reforms

• 0-25 – more joined up for young people and families
• Focus on outcomes
• Personalisation
• High needs funding as an ‘enabler’
• Co-production – voice of young people and families informing everything we do
• Moving from dependence to independence
Challenges for LAs and partners

- The scale of change – and size of workforce
- The reforms affect all services – education, health, social care, housing, leisure, finance, legal, transport, regeneration, IT and data …
- Workforce development
- Commissioning to meet outcomes
- Personal Budgets
- Implications of young people’s right to make own decisions (Best Interests, Information Advice and Support etc)
Working differently in Manchester

• New process for high needs funding from 2013 – across Greater Manchester
• Anticipated SEND reforms – outcome focused
• More Supported Internships – including in schools
• ‘Good week’
• Individualised programmes
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Objectives related to</th>
<th>Expected outcome (at the end of the year)</th>
<th>Provision to meet objectives</th>
<th>Local Offer support</th>
<th>Additional Support required</th>
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<td>Education &amp; Learning</td>
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<td>Work Skills</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Student’s long term aspirations/goals:

£6000
A case study

Helaina is 20. She wanted to attend both mainstream and specialist colleges and do work experience. The LA high needs panel agreed an individual package personalised to the outcomes in her EHC plan.

She also has a social care individual budget, which she uses to pay a personal assistant to accompany her to her paid job (1 day a month) and to leisure activities.
Request for assessment/child or young person brought to local authority’s (LA’s) attention

LA decides whether to conduct EHC needs assessment

- Yes
  - LA notifies parent/young person of decision within a maximum of 6 weeks from request for assessment
    - LA gathers information for EHC assessment
      - Yes
        - LA decides whether an EHC plan is needed
          - Yes
            - LA drafts plan and sends it to parents/young person
              - Parents/young person has **15 calendar days** to comment/express a preference for an educational institution and should also seek agreement of a personal budget
              - LA must consult governing body, principal or proprietor of the educational institution before naming them in the EHC plan. The institution should respond within **15 calendar days**
              - Following consultation with the parent/young person, the draft plan is amended where needed and issued. (LA notifies parent/young person of rights to appeal.)
          - No
            - On-going LA information gathering – where an LA requests cooperation of a body in securing information and advice, the body must comply within 6 weeks
    - No
      - LA notifies parents/young person of decision and right to appeal within a maximum of 6 weeks from request for assessment
Changes for LAs/colleges from September

- Transfers – LDAs – EHC plans by 1\textsuperscript{st} September 2015
- New requests for EHC plans
- Consultation/naming process – 15 days
- Earlier assessments/offers - 31\textsuperscript{st} May
- Person centred reviews
- Local Offer
- Requests for personal budgets
Useful Contacts/Documents

Code of Practice

SEND Pathfinder information packs
http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/

Education Funding Agency – guidance for LAs on 16-25 high needs funding
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-25-high-needs-funding-additional-information

Council for Disabled Children
Contact

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