Preparing for Adulthood

British Association of Supported Employment Conference

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2013
Preparing for Adulthood

- Delivery partner funded by DfE to test and support implementation of SEN reforms


The Preparing for Adulthood programme will:

- Build on the learning from past initiatives
- Support peer to peer learning at a local level to improve outcomes
- Share knowledge of what works, the challenges and solutions with Government, local agencies, families and young people.
Three strands of work

1. Pathfinder Support
   - 13 out of 20 pathfinders focusing on transition and post 16 (19 out of 30 LAs)
   www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/pathfinder-support

2. Wider support (non pathfinders)
   - Events to enable peer to peer learning between local areas.
   www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/wider-support

3. Best practice and information sharing
   - Website & social media, bi-monthly bulletins, resources, stories
   sign up at:
   www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/best-practice-and-information
Children and Families Bill

Where are we in the legislative process?

- Lords Committee: Oct 2013
- Regs/Code: Oct 2013
- Report Stage: Nov 2013
- Royal Assent: Feb 2014
- Law: September 2014

The Government
Houses of Parliament
London, England

Preparing for Adulthood

Friends, Included, Good health
A part time job, my own place
My plan for the future

House of Commons
Wider developments…

• Transition Consultation
• Pathfinder Champions
• Supported Internships
• High Needs Funding
• Study Programmes
• Delivery Partners
A reminder: the case for change

The current system is not working for families and children:

- Too many children with SEN have their needs picked up late;

- Young people with SEN do less well than their peers at school and college and are more likely to be out of education, training and employment at 18;

- Schools and colleges can focus too much on the SEN label rather than meeting the child’s needs, and the current Statements/ Learning Difficulty Assessments do not focus on life outcomes;
A reminder: the case for change

The current system is not working for families and children:

- Too many families have to battle to find out what support is available and in getting the help they need from education, health and social care services;

- When a young person leaves school for further education, they enter a very different system which does not carry forward the rights and protections that exist in the SEN system in schools.
Draft legislation - key highlights

- Local authorities, health and care services to commission services jointly
- LAs to publish a clear, transparent ‘local offer’ of services so parents and young people can understand what is available
- More streamlined assessment process, integrating education, health and care services
- New 0-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, will replace the current system of Statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments
- Option of a personal budget for families and young people with a Plan, extending choice and control over their support
- New statutory protections for young people aged 16-25 in FE and a stronger focus on preparing for adulthood
- Academies, Free Schools, Further Education and Sixth Form colleges to have the same SEN duties as maintained schools
What is the Local Offer?

• Local authorities must publish in one place information about provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from 0-25 who have SEN.

• Must include both local provision and provision outside the local area that the local authority expects is likely to be used for children and young people with SEN, including national provision.
A local offer has 2 key purposes …

To provide clear,

• comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities available; and

• To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEN, parents and carers, and serve providers in its development and review.

Intended to help local authorities to improve provision. It should not simply be a directory of existing services
The Local Offer should be?

- Engaging
- Accessible
- Transparent and comprehensive
Who should be involved?

- Children, young people and families
- All schools and colleges
- Early years providers
- Children’s centres
- Health
- Social care
- People involved in preparing for adulthood
- Pupil referral units
- Youth offending teams
- LA (education and training, social care, functions relating to preparing for adulthood)
- Appropriate others!
What must be included (1)?

- Education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN (should include information about quality and destinations/outcomes)
- Arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people’s SEN, including arrangements for requesting an EHC needs assessment
- Other education provision (educational provision outside of schools or colleges such as sports or arts provision)
What must be included (2) ?

• Training provision, including Apprenticeships

• Arrangements for travel to and from schools, post 16 institutions and early years providers

• Support to help children and young people in moving between phases of education (for example from early years to school, from primary to secondary) and to prepare for adulthood
Local areas have to set out how they will support young people and families to prepare for adulthood. With particular attention to,

- Paid employment
- Independent living (good housing options and support)
- Community participation
- (and good health but mentioned elsewhere in Code)
Young People Can Work
How can we implement the employment pathway

• Start at the beginning
• Raise aspirations and share what has happened for others
• Embed employment in transition planning – especially EHC plans
• Meaningful work experience and Saturday/holiday jobs
• Personalised curriculum that support employment
• Post 16 options and support that leads to jobs (including supported internships)
• Effective employment support as young people leave education
Useful resources

http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/
Info packs on local offer, EHC plans, personal budgets and joint commissioning

www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk
Information on pathfinders, employment case studies, supported internship factsheet, bimonthly bulletin
Preparing for Adulthood – Contact Us

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