

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**SCRUTINY
13th May 2019**

REPORT AUTHOR: IMTIAZ BHATTI

SUBJECT: Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Update:
ALN Transformation Programme

REPORT FOR: Scrutiny

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the ALN Transformation Programme in Powys, which is responding to the Welsh Government ALN Transformation Programme as well as focussing on local continuous improvement of the service.

This programme has the full support and approval of elected members, other local authority (LA) services, schools and third sector organisations. This paper has been brought to Scrutiny at this stage to provide a further briefing and to receive any feedback.

2. Context

The **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018** will become law in 2020 (see ALN Timeline in **Appendix 1**), with the SEN system coming to an end and the term being superseded by ALN in 2023.

The draft ALN Code¹ was released on 11th December 2018, which was followed by a 15-week consultation that ended on the 22nd March 2019. The Welsh Government are currently considering responses, and an overview of these is anticipated to be released in June 2019, with the final ALN Code expected in December 2019.

The changes to ALN provision and legislation are being introduced within the context of a wider change to the educational landscape within Wales² (see **Appendix 2**).

¹ https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-12/draft-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales_0.pdf

https://llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-12/cod-drafft-anghenion-dysgu-ychwanegol-cymru_0.pdf

² <https://gov.wales/preparing-new-curriculum>

3. Identified actions

The new legislation, associated regulations and ALN Code require that PCC, schools, :

- a. review local ALN & Inclusion policy and procedures (including the use of technology) in line with th
- b. update/change local ALN & Inclusion policy and procedures (including the use of technology) and to meet the requirements of the Act and the new ALN Code of Practice (formerly SEN Code of Practice);
- c. identify what IT solutions will be required to satisfy new legal and operational requirements.

In order to meet the needs of the new Welsh Government ALN and Tribunal Act 2018 for September 2020 and to review its impact.

4. Progress since Scrutiny Report 4th December 2018

i. Engagement and Communication

A wide range of engagement and communication activities have been undertaken since December 2018, in order to raise awareness about the legislative changes, discuss and understand the implications and garner views to be included in the ALN Code consultation. The engagement and communication activities include but not limited to:

- a) Attendance at Schools Forum to update on progress on the 7th December 2018
- b) First issue of schools and Governor's newsletter
- c) First issue of public newsletter
- d) Welsh Government Parental Engagement Events – on the 10th and 11th December 2018 in Llandrindod and Welshpool respectively
- e) Evaluation of the training audit
- f) Professional Workshops – 10th, 14th, and 16th of January 2019 in Welshpool, Brecon and Llandrindod respectively
- g) Parental Engagement Events re. Specialist Centre Provision – 17th, 23rd, and 25th January 2019 in Llandrindod, Brecon, and Newtown respectively. Additional events were requested by parents, so these were held on the 11th, 12th and 13th February 2019 in Llandrindod, Welshpool and Ystradgynlais respectively
- h) Informal Engagement Survey re. Specialist Centre Provision – open between 22nd January and 17th February 2019. One hundred and twenty eight responses were received from across the county, with

12% of these being from young people who attend the centres. The responses received mirrored discussion at the engagement events.

- i) Attendance at the ALNCo Fora – 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st February held in Welshpool, Newtown, Llandrindod and Brecon respectively
- j) Draft ALN Code Public Engagement Event – 19th February 2019 in Newtown. The event included a presentation from the Welsh Government Regional Lead for ALN Transformation
- k) Attendance at Youth Forum on the 26th February
- l) Draft ALN Code Drop-In Surgery – 1st March 2019. This was open to all PCC staff, elected members and schools staff
- m) Parental Engagement Events re. Specialist Centre Provision – 4th, 6th, and 11th March 2019, held in Llandrindod, Welshpool and Ystradgynlais respectively
- n) Governor’s Briefings – 5th, 6th, and 7th March, held in Llandrindod, Welshpool and Brecon respectively
- o) Finalise plans for the BESD and PRU workstream, including a virtual school

Please see **Appendix 3** for an updated copy of the communications strategy.

ii. Powys ALN Parent Carer Forum

The ALN team are committed to partnership working with parents and carers to ensure that their views and opinions are listened to and able to inform the work we undertake. When discussing with parents and carers there was an appetite for the establishment of a forum for parents and carers of children and young people with ALN.

The inaugural meeting of the Powys ALN Parent Carer Forum was held on the evening of the 4th April 2019. The full name was agreed along with the strapline ‘Working Together and Influencing’. A vision statement was drafted, frequency of meetings agreed and key priorities set for the coming months

iii. Regional and Local Plans

A regional ‘Reflect, Review and Plan’ workshop was held in Carmarthen on the 27th and 28th March 2019 to enable the six LA’s in the ERW region to draft the regional ALN Transformation plan for 2019/20.

Priorities have been set for the PCC ALN Transformation plan for 2019/20 but these may require amendment once the regional plan has been finalised.

iv. ICT Provision

A trial of the Elective Home Education (EHE) processes will be undertaken on WCCIS and is due to commence in May 2019. The outcome of this trial will inform decisions about whether further ALN processes can be suitably carried out within the system.

Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Councils are currently working together to develop provision mapping and an IDP module on Teacher Centre to support the processes attached to the legislative changes. This is in the early stages but a presentation given at the regional meeting was encouraging. Further progress is to be reported to the regional group by the two LAs.

A trial of the multi-media advocacy tool, RIX Wikis is currently being explored by the ALN Transformation team, subject to the completion of the relevant data sharing documentation and further approval by ICT Governance. This software will support the core principal of the new legislation by placing 'learners' views and feelings at the heart of the process of planning the support required to enable them to overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential'³

'Wikis are simple, accessible, secure and easy to build personal websites. They can be used to create multi-media person-centred plans that use pictures, words, video and sound to capture the voice, skills, aspirations and needs of the individual'.⁴ Departmental discussions are being held to determine the scope of the trial.

v. Integrated Point of Access

Three ALN Transformation workstream identified the need for a single point of access in order to simplify the process for those wishing to access support. In addition, similar discussions were being held by Children's Service and a Start Well workstream about access to the services they provide, therefore we are working collaboratively to try and establish an integrated point of access if possible.

5. Next Steps

This term in addition to undertaken further engagement and communication activities and events, we will be putting robust plans in place for workforce development and the introduction of IDPs:

1. Attendance at the Governor's Briefing on the 4th, 5th, and 6th June 2019 to discuss key roles and responsibilities for schools under the new legislation

³ *Draft Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales* (December 2018). Available at https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-12/draft-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales_0.pdf Accessed 28/02/19, p. 2

⁴ <https://www.rixwiki.org/>

2. Attendance at Schools Forum to update on progress on the 7th June 2019
3. Issue newsletter or update to schools, governor's, early years settings, elected members and HoS
4. Issue public newsletter
5. Issue survey to understand parent/carer views of current ALN provision in Powys
6. Professionals Workshops on IDPs – on the 17th, 18th and 20th (x2) June 2019 in Llandrindod, Welshpool, Ystradgynlais and Brecon respectively
7. Powys ALN Parent Carer Forum – 18th June 2019 in Brecon
8. Evaluation of the readiness survey. Combine analysis with the findings from the training audit to understand training and support needs in schools in order to implement legislative changes. This will be used to inform the training programme for the academic year 2019/20
9. Attendance at Youth Forum in July 2019, dates to be confirmed
10. Trial of RIX Wikis subject to approval to proceed
11. WCCIS EHE trial
12. Create person-centred practice (PCP) and one-page profile E-learning modules
13. Progress the integrated point of access with Children's Service, Start Well and Health
14. Work with Catering & Cleaning (C&C) to create an easy read menu and also a Workplace Talk for all kitchen and cleaning staff to provide an awareness about ALN
15. Proposals for the Specialist Centre provision to be submitted to Scrutiny and Cabinet in the Autumn term 2019.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – ALN Timeline

Appendix 2 – Additional Learning Needs in the Context of Curriculum for Wales 2022 ⁵

Appendix 3 – ALN Transformation Programme Communications Plan

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⁵ <https://gov.wales/preparing-new-curriculum>
<https://llyw.cymru/paratoi-ar-gyfer-y-cwricwlwm-newydd>

Appendix 1: ALN Timeline

Additional learning needs (ALN) timeline



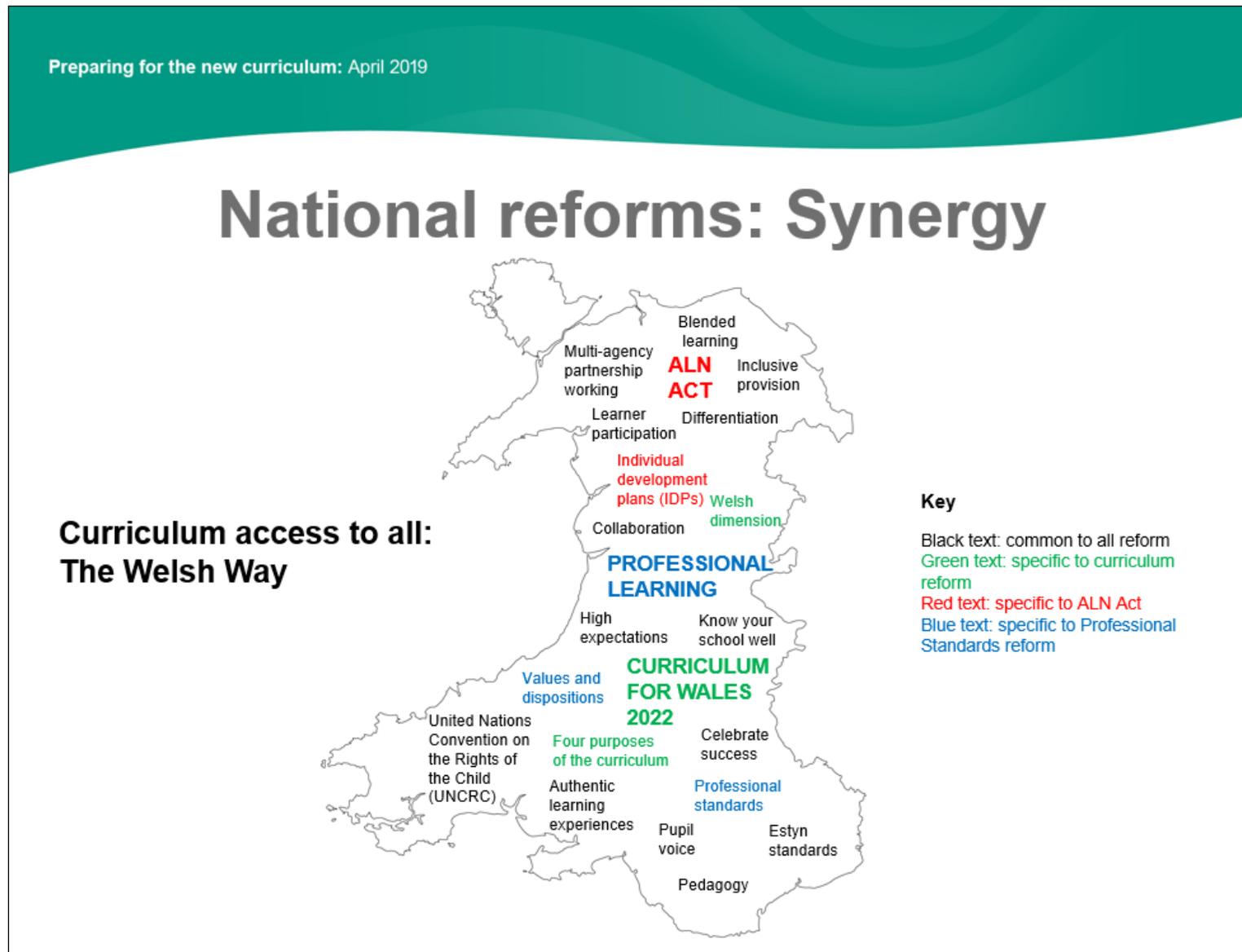
#additionallearningneeds

#ALNWales

#ALNAct

gov.wales/ALN

Appendix 2: Additional Learning Needs in the Context of Curriculum for Wales 2022



Appendix 3: Communications Plan

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS **AND INCLUSION** **TRANSFORMATION AND** **INCLUSION PROGRAMME**

Communications Plan

Responsible Officer: Imtiaz Bhatti

Version number: 5.0

LIVE DOCUMENT/WORKING DRAFT

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1.0 – Situation Summary

1.1 – Situation Summary

Powys County Council is responding to the ALN and Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018 and associated legislation which will be introduced in September 2020 for all schools and providers which will require the need in Powys to:

- d. review local ALN & Inclusion policy and procedures (including the use of technology) and to meet the requirements of the Act and the new ALN Code of Practice (formerly SEN Code of Practice);
- e. update/change local ALN & Inclusion policy and procedures (including the use of technology) and to meet the requirements of the 2018 Act and the new ALN Code of Practice (formerly SEN Code of Practice);
- f. identify IT solutions that will be required to satisfy new legal and operational requirements.

This will provide a structured approach to the required transformation process during the period 2018-2021 resulting in the introduction of a new strategy and supporting Powys County Council policy for Additional and Learning Needs and Inclusion for implementation by September 2020.

There is a developing understanding by local authorities of the range of reform and significant changes incorporated in the Act and the necessary work involved to prepare for the implementation of the new legislation and approach to Additional Learning Needs provision in all local authorities in Wales from September 2020.

1.2 – Target audience

This communication campaign will target the following key audience:

- Director of Education
- PCC ALN & I Steering Group
- Learning & Skills Programme Board
- The Leader and the Cabinet
- Cabinet Member for Education – Cllr Myfanwy Alexander
- Cabinet Member of Children’s Service – Cllr Rachel Powell
- ALL Members
- Local councilors
- PCC Scrutiny Committee
- Schools Service Senior Management Team
- ALN & Inclusion Service
- School Governors
- Schools Forum
- Head teachers and all teaching staff
- ALNCoS
- Early Years and Pre-School Settings
- Further Education Providers

- Out of County Providers
- Start Well/CYPP/Flying Start
- PCC HR
- PCC Legal
- PCC ICT
- PCC Finance
- Union Reps
- Senior Managers Powys County Council
- Challenge Advisors
- Social Care
- Powys Teaching Health Board (PthB)
- Careers Wales
- Welsh Government
- Diocesan Boards
- Schools Forum
- Youth Forum
- Assembly Members (AMs)/Members of Parliament (MPs)
- ERW Regional Consortium
- Regional Partners
- Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)
- Relevant PCC Project/Programme Leads
- Children and Young People
- Parents and Carers
- Third Sector Organisations
- Media and Journalists (as appropriate)
- General Public

2.0 – COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

- To effectively communicate to **ALL** stakeholders regarding changes resulting from the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme
- To inform stakeholders of our priorities and actions
- Manage the media and political interest
- To involve parents/carers in our response to changes in national legislation

3.0 – STRATEGY

3.1 - Key messages

The key messages used throughout the communication outputs will be:

- National and legislative changes
- Inclusion, equity, and parity of provision covering 0 – 25
- Introduction of the integration of services
- Early intervention and support
- The use of individual development plans (IDPs)
- Person-centered planning (PCP)
- Workforce development
- ‘All reasonable steps must be taken to secure provision in Welsh’

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3.2 – Campaign Tactics

Phase 1:

Pre-implementation engagement: awareness raising, development, and informal/formal consultation

New Item	Activity	Description	Audience	Outcome	Lead	When	Status
	Get Communications Plan approved	Approval by Project Sponsor and ALN Transformation Steering Group	Project Sponsor/ Steering Group	Approved Communications Plan	Sarah Quibell	December 2018 (approved October 2018)	COMPLETE
	Schools Involvement in the Workstreams	Allocate Schools expressions of interest to the workstreams working groups	Schools/ workstream leads/working groups	Schools involvement in workstream working groups	Imtiaz Bhatti	October 2018	COMPLETE
	Initial Amendments to Internet Page	To include information on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Transformation Programme	Public and key stakeholders	Provide basic information on the legislative changes and Powys County Council's Transformation Programme	Sarah Quibell	November 2018	COMPLETE
	Cascade Communications and Information Via Social Media	Sharing all appropriate programme communications as widely as possible	Stakeholders	Information about programme events, changes ALN legislation and changes to PCC ALN services are shared widely and via as many channels as possible	Sarah Quibell	November 2018 (commencing for first event and then continue as required)	GREEN

	Provide Updates for the Members Information Bulletin	Provide information about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Elected Members	To ensure that Members are briefed and aware of the progress	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	As required (initial briefing and ongoing as required. Bulletins are issued fortnightly)	GREEN
	Attendance at the Governor's Briefings	Attend Governor's Briefing to provide information and update about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Governors	Information provided on the legislative changes and Powys County Council's Transformation Programme	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	November 2018 (initial week of meetings in November 2018, have requested regular slot)	GREEN
	Cascade Information Via the Governor's Facebook Page	Provide core briefings/updates in a quick and accessible manner	Governors	Key updates received promptly	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	November 2018 (commencing following first attendance at Governor Briefings and then continue as required)	GREEN

	Provide Update Reports to Scrutiny Committee	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee	Scrutiny Committee are aware of progress and are able to query as necessary	Imtiaz Bhatti	December 2018 (initial update 13 th December 2018, and then as agreed)	GREEN
	Provide Information to Family Information Service	Provide information about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Public	Parents/carers are aware of changes and progress	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	December 2018 (initial briefing and ongoing as required)	GREEN
	Welsh Government Training is Rolled Out and Undertaken	All practitioners complete Tier 1 training and all Senior Leaders to complete Tier 4 training (Tier 4: Elected Members, Governors, Board Members and Senior Leadership Teams)	Internal Staff	All staff are adequately trained for the legislative changes	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	December 2018 (dependent upon issue of training by Welsh Government)	GREEN
	Welsh Government Parental Engagement Events	Two engagement events to be held by WG in Llandrindod Wells and Welshpool	Parents/Carers	Parents/carers are provided information on the legislative changes	Huw Davies (WG Regional Lead)	10th & 11th December 2018	COMPLETE

	Regular Newsletter for Schools	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Schools Staff and Governors	Schools staff and governors are aware of changes and progress	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	December 2018 (initial issue and then on a termly basis)	GREEN
	Regular Newsletter for the Public	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Public	The public including parents/carers are aware of changes and progress	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	December 2018 (initial issue and then on a termly basis)	GREEN
	Cascade Information Via the Communications Team Powys Newsletter	Provide core briefings/updates in a quick and accessible manner	Elected Members	Key updates received promptly	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	December 2018 or January 2018 (initial input and ongoing as required)	GREEN
	Engagement Events for Professionals	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Internal and External Professionals	Professionals involved in supporting children and young people with ALN are aware of changes and progress and given an opportunity to comment and raise concerns	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	January 2019 (initial dates 10 th , 14 th & 16 th January 2019 and then ongoing as required)	COMPLETE

	Contact Youth Parliament Members for Montgomery and Brecon & Radnor	Engagement with newly elected Youth Parliament Members for Powys to discuss the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Youth Parliament Members for Powys	Youth Parliament Members for the Powys are of are aware of changes and progress and given an opportunity to comment, raise concerns and ensure that pupil voice is captured	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	January 2019 (initial contact, but ongoing throughout programme)	GREEN
	Engagement Events (Focus Groups) for Parents/Carers re. Specialist Centre Provision	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme, with the discussion focusing on Specialist Centre provision	Public	Parents/carers are given an opportunity to comment on the current provision	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	January 2019 (first events 17 th , 23 rd and 25 th January, and 11 th , 12 th , and 13 th February, with second events on 4 th , 6 th , 7 th and 11 th March 2019)	COMPLETE
	Engagement Events for Parents/Carers	Provide updates on the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Public	Parents/carers are aware of changes and progress and given an opportunity to comment and raise concerns	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	January 2019 (ongoing throughout programme)	GREEN

	Public Survey re. Specialist Centres	Give members of the public an opportunity to comment on Specialist Centre provision	Public	Gather views from public and parents/carers on Specialist Centre provision	Sarah Quibell	23/01/19 – 17/02/19	COMPLETE
	Pre-Consultation Meetings with Staff	Provide information about the review process and direction for BESD & PRU provision	PRU Staff	Early engagement with staff	Imtiaz Bhatti/ /Mike Wheeler	March 2019	COMPLETE
	Cascade Information Regarding the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice	Ensure that all relevant stakeholders are aware of the consultation and its content and are able to feedback comments should they wish to in order to be included in the ALN Department's response	Internal stakeholders	Engagement with the consultation process and knowledge of the Draft Code of Practice is as wide as possible	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	January/ February 2019	COMPLETE

	Establishment of a Parent Carer Forum	Ensure that parents and carers are involved and have a voice throughout the process and going forward following implementation	ALN Staff and Public	Parents and carers feel involved in decisions that are made	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	March/April 2019	COMPLETE
✓ Added April 2019	Support and facilitate the Powys ALN Parent Carer Forum	Ensure that parents and carers are involved and have a voice	ALN Staff and Public	Parents and carers feel involved in decisions that are made about ALN provision	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	Ongoing	GREEN
	Updates for Headteachers, Elected Members & Heads of Service	Ensure that detailed progress updates are provided to Headteachers, Elected Members and Heads of Service	Headteachers, Elected Members, and Heads of Service	Headteachers, Elected Members and Heads of Service are aware of programme progress	Sarah Quibell	February 2019 (initial issue and then on a regular basis and as required)	GREEN
	Engagement Events Regarding the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice for Parents/Carers	Ensure that all parents/carers are aware of the consultation and its content and are able to feedback comments should they wish to in order to be included in the ALN Department's response	Public	Engagement with the consultation process and knowledge of the Draft Code of Practice is as wide as possible	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	18th & 19th February 2019 (The event on the 18 th was cancelled due to extremely poor uptake)	COMPLETE

	Attend ALNCo Fora	<p>Provide information about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme.</p> <p>The February 2019 meetings will be used to present the draft code and ask for comment to include in the PCC response to the WG Consultation</p>	ALNCoS	Continued engagement with ALNCoS are aware of changes and progress and given an opportunity to comment and raise concerns	Simon Anderson /Sarah Quibell	February 2019 (initially attend meetings in February 2019, and then attend as they are arranged)	GREEN
	Attend Youth Forum	<p>Provide information about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme, as well seek opinion on methods of pupil engagement</p>	Youth Forum	Pupil engagement and identify preferred methods of communication	Sarah Quibell	February 2019 (initially attend in February 2019, and then as appropriate through the programme)	GREEN
	Attend Head Teacher Briefings/Meetings	<p>Provide information about the draft of Code of Practice and the associated consultation</p>	Head Teachers	Head Teachers have opportunity to discuss implications of the draft Code of Practice together and have their comments included in the ALN Department's response to the consultation	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	19th, 20th, & 21st February 2019 (initially attend in February 2019, and then as appropriate through the	GREEN

						programme)	
	Hold a 'Drop In' Session for Professionals Including Teachers and Governors Regarding the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice	Provide information about the draft of Code of Practice and the associated consultation	Internal Professionals including Members	Professionals have another opportunity to discuss implications of the draft Code of Practice together and have their comments included in the ALN Department's response to the consultation	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	1st March 2019	COMPLETE
	Provide a Response to the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice	Full consultation response, including all views gathered from professionals and parents/carers are collated and provided to Welsh Government	Welsh Government	To ensure that the views of professionals and parents/carers in Powys are provided to Welsh Government on their Draft ALN Code of Practice	Sarah Quibell/ Simon Anderson	Deadline 22nd March 2019	COMPLETE
	Consultation Paper re. Specialist Centre Provision to Cabinet	Options provided to Elected Members for consideration and decision	Cabinet	Direction regarding provision given by Elected Members	Imtiaz Bhatti	October 2019	GREEN
	Contact Parents/Careers of EHE Children and Young People	Provide information about the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Powys County Council Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme	Public	Raised awareness with parents/carers who have chosen to home educate	Sarah Quibell	May/June 2019	GREEN
	Full Revision of the Internet Page	To provide full information regarding Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales)	Public and key stakeholders	Full information on the legislative changes, Powys County Council's	Sarah Quibell	November 2019 (with annual	GREEN

Phase 2:

Implementation engagement

New Item	Activity	Description	Audience	Outcome	Lead	When	Status
	Drop-in sessions for parents and carers following go-live of IDPs	Provide informal facility where parents/carers can gain further information re. new IDPs	Parents and carers	Parents/carers have opportunity to raise issues and queries with new process	Imtiaz Bhatti/ Sarah Quibell	September – December 2020 (proposed to be carried out by ALNCo)	GREEN

4.0 – EVALUATION

All engagement activities will be evaluated and findings reported below:

WG Engagement Events 10th & 11th December 2018: The events were very successful but it was pointed out that it would have been appreciated if the events were advertised more widely. Also the two events had a different layout in the venues and this had a marked effect on the atmosphere; tables created a less formal atmosphere than chairs in conference style, which created an unfamiliar situation for parents and carers who are not used to this size and style of meeting.

Although this was a WG event and we did not have input into the delivery of the events, we will ensure that we advertise events that we are holding as widely as possible and consider venue layout where possible.

A parent also requested that issued information such newsletters be given to Leisure Centres to display. Contact has been made with Freedom Leisure, they have agreed to assist and the December newsletter has already been sent to them.

Governors Briefings: Whilst these require a commitment in time from the team, attendance at these events has proved beneficial, particularly as the voluntary nature and hours of the role makes them a difficult group to reach effectively. Therefore, the team have committed to attending these briefings during the life of the programme.

Regular Newsletter for Schools and the Public: The newsletter is providing a regular source of information for schools and the public, and will be produced termly. There have been limited comments about the newsletter, however, some parents commented that they would welcome the removal of 'corporate' terminology, which has been taken on board.

Professionals Engagement Events 10th, 14th & 16th January 2019: The events were generally well attended and feedback was positive, however, the mid event had far fewer participants. There were some comments about the importance of specific support and resources for Welsh speakers, which was taken on board and has been improved at subsequent events.

It was noted that not all attendees were familiar with the new legislation and requested that we provide further information prior to the events. However, the tasks carried out at the event generated full discussion about the key areas and implications of the new Code of Practice and will be included in the consultation response.

Specialist Centre Focus Groups 17th, 23rd & 25th January 2019: The focus groups had mixed attendance, with only uptake for the afternoon session in Brecon, therefore we would consider only holding one event per daytime in the future per location. However, there were requests for evening sessions, which we have responded to and further events were held on the 11th, 12th, and 13th February 2018, with the Ystradgynlais event being very well subscribed.

Regardless of the number of attendees, all sessions generated full discussion, and the lower numbers in some sessions was beneficial in that it has encouraged parents/carers to share their thoughts and experiences. Also, the events have provided an excellent networking opportunity and facilitated information sharing for many of the parents/carers, particularly those who felt isolated when supporting their child with Additional Learning Needs.

Although childcare was offered for the daytime events there was no uptake for this service. This provision will have to be reconsidered going forward, however, when discussing with the childminding service in Brecon, they indicated that when supporting similar activities take-up is slow to start but increases, often by word of mouth.

To note, we received feedback on our public website page from attendees at one of the focus groups and were able to take on board their points and make immediate changes to the layout as well as the positivity of the wording. These changes were fed back and well received.

Public Survey re. Specialist Centres: The survey provided an additional avenue for the public to voice their opinions regarding Specialist Centre provision. The survey had a good response, with nearly 12% of responses being provided by young people, and is something that we would undertake again.

Cascade Information Regarding the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice: Information was shared widely with school's staff, internal and external colleagues, Elected Members, governors, parents/carers and young people. As well as cascading the information, comments were sought to include in the consultation response where individuals and groups wished to do so. It should be noted that whilst the Spring term was predominantly spent sharing information and engaging with stakeholders, this has taken a large proportion of staff time to support adequately.

Updates for Headteachers, Governors, Elected Members & Heads of Service: An update of programme progress as of spring half-term (2019) was circulated widely. We received a couple of comments welcoming the update and the continuation of this approach going forward.

Engagement Events Regarding the WG Consultation on the Draft ALN Code of Practice for Parents/Carers 19th February 2019: Another event was scheduled for the 18th February 2019 in Brecon, however this was cancelled due to only receiving one request to attend. Whilst discussion at the Newtown event on the 19th was wide ranging and beneficial to all, the attendance was not high either, which may be due the Welsh Government having held specific parent events at the very end of 2018.

ALNCo Fora 12th, 14th, 19th & 21st February 2019: The attendance and discussion at each of these events varied widely, however the former didn't dictate the latter, with the smallest group exploring the changes to the fullest. The ALNCo fora are an excellent opportunity for information sharing and group discussion, and the ALN team will be attending these going forward.

Headteacher Briefings 19th, 20th & 21st February 2019: Attendance at these events provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the progress of the programme, discuss the ALN Code consultation, upcoming activities and specific issues including the training audit return, .

It was beneficial to discuss the legislative changes, and their impact with the Headteachers, particularly as the events were well attended, therefore we will take the opportunity to attend in the future as appropriate.

Youth Forum 26th February 2019: Although attendance was low and it is recognized that attendance was not necessarily representative of the full range of young people within Powys, the session was valuable to the ALN team as it provided an open and honest insight into the experiences of young people in Powys schools.

We took an interactive approach to our activities on the day, which the young people embraced fully, and in their feedback they indicated that they welcomed the approach and would enjoy such activities (quiz and scenario role-play) again. They did however ask that activities be couched in more information so that they could understand best practice.

'Drop In' Session on the Draft ALN Code 1st March 2019: Whilst this event was not well attended, it did facilitate further discussion. On reflection it would have been advantageous

not to hold the event in half-term break, and to perhaps position ourselves in the foyer of County Hall rather than in a meeting room.

Powys ALN Parent Carer Forum 4th April 2019: The inaugural meeting of the parent carer forum was held in Llandrindod on the evening of the 4th April. Although many parents and carers had requested to be a part of the new forum, there was very limited attendance on the night. However, those parents and carers who did attend contributed fully to the meeting. They are committed to supporting the group to grow so that it can be an effective conduit for parent and carer voice and ultimately help to improve services for children and young people in Powys

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