

## **SEND Implementation survey November 2014 - summary**

In October 2014 we asked local authorities to complete a survey on their progress in implementing the SEND reforms, 6 weeks after the key provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force. 136 local authorities responded (a response rate of 84%), which provides a highly representative profile of progress across the country.

It is clear that progress is being made in delivering the SEND reforms. The vast majority of LAs are working hard with their stakeholders to implement the key features of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice.

It is also clear that some LAs have further to go, particularly on areas which LAs have consistently reported as being difficult, such as transition arrangements, joint commissioning and personal budgets. Our SEND advisers are working closely with those LAs which have self-reported that there are areas which need support and challenge to fully deliver the SEND reforms.

### **Positive progress**

#### **Parental engagement:**

- 92% of respondents were extremely or very confident that their Parent Carer Forum is well engaged in implementing the reforms.

#### **Health and social care engagement:**

- 71% of respondents reported that their Clinical Commissioning Groups are extremely or very well engaged with the SEND reforms, and 74% reported that children's therapists are extremely or very well engaged with the reforms.
- 73% of respondents reported that social care partners are extremely or very well engaged with the SEND reforms.

#### **Education, health and care plans:**

- 93% of respondents were extremely or very confident that their EHC pathways they have developed are compliant with the Code of Practice.
- 71% of respondents were extremely or very confident that EHC plans will meet the 20 week deadline.
- 73% of respondents stated they were extremely or very confident a transfer review will be completed by 31 May 2015 for year 11 students with an existing statement of SEN moving from school to further education and training.

#### **New assessment requests:**

- 34% of respondents stated they have had the same number of new requests for assessment in the first 6 weeks of the new system compared to a year ago;
- 23% of respondents had had more new assessment requests;
- 44% of respondents had had fewer new assessment requests.

#### **Impartial information, advice and support:**

- 91% of respondents stated impartial advice and support was well developed or fully in line with the Code of Practice.
- For 98% of respondents this covered parents/ carers; for 91% this covered young people and for 85% this impartial advice and support covered children.

#### **Pre-tribunal appeal/ mediation arrangements:**

- 95% of respondents reported that 0-25 pre-tribunal appeal education health and care plan mediation arrangements are in place.

### **Implementation in different education settings:**

- 95% of respondents reported that maintained schools are extremely or very well engaged with the reforms, and 84% report similar engagement with Academies and free schools;
- 87% of respondents reported that most or all schools have a clear system in place for identifying and responding to SEN;
- 69% of respondents reported that early years settings are extremely or very well engaged with the reforms;
- 61% of respondents reported that further education and sixth form colleges are extremely or very well engaged with the reforms;

### **Areas for development**

#### **Transition of existing statements and LDAs:**

- 52% of respondents were extremely or very confident that the groups of pupils with existing statements and LDAs required to be transferred to EHC plan by 31 August 2015 would do so within the required timescale.
- 46% of respondents were extremely or very confident that parents and young people with an existing statement are aware of their likely review date.

#### **Joint commissioning arrangements:**

- 65% of respondents said their joint commissioning arrangements between education, health and social care partners were fully or well developed, though most recognised that significant further work would be required to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice.

#### **Engaging children and young people:**

- 23% of respondents reported that children and young people were extremely or very well engaged in the reforms; 53% felt they were only 'moderately' well engaged.

#### **Young Offenders:**

- 38% of respondents reported they were making good progress in planning to implement the new duty to support children and young people with SEN aged 10-18 who spend time in custody.
- However, 16% of respondents had not yet begun planning these arrangements.
- The young offenders duty comes into effect in April 2015; the Department's consultation on draft Regulations finished in November.

#### **Personal Budgets:**

- 67% of respondents reported that their offer of personal budgets was well developed, but acknowledged that significant further work is still needed; only 7% felt the offer was fully in line with the requirements in the Code of Practice.

The range of services where personal budgets can be offered will develop over time:

- 98% of respondents reported that children's social care was covered;
- 91% of respondents reported that adult social care was covered;
- 82% of respondents reported that children's health was covered;
- 74% of respondents reported that education services were covered;
- 72% of respondents reported that adult health was covered;