

Update from

SEND&AP Change Programme



Newsletter March 2024

Welcome to the first of our monthly newsletters. We hope this will keep everyone up to date with our progress in piloting the proposals in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities & Alternative Provision (SEND&AP) Improvement Plan. If you would like to find out more about the programme and how we're testing and exploring the ideas, please follow the link to our Local Offer website at the bottom of this newsletter. This is an exciting opportunity to really make a difference for our children, young people, and families.

What's happening now?

Alternative Provision (AP)

AP is vital for children and young people who are unable to access mainstream provision. As an inclusive city, we have been working with schools to develop an Alternative Provision Implementation Plan. The aim is to enhance AP across the city to ensure it meets the needs of our children and young people. The plan includes opportunities to improve quality of provision and extend sharing of good practice. A prospectus and guide to AP will be produced by the newly appointed AP Commissioning Manager. We look forward to sharing our progress with you over the coming months.

Local Area Inclusion Plan and Partnerships

We are working hard to develop our Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP) and strengthening Partnerships, which will build on the work of our current SEND strategy. The partnership is in place to monitor progress and ensure effective implementation of the LAIP. The LAIP Board comprises of schools, Parent Carer Forums, and professionals working across the inclusion sector in Portsmouth.

EHCP Template

The standardised EHCP template is now being trialled. It is being issued when a new EHCP is agreed following the completion of a full statutory assessment. Currently, Local Authorities can design their own template and whilst every template must be legally compliant, the actual documents can look very different depending on which area they are issued in. This change seeks to achieve consistency in the format of all EHCPs which will in turn assist in improving the quality and accessibility of the document. Initial feedback regarding the format, and particularly the clarity associated with the description of needs, desired outcomes and required provision has, so far, been very positive.

Early Language Support for Every Child

ELSEC - Early Language Support for Every Child is underway in 25 targeted schools and early years settings. We held our first cluster meeting last month where the new Speech and Language Therapy team joined our education settings to explore the ELSEC offer of support. In the coming months, we

will see therapists and assistants support practitioners to screen children in the early years settings and then provide interventions to meet identified needs.

Feedback Loop & Evaluation

We are working with the REACh Consortium and an independent evaluator to...the changes regularly throughout the programme and the progress of the initial set up phase report has now been shared with the DfE. We hope this can help to inform the wider roll out of the reforms in the future.

To find out more about the SEND&AP Change Programme please visit: [Portsmouth Local Offer](#)

If you have any specific questions about the SEND&AP Change Programme, please email: SENDAPChangeProgramme@portsmouthcc.gov.uk