



NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018

As we have shared with you previously, the system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales is changing.

In the Summer Term, Jeremy Miles, the Minister for Education, gave an update on the phased implementation of the new ALN system. Despite continued activity and significant progress, it had become clear that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in plans being revisited. He shared that all partners required further space and time to manage and plan for aspects of the important reform to ensure successful delivery of new arrangements and the best for children in Wales.

The implementation of the ALN system for the first year will now be sequenced.

From **1 September 2021**, the ALN system will commence for children who are of compulsory school age and below who are newly identified as having ALN (that is, those without already identified special educational needs (SEN), or are not awaiting or undergoing an SEN assessment).

From **1st January 2022**, the ALN system will commence for children of compulsory school age and below who attend maintained schools (including Pupil Referral Units PRU's) in Nursery Years 1 and 2 (N1 and N2) and Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10 who have special educational provision via early years action / early years action plus or school action / school action plus; (Referred to as **mandated cohorts**).

Please note:

Children who currently have special educational provision via a statement; are awaiting or are in the process of an SEN assessment; and those who are over compulsory school age, **will not be** included in the first year of implementation.

Welsh Government are publishing guidance for parents and families in the Autumn Term.

If you would like any additional information or advice, please contact your Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator or contact SNAP Cymru who offer free independent advice and support to parents by visiting: www.snapcymru.org or call their helpline on: 0808 801 0608

I hope you find the information in this letter reassuring. School and other agencies will continue to work together, to reflect on guidance and carry on with the preparatory work to secure the best outcomes for our learners.