



SEND BULLETIN

MARCH 2023 ISSUE

The LIIA SEND Bulletin highlights events and news for colleagues in local authorities who work with children and young people with SEND. Find out more about LIIA's work in SEND [here](#). With thanks to Cathy Hamer for information on national events.

NEWS

THE SEND AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The [SENDAP Improvement Plan](#) sets out the Government's response to the Green Paper consultation. The focus on improving the experiences of families and outcomes for children and young people is welcome. The emphasis on inclusion and greater clarity on the role of Health as well as links to the Children's Social Care review are positive and there is evidence of some response to consultation concerns such as the pause to explore how mandatory mediation could work. The development of national standards in key areas provide an opportunity to improve provision and outcomes. The financial challenges and workforce pressures are acknowledged with some measures to address these, but more will be needed, particularly in relation to pace of change, resources to deliver the ambitions and tools to achieve greater inclusion.



We have had an initial discussion at the ALDCS SEND Steering Group and will work to draw in opportunities for London to shape national developments and to work with local authorities as pathfinders - and with the proposed Regional Expert Partnerships. We will ensure the ALDCS SEND Programme is joined up with the National SENDAP Improvement Plan across key areas of activity such as Alternative Provision, Financial Sustainability, and improving parent/carer confidence and children's outcomes.

Please join us for the [ALDCS SEND Summit](#) on 24th March, when we will focus on the SENDAP Improvement Plan, with presentations from the DfE and others as well as the opportunity to jointly shape how we make the best of this opportunity for London's children.

LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTIONS - ENFIELD'S INSPECTION AND LIIA WORKSHOP



On the 29th November, Ofsted released their new framework for conducting Local Area SEND Inspections. There are some significant changes from the previous framework, including the introduction of a 3-tier judgement system. Enfield started its inspection this week, and is the first Local Area to be inspected in London. You can see the list of the London SEND Inspections in date order here. On the Gov.uk website, you can also find information about ongoing inspections across the country.

With excellent timing, LIIA held an Ofsted Workshop on Friday 3rd March. This event gave LAs and partners the opportunity to discuss the new framework and share learning about how best to prepare for the inspection. Attendees heard about Portsmouth's experience in piloting the new inspection framework, as well as reflections on preparing the Self Evaluation Framework from the DfE and Enfield. While attendees agreed that the new framework does pose a significant challenge to LAs, the event allowed London to come together and support each other in preparation for this challenge. Attendees also found out more about the LGA SEND Peer Review Offer, as well as the variety of events and resources provided by LIIA, including thematic peer review events and development workshops.

At LIIA, we wish good luck to Enfield and all Local Authorities as inspections approach. We will also be running more events and providing more resources as inspections are carried out across London, so do keep an eye out for further communications!

LIIA SEND AND FINANCE WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 7th March, LIIA held an online workshop for SEND and Finance Leads across London to discuss work across the capital to address financial challenges in SEND services. Attendees heard about the experiences of two boroughs currently participating in the Delivering Better Value Programme, as well as reflections from Newton Europe on their role in the DBV programme nationally. There was also a detailed conversation about top-ups in mainstream, with two boroughs sharing their practice in this area. We will be holding another workshop later this year, to hear about the DBV programme as it develops and reaches tranche 2.

LIIA EVENTS

24.3.23: LONDON SEND SUMMIT



LIIA will be holding the second London SEND Summit this year, on Friday 24th March at the Guildhall. We will be coming together as a region to hear more from the Department for Education about how proposed changes to the SEND system (as outlined in the 2022 SENDAP Improvement Plan) will be implemented, alongside other key inputs on improving outcomes for children in London.

[Book your tickets on Eventbrite here!](#)

This event is for DCSs, LA SEND leads, DCOs/DMOs, Parent Carer Reps, ICB SEND leads, and other partners, so please do encourage your colleagues to attend as well. Please note that each borough has 5 spaces at this event so you may wish to co-ordinate to ensure that all partners are represented. To access your borough's tickets, please input the first four letters of your borough's name as the access code. Tickets are selling fast, so don't delay in booking your place!

SUB-REGIONAL ICS WORKSHOPS

LIIA is working with Ian Lewis to run a series of workshops for LA colleagues and their NHS equivalents on how we can work best together to meet the health needs of children and young people with SEND, in the context of the new ICS structures. Each ICS sub-region will have its own event. We have already held the first of these events in the NEL ICS sub-region which was well attended and received positive feedback. The South East ICS sub-region event will be held on the 19th May and the South West ICS sub-region event will be held on the 14th June. Please look out for invites for these events, and events for the North-West and North-Central sub-regions in June and July!

OTHER EVENTS

15.3.23: SYSTEMS THINKING FOR CHILDREN WITH COMPLEXITY

The aims of this CoLab webinar are:

- To understand how systems thinking can help understand barriers to good care for children with medical complexity (CMC)
- To learn about tools and structures that can help with improving care for CMC
- To understand how complex system interactions can impact on a family navigating care for CMC

[Book your free ticket here!](#)

16.3.23: IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOODS IN THE FACE OF DEEPENING UNCERTAINTY

Free webinar from A Better Start - [book here!](#)

20 – 24.3.23: SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Social Work Week is a programme of events from Social Work England, the social work sector, and people with lived experience of social work. [About Social Work Week – Social Work England](#)

24.3.23: GENDER IDENTITY AND AUTISM ONLINE WORKSHOP

[Book tickets here!](#)

18.4.23 CALDICOTT PRINCIPLES AND INFORMATION SHARING

Healthcare Conferences UK in association with Christopher Fincken, Independent Member UK Caldicott Guardian Council, (Chairman 2012-2017) are pleased to announce this second National Conference which will focus on Information Sharing and Caldicott Principles in the health and social care of children and young adults. This conference will focus on developing your role in improving communication and information sharing around children and young people whilst ensuring patient confidentiality. [Book tickets here!](#)

27.4.23 EATING DISORDERS SUMMIT 2023

This conference focuses on Eating Disorders: improving access, treatment and recovery outcomes, and meeting the national standards for children, young people and adults. There is focus on early intervention and a new extended session focusing on Managing Medical Emergencies in Eating Disorders following the 2022 Medical Emergencies in Eating Disorders National Guidance. [Book tickets here!](#)

3.5.23 PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN ENGLAND

Westminster Forum Event which will be discussing: policy and key issues, Family Hubs, post-pandemic service recovery, poverty and cost of living impacts, mental health, early years, and digital health and data. [Book tickets here!](#)

RESOURCES

NEW GUIDANCE: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND REMOTE EDUCATION

Please see below for information on three sets of guidance about school attendance and remote education that the Department for Education has published recently that may be of particular interest to parents of children with SEND and those who support them.

- **Working together to improve school attendance**

A guide for parents on school attendance was published on the Office of the Children's Commissioners website in December.

- **Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance**

This document builds on the previous guidance, and clarifies the expectations of schools and local authorities where a pupil is experiencing social, emotional or mental health issues that are affecting attendance. This guidance applies to any pupils displaying any social, emotional or mental health issue that is affecting their attendance, not only pupils who have a diagnosed mental disorder, or a disability or special educational need.

- **Providing remote education: guidance for schools**

This is an updated edition of our non-statutory remote education guidance for schools, including new material on supporting children with special educational needs or disabilities. The new material on supporting children with special educational needs or disabilities includes references to pupils with an EHC plan and working with the local authority to ensure that all the relevant duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 continue to be met. The guidance also references the duties under the Equality Act 2010 relating to disability, while also specifically recognising that in some cases it may be challenging or impossible for schools to deliver remotely the kind of approach that it does in the classroom. Other relevant additions include highlighting the importance of teachers being trained on the accessibility features of their chosen digital education platforms and the addition of some further information links to support teachers to better support their pupils with SEND remotely.

STATE OF THE NATION 2022: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING

The government has published its [report about the wellbeing of children and young people](#) for the last academic year, which includes looking at health, education, skills, relationships and activities.

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS – EASY READ

Supported Internships are work-based learning placements within mainstream employment settings. The aim is to secure a job at the end of the placement. Placements should last over six months and normally would be at least 20 hours per week.

This [easy read guide](#) is designed for young people to answer questions about Supported Internships and getting a job.

THEMATIC REVIEWS OF ALTERNATIVE PROVISION IN LOCAL AREAS

As part of the new Local Area SEND inspection arrangements, Ofsted and CQC will carry out a series of thematic visits each academic year. They will conduct visits to a small number of areas to investigate a particular aspect of the SEND system in depth. The first theme they will investigate is alternative provision. [Details about this thematic review can be found here.](#)

NEW POLICY: DYNAMIC SUPPORT REGISTER AND CARE (EDUCATION) AND TREATMENT REVIEW

This [new policy](#) aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions for people with a learning disability and autistic people. The policy includes new guidance on the implementation of dynamic support registers and updates to the Care (Education) and treatment reviews. The easy read and plain English versions of the policy have been co-produced with people with a learning disability and autistic people.

THANKS FOR READING!

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