



Additional Learning Needs Implementation – November Update

- **New Implementation Guides**
- **Workforce training**

1 September 2021 marked the commencement, on a phased basis, of the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act for Wales. Over the next three years children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) will move on to the Additional Learning Needs system.

From 1 September, children in year 10 and below who are newly thought to have ALN, will automatically be on the new ALN system. From 1 January, children in year 10 and below in receipt of Special Education Provision (SEP) that is not through a statement (such as school action or school action plus), and are not already in the process of getting a statement, will begin to move across to the ALN system. Other groups of children and young people will move across in years 2 and 3 of implementation.

The new system sets out to:

- Simplify the system with a unified legislative framework for all children and young people with ALN, regardless of their level of need – replacing the existing IEPs, Statements and Learning and skills plans with a single Individual Development Plan (IDP);
- Ensure that all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential;
- Improve the planning and delivery of support for learners, placing learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process;
- Focus on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes.

New Guides to support Implementation

A series of guides have been published to support local authorities, practitioners, parents and carers during the first year of implementation.

These set out the transitional arrangements for the first year of implementing the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (the ALN Act), including a mandatory timetable for specific groups of children to move to the new ALN system.

It outlines the actions local authorities, schools and PRUs must take in terms of moving children from the SEN system to the ALN system, deciding if children have ALN and, where required, preparing and maintaining individual development plans (IDPs).

A technical guide to implementing the Act during the first year of implementation (2021 to 2022)

[English](#) [Welsh](#)

A practitioner guide to the implementation of the Act during 2021 to 2022

[English](#) [Welsh](#)

A guide for parents and families about how children will move to the additional learning needs (ALN) system between September 2021 and August 2022

The parents and families guide:

- introduces the new ALN System;
- outlines what difference it makes for children, their parents, and young people;
- states the Statutory role of Individual Development Plan;s
- explains the new way of working, including rights and resolution process;
- sets out when and how children and young people will move to the new system on a phased basis over the next 3 years under the phased approach.

[English](#)

[Welsh](#)

Workforce development

The new ALN system is supported by skills development for the education workforce.

E-learning

The e-learning course provides [an overview of the new ALN system](#), and an [online course for practitioners](#) which covers how the new ALN system works, the general principles of the Act, and outlines responsibilities for the new statutory roles. We are also developing a series of video learning modules designed to introduce the ALN Act and its associated Code to senior leaders across Wales.

National Professional Learning Pathway for Additional Learning Needs

Working with stakeholders, we are developing an ALN professional learning programme (the National Professional Learning Pathway for Additional Learning Needs – NPLP ALN) for ALNCoS, aspiring ALNCoS, teachers and college lecturers.

[English](#)

[Welsh](#)

The NPLP ALN is a recognised learning offer that builds on the awareness-raising learning and other opportunities that are already available, such as the national middle leadership development programme.

There is also an accredited ALN professional learning route available via the National Masters in Education (Wales). The National Masters in Education (Wales) is a bilingual and completely blended programme, specific to the Welsh education system. More information on the [National Masters in Education \(Wales\)](#) is available on Hwb.

Find out more about the ALN Transformation Programme

Online www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme

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