Local Government Group

LLDD , SEN and the Green Paper

Some Thoughts

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Some background :

- LAs working in partnership on SEN and LLDD issues – sub regionally and regionally
- And with voluntary sector and quangos
- LAs make placement decisions & appeals
- 2010/11 YPLA budget under control
- LAs challenging existing practice
- Wish to extend choice and local provision
- Finding ways of developing new provision
- Involving parents and young people

- Establishing stronger relationships with FE colleges and independent colleges
- Bringing together LLDD and SEN discussions
- Linking LLDD, SEN and 14-19 officers
- Tackling transport and IAG
- Pooling budgets – even though YPLA controls SEN 16-19, ALS and Specialist LLDD budgets
- Building on learning for living and work experiences

SEND Green paper : LAs like….

- Improved choice for parents and young people
- Increased personal budgets
- Focus on lifetime outcomes
- A single system 0 -25
- Placing responsibility in one place
- Integrated assessment – and less of it
- Single plan for health, education and care
- Greater transparency in assessment and funding
- Reviewing SEN in schools and colleges
- Increased diversity and types of providers

Challenges (1)

- Creating a transparent assessment system which minimises conflicts of interest
- Ensuring partners meet their obligations
- Retaining support for parents & young people to find their way through more diverse system – especially for those without sharp elbows
- Working with new providers
- Reforming funding formulae
- Creating a single 0-25 system
- Mediation or tribunals?

Challenges (2)

- Different eligibility thresholds
- Managing expectations
- Defining SEN in schools and colleges
- Accountability of all schools and colleges
- Regulation of independent special schools and colleges
- Timescales and impact of policy turbulence
- Impact of funding convergence (& less of it)
- Transport
- Many legal issues….

To watch out for ...

- Impact of IAG cuts on LDA assessments
- Colleges cutting courses without discussion
- Staff cuts in national and local government – disruption to existing relationships
- Little national guidance - much local variation
- Second guessing the Green Paper outcome
- Budget cuts – sometimes drastically
- Parental / learner expectations and trust

But we still have work to do :

- Current processes will continue, but work in ways which fit with the Green Paper
- Take care not to cut or change in ways which will affect your ability to deliver
- Hear the voice of young people, parents and employers
- Develop more collaborative working
- Develop local specialist provision
- Pilot new approaches

But most of all

- Celebrate your success, and let people know
- Deepen your relationships – & with LAs
- Get young people and their parents on board
- Challenge existing ways of working
- Keep promoting independence and employment
- Get on with it - don’t wait for the green paper to sort everything

Contacts

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