

Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill

Consultation response from:-

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TSANA agrees to this evidence being made available publically

1. The Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA) is a group of voluntary organisations which seek to protect and promote the rights of children with additional needs in Wales. We aim to work with the Welsh Government, Assembly members and other organisations to influence legislation, policy and practice in Wales to ensure that children with additional needs can access the support they need to reach their full potential.

The following organisations are members of the Alliance:

Afasic Cymru,
Barnardo's Cymru
Contact a Family
Children in Wales
The Down's Syndrome Association
Learning Disability Wales
Mencap Cymru
Mudiad Meithrin
National Autistic Society (NAS) Cymru
National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru
RNIB Cymru
Sense Cymru
SNAP Cymru

2. TSANA is submitting this consultation response as part of its ongoing engagement with Welsh Government, around the Additional Learning Needs reform, which included participation in The Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA) / Welsh Government Task and Finish Group on Additional Learning Needs Reform.

3. The purpose of the Task and Finish Group was to bring together TSANA representatives with Welsh Government officials to act as a critical friend by providing ideas, proposals and suggestions to support the development of the proposed Bill on Additional Learning Needs and, in particular, the accompanying draft Code of Practice on ALN.

4. Six meetings were held between January and June 2015, each with a particular area of focus:

1. Involving children, young people and families in developing the ALN Bill and Code of Practice
 2. Principles
 3. Roles and responsibilities
 4. Individual Development Plans and the planning process
 5. Advice, disagreement resolution and Tribunal appeals
 6. Key recommendations
5. Welsh Government officials shared a briefing paper ahead of each meeting. TSANA prepared a detailed paper responding to this brief, which was discussed at each meeting.
6. TSANA welcomes reference to the group in the Welsh Government's Equality Impact Assessment on the draft Bill which highlights that the groups "meetings have been used to inform policy and provide further clarity and details on our proposals."
7. However we feel that many of the key points and recommendations that were raised in our Papers and in the Task and Finish Group meetings have not been addressed by Welsh Government. For this reason, TSANA has chosen to re-submit our collection of Task and Finish Group papers by way of response to the consultation