

Individual Development Plans (IDPs)



The Individual Development Plan (IDP)

The Welsh Government is introducing a new, simpler and more responsive system of meeting the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) of children and young people (CYP). An Individual Development Plan (IDP) is central to the proposals for changing the way we assess and meet Special Educational Needs in Wales.

If a child or young person has Additional Learning Needs, the School, Further Education Institution (FEI) or Local Authority (LA) must prepare and maintain an IDP for that individual. The IDP will replace the existing Statement of Special Educational Needs over a phased period from 2020 onwards and be used for learners from the age of **0 to 25**. IDPs will have a standard format, mandatory fields with contents specific to the child or young person. All IDPs will include an **Action Plan** plus the evidence for the actions. An IDP will be accessible and easy to update in order to meet the CYP's changing needs.



Who will have an IDP?

Any child or young person (0-25) with additional needs, who requires support that is 'different or additional to what is provided as part of the usual or differentiated curriculum' will have an IDP.

All children and young people with additional learning needs and those with existing Statements will have an IDP.

- Most IDPs will be **developed by the school or FEI** in collaboration with the family and appropriate professionals.
- **Local authorities** are likely to be responsible for the preparation of IDPs for children and young people with **more severe or complex ALN** and those who are **'Looked After'**.
- Children under compulsory school age and not in a maintained school can be **brought to the attention** of the local authority by **parents or a health professional**.



How will the IDP be developed?

Once a child or young person's need for an IDP has been identified, the process will usually be started by the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (**ALNCo**). This could also be a Health Visitor/Lead professional in Early Years settings. CYPs, parents and all appropriate professionals will all contribute relevant information.

A meeting will be arranged by the ALN Co-ordinator, which will include the CYP, parents and any appropriate professionals to contribute to the IDP. The IDP will be a collaborative task between the people who know the CYP best including professionals; this should lead to a consensus of opinion and an appropriate action plan with clear success criteria.

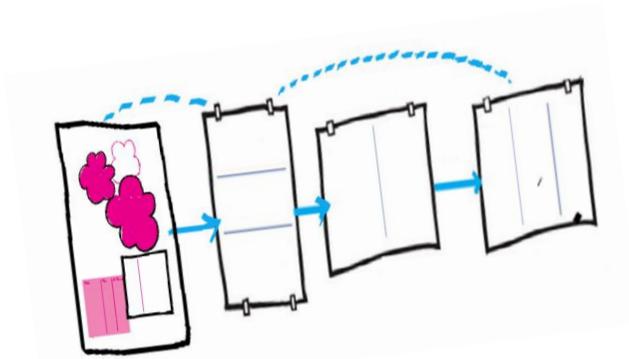
To reinforce a multi-agency approach, the Welsh Government is imposing a '**duty to collaborate**' on relevant bodies such as health and social services in respect of Additional Learning Needs provision.



What will an IDP look like?

The IDP will include:

- Biographical information about the child and contact details for parents and any relevant professionals
- The child's, child's parents or young person's views, wishes and feelings
- A clear and comprehensive description of the child or young person's additional learning needs
- A description of the additional learning needs provision - specified and quantified i.e. how much and how often and who's responsible for the provision.
- Description of ALN provision to be secured by the NHS
- Details of any curriculum disapplication, exam provision and any transport requirements
- Transition Details
- Placement name
- A record of discussions, advice and evidence and a review date.



How will we know if an IDP is successful?

Each IDP will include a clear **action plan**, which will be reviewed at least every **12 months or on request from a parent** to consider whether the child or young person is making progress towards their targets.

The school/ FEI or LA might consider a parent's request to review the IDP unnecessary. If so, they must inform the parent or young person to explain their decision and provide information and details of the LA's information & advice service and arrangements for independent disagreement resolution.

An IDP review will gather and analyse any new information or evidence. It will consider if the description of ALN in the IDP is still correct in the light of any new information or evidence, whether new targets should be set and whether the provision is still appropriate.



What if you are unhappy with the IDP?

The IDP will be a collaborative task between the people who know the CYP best including appropriate professionals; this should lead to a consensus of opinion and an appropriate action plan with clear success criteria. If a Young Person or Parent is unhappy about the school or college decision, they can ask that the LA reconsider the decision made. This may include the following:

- Whether the child or young person has ALN
- Requesting that an IDP is reviewed by the LA
- That the LA considers taking over a school or FEI IDP
- Reconsidering a school's decision to cease to maintain an IDP.

Every LA is responsible for providing information and advice services and disagreement resolution services for parents. Schools, colleges and local authorities will ensure families are aware of the service details.

Where agreement cannot be reached the people involved, school, health, social services etc. will share the responsibility for resolving the disagreement with the CYP and their families. **SNAP Cymru** will be available to support families throughout the process, providing information and support and, where required, trained advocates and mediators will facilitate independent disagreement resolution.



About Snap Cymru

SNAP Cymru delivers the Parent Partnership Service in Wales and offers accurate information, advice and support for families of children and young people who have Additional Learning Needs and Disabilities. The service is free, confidential and impartial. SNAP also provides a disagreement resolution service and independent issue based advocacy for children and young people.

For support or further information please contact:

Our telephone helpline on **0808 801 0608**

Or visit our website **www.snapcymru.org**