

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Department for People

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Our ref: SEN/IM

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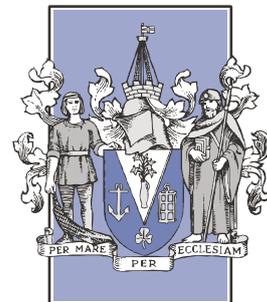
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Contact SEN Team

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For attention of all parents and carers of pupils at School Action or School Action Plus or Early Years Action or Early Years Action Plus

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know that from September 2014 the government is introducing changes to the way that children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are supported whether they are in early years settings, schools or colleges. These are quite big changes but we have been planning carefully to make sure that there is as little disruption as possible for families and children.

There will be no change to the way children receiving support at School Action or School Action Plus or Early Years Action or Early Years Action Plus receive support but this will now be called "SEN support". This will still be a graduated approach to identifying need and providing support in schools and settings.

SEN Support aims to focus on the child or young person's needs and on the impact of the support provided to them, rather than on how they access support according to the category they fit into. It will also ensure that educational institutions provide high quality teaching and learning for all children and young people and avoid inappropriately labelling children and young people as having SEN.

Special educational provision will continue for children and young people who need it because they need educational provision that is additional to or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in mainstream settings. It may change only if:

- a child or young person's learning needs have changed, or
- the educational setting has changed the arrangements and their provision for children with SEN

Early years settings and schools will review all pupils on Early Years Action/Early Years Action Plus and School Action/ School Action Plus to put in place SEN Support. This will include setting clear targets for progress, agreeing what support should be provided and tracking how it is working. Schools and settings will keep you fully involved and informed about this. We anticipate that most children will have transferred to the SEN support category by spring 2015, with all pupils moving to SEN support by September 2015.

Also, from September 2014, there will be no new statements of SEN issued. Instead, following an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment it will be an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan that is issued. An EHC plan will bring together in a co-ordinated way all of the assessment information and services and support that children and young people need across education, health and care. Parents/carers and young people will be fully involved in producing the EHC Plans through a much more personalised approach.

There are other developments in the new Code of Practice that we have been working including the Local Offer which will set out all of the services and support for children and young people with SEN. This is still work in progress and we will be giving you information about this in due course.

Your School or Early Years SENCO will be able to answer any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely



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Sandra Bingham
Group Manager Special Educational Needs & Inclusion