



November 2016

Dear Parent,

Re: Changes in the procedure of **Reviewing Statements** of children and young people

The Welsh Government is currently transforming expectations, experiences and outcomes for Additional Learning Needs children and young people. One aspect of this is the legislation – **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill** that is about to be presented to the Welsh Assembly Government before Christmas 2016. For further information go to: <http://gov.wales/aln>

Gwynedd Council and Isle of Anglesey Council have been innovative in creating a new Strategy that ties in with the changes introduced at a national level to **locally review the systems** for Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion.

What will change?

One obvious aspect of the changes is that SEN Statements will be replaced by new Individual Development Plans (IDP) – but that will have **the same legal enforcement**. To create an IDP, a process called Person Centred Planning will be used.

This year, when preparing for the changes, Gwynedd Council and Isle of Anglesey Council are to **review each Statement using person centred methods**. The **enclosed handouts** describe what person centred planning is, as well as how the Review will be held using this method.

When will this happen?

If your child is in a transitional phase (i.e. year 6 or year 9), the school should already have contacted you to arrange your child's Review during this term.

If your child is not in any of these years, a specific time-table will be set out for the Reviews and your school will contact you with the details. Through joint arrangements with the schools, the Authority's ALN services representatives will attend the meetings and reconcile the review method using a person centred approach.

What will this involve?

The Review meeting may last about an hour and we will discuss and plan for the coming year, and will be more informal compared to previous statement reviews of your child.

We will **ask you to choose** whether you are happy for your child to receive the support via the IDP only, (terminating the Statement) **OR** continue with the Statement and IDP for a period. Please note if you do decide to terminate the Statement this would not have any impact on the level of support that your child receives – as the same Criteria will apply.

The information that is gathered at the meeting will be considered (in the usual manner) by the Moderation Panel so as to ensure that any arrangements that your child requires are made. In an instance where you as parents are unhappy with the Moderation Panel's decision, arrangements will be made that will enable you to appeal.

If you have any concerns or further questions about the Statement/ IDP or process, or if you disagree with any aspect of the Statement/ Plan, you can contact both authorities:

Gwynedd Council: Gwern ap Rhisiart 01286 679007

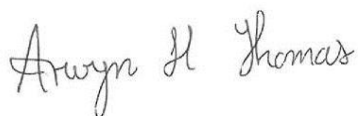
Isle of Anglesey County Council: Eimir Thomas 01248 752970

OR please contact the parents partnership service namely **SNAP Cymru** on **0845 1203730** or **helpline@snapcymru.org**. They can also put you in contact regarding informal arrangements that are available to resolve or prevent any disagreement between you and the Authority.

What about our statutory rights?

This does not prevent your **right to appeal** to the **Wales Special Needs Tribunal** within two months of receipt of the Individual Development Plan or Statement (TAAAC, Government Buildings, East Spa Road, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5HA; 01597 829800)

Yours sincerely,



Arwyn Thomas
Head of Education,
Gwynedd Council



Delyth Molyneux
Head of Learning,
Isle of Anglesey Council

Appended:

Handouts:

- Person Centred Planning in education
- Person-Centred Reviews