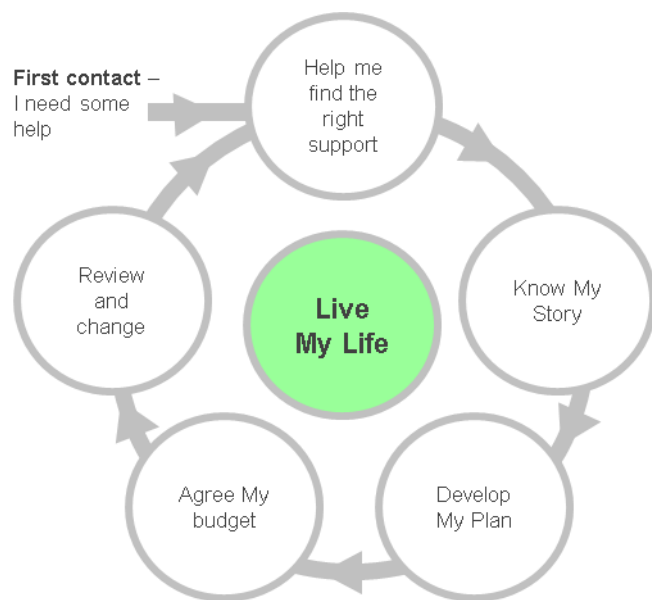


Nottinghamshire's Assessment and Planning Framework – the One Plan Journey

There is no national 'blueprint' for how things should be done, and so it is up to each Pathfinder, individually and collectively, to design the new arrangements, pilot them and test how well they work in practice. Your involvement in piloting these new arrangements will be crucial in shaping Nottinghamshire's assessment and plan framework ahead of wider roll-out.

An overview of Nottinghamshire's One Plan Journey is shown below. Once you have given your consent that you would like to be involved in the Pathfinder a member of staff from the County Council will be assigned to support you through the new process.



If you would like further information regarding the SEND Pathfinder, you can contact Mark Evans, who is the Pathfinder Project Manager by email mark.evans@nottscc.gov.uk or telephone 0115 9774301.

Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder

Published May 2013



Here's my
story



Here's my
Plan



Here's my
budget

Welcome to the Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder.

Why you are receiving this leaflet

You have received this leaflet because this is an opportunity for you to get involved with the Nottinghamshire SEND Pathfinder.

This leaflet explains further the exciting reforms that are planned to Special Educational Needs (SEN), as well as providing you with an overview of Nottinghamshire's new assessment and planning process which in the coming months will be piloted with a number of parents, children and young people who currently have a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

A proposed new approach

In June 2011, the government published a Green Paper called 'Support and Aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs.' This Green Paper described proposed changes to how care is assessed, planned and provided for children and young people with special needs and disabilities. These changes affect all children and young people from birth to 25 years old and cover all services including education, health and social care.

What is the SEND Pathfinder?

The Green Paper invited local areas across England to test the proposed reforms and new ways of working. Nottinghamshire were one of 20 successful areas to be awarded pathfinder status in September 2011.

Since then Nottinghamshire County Council and healthcare partners have been working collaboratively with some parents and carers and the voluntary and community sector to help develop the approach to test aspects of the planned reforms.

What are the timescales?

As Pathfinder testing has moved forward the Government has been progressing in parallel the drafting of the Children and Families Bill (containing the new Special Educational Needs legislation and new SEN Code of Practice).

In February 2013, the Department for Education confirmed that all 20 Pathfinders would be extended for a further 18 months through to September 2014, so that they can continue through their learning to help shape and inform the legislation as it progresses through Parliament in 2013.

Key points included in the draft legislation are:

- Replacing Statements of SEN (for under 16's) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for over 16's) with a new single birth to age 25 Education, Health and Care Plan. The new single plan will provide the same statutory protection to parents as the current statement of SEN and will include a commitment from all parties to provide their services. It will also extend the rights and protections to young people in further education and training, and offering families the option of a personal budget so that they have more control over the support they need
- Improving co-operation between all services that support children, young people and their families and particularly requiring local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to work together
- Requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with SEND and to publish a 'local offer' of support.

Whilst it is expected that the new legislation won't be implemented in England until September 2014, a requirement on all Pathfinders is that they will introduce their new arrangements in advance of this date. In Nottinghamshire it is intended that this will be undertaken in phases so that arrangements are fully operational across the local authority area by January 2014. This process is beginning with looking at how we transfer current statements of SEN to Education, Health and Care Plans in preparation for the change in the law in September 2014.