

## Wigan Pathfinder - SEND

The Pathfinder Programme has been developed to test out the new proposals put forward in the Green Paper. The common objectives at the heart of the programme are to:

- develop a new birth to 25 assessment process and single plan that could replace both the statutory SEN assessment and statement and the Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment. The single plan should incorporate health and social care assessments, bringing together the range of support for children and young people and their families
- explore how the voluntary and community sector could be used to improve access to specialist expertise and to introduce more independence to the process
- ensure the full engagement of children, young people and their families, with increasing opportunities for their participation in decision making as they get older.

In addition to the core areas above, Wigan will also be testing out additional reforms in regards to:

- personal budgets
- vulnerable children
- support for parents

Inside are brief descriptions of what each of the six sub groups is leading on. It is expected that each group will have approximately 8 -10 members representing a range of agencies. Each of them would appreciate having input from parents.

There are going to be lots of opportunities and many ways for parents to get involved - websites, email contact addresses etc are now set up and parents can also get progress reports of the Pathfinder Project through the Children's Disability Newsletter (CDN) and information will also be regularly updated on the website:

[www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Pathfinder/](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Pathfinder/)

The Government's Green Paper, Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to Special Educational Needs,\* published in March 2011, proposes radical and wide-ranging changes to the current framework. It moves away from the focus on "special education needs" to a more holistic approach which will identify a child and young person's needs across education, health and social care, reducing the number of separate assessments which currently occur.

We want to improve on what we have that is good and ensure whatever we introduce or deliver is of a consistently high standard. This is a real opportunity for you to help us to get the best out of our resources. We want to get better at what we do, and we need your help to do it!

There is a clear commitment to ensure that families are offered a range of opportunities to inform and support them to be well placed and equipped to help shape and influence services. We aim to maximise the ways we work with parents and families to recognise and reflect the value and strength of true and meaningful participation.

\* [www.education.gov.uk/a0075339/sengreenpaper](http://www.education.gov.uk/a0075339/sengreenpaper)

## Please....make that link and make a difference!

If you have any queries about the ways you can get more involved (or if you merely find out more) then please contact:

Parent Participation: **01942 488146** or  
Parent Partnership: **01942 486131**  
Or email: **[s.pathfinder@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:s.pathfinder@wigan.gov.uk)**

We can also make this information available in other languages and formats on request. Please contact us as above.

**NHS**  
**Ashton, Leigh and Wigan**

**Wigan**  
**Council**

# We need your help!

An invitation to parents to have a voice, have a say, make a difference and make it better!



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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### Local Offer

**Aim:** To provide parents/carers with a clear local offer of the support that is available for children and young people with SEND and their families.

**How:** Ensure clarity of information about...

- What services are available.
- How and when they are accessed.
- Who is responsible for delivering them.

This will assist families in making choices and exercising greater control over the services received. Information will be available in a variety of easy to understand formats.

### Integrated Working

**Aim:** To develop a new framework which supports integrated assessments and planning for children and young people with SEND and their families resulting in a continuum of options and support.

**How:** By identifying what an integrated team should look like...

- Define and 'name' the integrated team.
- Determining roles and responsibilities.
- Define the how and the when it is accessed and exited and who it is for.
- Alignment, co-ordination and support of existing services.
- Identify support mechanisms for parents and families to assist them in navigating through systems and changes e.g. Brokerage and personal budgets.

### Personal Budgets

**Aim:** Parental choice and control is exercised to greater effect and options for children and young people are increased and more positive outcomes achieved.

**How:** By identifying and supporting parents through clear pathways into personal budgets and ensuring...

- Clear eligibility criteria.
- Clarity about what can and cannot be accessed.
- Determining the offer for personal budgets.
- Support through appropriate brokerage routes.
- Identified routes for conflict/disagreement resolution.
- Establish links to other budgets – e.g. Health.
- Pilot with a number of families and identify all things to be considered and addressed.

### The Pathfinder Board

This is made up of the leads and support leads from each of the six sub-groups. Parents who sit on the sub-groups will also have the opportunity to attend this overarching group.

Each sub-group has approximately 8-10 members with representation from education, social care, health, voluntary sector, etc. We want to ensure that parental views are reflected throughout all groups. This may be through attending the groups (currently meet for approx 2 hours a month) or through other opportunities, e.g. existing support groups, consultation days, etc. Parents will be kept informed of opportunities through the Data Hub, Children's Disability Newsletter, and the website:

**[www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Pathfinder/](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/Pathfinder/)**

### Support and Engagement

**Aim:** To empower families to be active partners in services and provision for children and young people with SEND in Wigan Borough.

**How:** Ensure greatest opportunity is given to parents, carers and young people to...

- Have identified channels for receiving and giving information and views.
- Receive quality information – i.e. the right information, at the right time in a most appropriate way.
- Have an effective voice, i.e. have their views listened to and be considered.
- Help to inform, shape and influence provision and the delivery of services, in response to the Green Paper.
- Feel informed and equipped to be confident in making their own well informed decisions.
- Maximise opportunities to identify and utilise support, e.g. third sector, advocacy and key working.

### Data Sharing and Reducing Bureaucracy

**Aim:** To ensure information is collected and used efficiently, securely and in the best interests of children, young people and their families.

**How:** By ensuring clarity of purpose when requesting and sharing information and determining...

- What information is required to identify children and young people's needs and inform the Education, Health and Care Plan.
- How to gather information most effectively and identify any gaps and avoid unnecessary duplications.
- Development of agreements and processes for sharing information appropriately and safely.

### Vulnerable Groups

**Aim:** To be clear when a child is considered to be vulnerable and the processes required to identify, assess and support their needs.

**How:**

- Consider the range of assessment available and how it can be used to inform an integrated care plan.
- Consider what the Education, Health and Care Plan would look like, particularly in regard to looked after children, and how to develop an integrated team around the plan.
- Consider how to provide advice for children and young people with a plan and how to ensure smooth transitions through the system.