

# YSGOL UWCHRADD TYWYN

Ffordd yr Orsaf/Station Road, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9EU



## **Additional Learning Needs in Wales**

### **What's happening?**

Nearly a quarter of learners in Wales have some kind of Special Educational Needs. (SEN) Outcomes for learners with Special Educational Needs are poor compared to the rest of the pupil population in Wales.

The current system is based on a model which is over thirty years old and is no longer fit for purpose. In December 2017 The National Assembly for Wales passed a new law, The Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal (Wales) Act. The new system will take effect from September 2020. Under the new system we will not be calling it Special Educational Needs any more – instead, we will be talking about Additional Learning Needs.

All learners with ALN from birth to 25 years old (rather than 19) will have an Individual Development Plans. These plans will set out the support that learners will have a legal right to receive. Services will also be required where necessary and possible, to provide this support in Welsh. All the agencies involved in supporting the learner - whether in education, social services or health services – will work in partnership.

The process will be much simpler and learners, their parents and their carers will be involved in the making of their plans. This will prevent disagreements from arising but where they do, they will be resolved quickly. All learners with ALN will have the same rights of appeal if they do need to challenge decisions that are made. To make sure that everyone involved understands the new legal process, the Welsh Government has published a code for the ALN system, which must be followed.

As well as changing the law, there will be an investment in the education workforce to make sure that all those who work with learners with ALN have the right skills. A wide range of services is being used to prepare for the transition to the new system and to develop closer working relationships.

The new system won't just benefit learners with ALN. It will help to create a fair and inclusive education system, where all children and young people are supported to overcome barriers to learning and participation, and achieve their full potential.

For more information please visit: [www.gov.wales/ALN](http://www.gov.wales/ALN)