

# SEND Reforms Newsletter

## Questions, Answers and Information about the SEND Reforms

Dorset County Council has asked us to talk to young people to find out what they know about the SEND reforms - most people didn't know what this was.

So we have made a newsletter to try and explain what it's all about and what some of the words mean.

We have put in lots of information about people who could help you. If you aren't sure what some of it means, please ask.


We hope you find it useful!



## ? SEND - What does that mean?

 Special Education Needs or Disability

## ? What are the SEND Reforms?

 The government have changed the law. The new law will mean that professionals from different services will have to work more closely together to give children and young people with Special Education Needs or a Disability the support they need. Children and young people will have more say over what support and services are offered in their local area, and more help will be available for young people as they prepare for adulthood.

**Example: Increasing a young person's independence so they can do more for themselves.**



## Some of the biggest changes include:


1. A bigger focus on your **aspirations** for the future and the **support** you will need to achieve your **goals**.

? What are **aspirations**?

 **Aspirations** are things that you **hope** to do.

2. Statements of special educational needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments will be replaced by **Education, Health and Care Plans**.

? What is an **Education Health and Care Plan**?

 An **EHC Plan** is a legal document that describes a child or young person's **special educational, health and social care needs**. It explains the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and how that help will support you to achieve what you want to in your life.

An **EHC Plan** can be issued to people aged between the ages of 0 and 25.

3. Your local authority **consulting** children and young people about the services it should be offering.

? Why are the Dorset County Council **consulting** young people?

💡 **Consulting** means finding out what **you** think. The new law says children and young people will have more say over what support and services are offered in their local area, and more help will be available for young people as they prepare for adulthood.

**WORKING TOGETHER**



4. You being more **involved in making decisions** about how you are **supported**.

### **Making decisions:**

If you are aged 16 or over, you will be the main person making **decisions**. You may still want to ask your **parents** to help you make **decisions**.

If you are under 16, your **parents** will be the **main** people making decisions about your life. You should be asked to have your say about your life. You may need **support** to help you do this.

? What happens if you **cannot** make **decisions** for yourself?

💡 Someone will need to make a decision for you. If someone thinks that you are not able to make a decision for yourself, you might have a **mental capacity assessment**.

If a **mental capacity assessment** says you are unable to make a decision for yourself, someone else will make a **decision** for you.

They **must** make sure they involve you and those who know you well. Even if you are not able to make a decision for yourself, **your views are still important**.

Here are some things you might want to think about:


? What sort of **decisions** do you feel **comfortable** making?

? What sort of **decisions** do you **not** feel **comfortable** making?

? If you are aged 16 or over, do you want your **parents** to be **involved** in the **decisions** you make?

? Do you want **anyone else** to be **involved** in the **decisions** you make?

Watch this video to find out how the **Mental Capacity Act** protects us all:

 [www.scie.org.uk/mca/introduction/using-mental-capacity-act](http://www.scie.org.uk/mca/introduction/using-mental-capacity-act)



5. Having more information, advice and support to understand your options as you move into adulthood.

### Information, Advice and Support

These are some of the ways you can get **Information, Advice and Support**.

#### The Local Offer

Dorset's Local Offer has been developed for young children and young people with SEND and their families to be the one place you need to visit for all information.



[www.localoffer.co.uk](http://www.localoffer.co.uk)



#### The Xchange

The news and information network for Dorset families with children who are disabled or have additional needs.

[www.xchangeonline.co.uk](http://www.xchangeonline.co.uk)



**Independent support from the Rose Road Association**

Independent Supporters are available to help young people and their families who are having an EHC assessment, or moving from their statement of special educational needs or Learning Difficulties Assessment to an EHC Plan.



0300 303 8604

[independentsupport@roseroad.co.uk](mailto:independentsupport@roseroad.co.uk)

**Dorset SENDIASS**

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service ...so that you can make choices for yourself

Dorset SENDIASS have a service for children and young people who are aged 0-25 who have a special educational need and/or disability. Children and young people can ask for **confidential** and free information and advice.

07786 701110

[www.dorsetforyou.com/sendiaass](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/sendiaass)  
[sendiaass@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:sendiaass@dorsetcc.gov.uk)



**What does confidential mean?**



This means your information will not be shared with anyone outside Dorset SENDIASS unless you tell us we can.



Young People **233** with special educational needs or/and disabilities completed our online survey

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Someone to talk to
- Talks from older students
- More help and support for getting a job
- Information and advice for parents
- Training for employers

**Which PEOPLE HELP YOU find out information?**



**Scores out of 10**

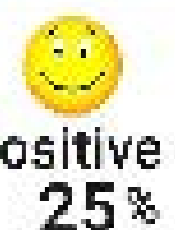
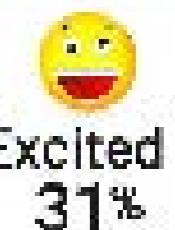
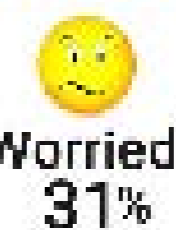


**HOW YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT ABOUT CHOICES & OPTIONS:**



**FOR FULL REPORT:** [www.dorsetyoungresearchers.com](http://www.dorsetyoungresearchers.com)

**HOW STUDENTS FEEL ABOUT LEAVING SCHOOL/COLLEGE:**





A 2015 survey of young people's views to help planning for the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Reforms across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

### Education, Health and Care Plans

**45%** of young people had heard of the new Education, Health and Care Plans.

Compared by educational institution college students who were the most likely to know about the plans with **56%** of college students saying yes, compared to **44%** of students at mainstream school and **38%** at Specialist Schools.

### Local Offer

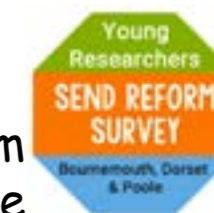
**26%** of young people had heard of the Local Offer.

College students were most likely to have heard of the Local Offer (**29%**) compared to only **19%** from mainstream schools and **25%** at specialist schools.

We compared this by age and found that there was not much difference between the age groups. When we compared this by gender there was also little difference.

You can find more about Young Researchers at [www.dorsetyoungresearchers.com](http://www.dorsetyoungresearchers.com)

## Recommendations



Once the survey was closed young people from Beaucroft School, Yewstock School, Poole College and the Chatterboxes group were shown the findings. They discussed what they thought of the findings and how they related to their own experiences. They also made some recommendations. Below is a summary of what the young people said and their recommendations.

### Information, Advice and Support

#### Internet:

- Websites that are helpful and young people friendly and not too much writing
- Have links from school/college websites to other useful websites
- Advertise links on Facebook and Twitter

"Websites are good but who looks at them!"

"Teenagers generally can't be bothered to type in an address but a link on Facebook would work"

"If you want teenagers to listen make a YouTube video"

"It's best to advertise links to website on social media"

"Some are good and easy to find but others are hard to find"

"I don't like to read much so prefer websites that are interactive and interesting"

## Someone to talk to:

"The internet may answer your main questions but it's the little questions that are important to get to ask someone in person about. It's better to talk to someone face to face because they can then answer your questions directly"

"It's honestly better just to talk to someone"

"At school we should have an Adviser who we could talk to if we are anxious or worried about stuff. You can talk to teachers but they don't always keep stuff confidential"

"School should let students know that there are people they can talk too if they are worried about leaving school"

"Schools should let students know that there are people they can talk too if they are worried about leaving school"

"Adults don't listen to me at all. Half the time it's like I'm invisible. If I do something bad they notice me. They say they are listening but you seem them not really listening It would be nice if someone listened to me and paid attention to the good things and not always the bad things"



## Here are some of the things that young people told us were important to them:

- Friends
- Getting the support I need. Without it I would not be able to succeed
- Mum. She is the key person in my life
- To feel comfortable and confident about becoming independent
- Listen to me
- The best bit of the whole process was the result and knowing that I was going to college
- Involve me and my parents
- Explain the process and what can be expected at each stage
- Provide written information, but make sure someone I like and trust can explain things to me 1:1
- Provide contact details
- Support me to make informed choices and explore options
- Think outside the box
- Encourage aspirations to be discussed
- Keep in contact and let me know if there is a delay. It only takes minutes to make a phone call but that can make all the difference to a young person going through transition
- Be honest throughout and identify early on if my first choice is not likely to be met
- Have plan B options discussed early in the planning process
- Provide the support in the education setting that has been discussed
- Accept who I am

We would love to know if you have found this Newsletter useful

You can let us know in lots of different ways:

By talking to your Ansbury Adviser



Freephone: **0800 358 3888**

[www.ansbury.co.uk](http://www.ansbury.co.uk)



@AnsburyCareers

[info@ansbury.co.uk](mailto:info@ansbury.co.uk)

Ansbury Guidance  
3 Kingland Road  
Poole  
BH15 1SH

Ask someone else to talk to us on your behalf

Shout very loud and hope we hear!

Thanks to all the young people who talked to us and helped us write this newsletter - particularly Liv Powis and Samuel Langford who are featured in the photos. Both these young people worked with us throughout the consultation and helped us complete the newsletter.



Careers and Employability Experts

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