Setting the Scene – A Synopsis of SEN: Past, Present & Future

Houses of Parliament

Rona Tutt OBE

1970s  How it all started
1980s  The influence of integration
1990s  The change to inclusion
2000s  A flexible range of provision
1970s

- 1970 Education Act brought ALL children into the education system.

- Warnock Report (1978) introduced the term ‘special educational needs’ (SEN).
The 1981 Education Act brought in the *statementing process* and began the debate about integrating more pupils into mainstream schools.
The integration debate was replaced by the inclusion debate.

The first **SEN Code of Practice** (1994)
The SEN & Disability Act (2001)

**Disabled**

*Having a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.*

**SEN**

*Having a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.*
Revised SEN Code of Practice (2001)

SEN described in 4 broad categories:

- Communication & interaction
- Cognition & learning
- Behaviour, emotional & social difficulties
- Physical & sensory impairments
A Flexible continuum of provision

In-class support

mainstream bases

Special schools

Special school bases
2. The Present

- The Green Paper
- The Children & Families Bill
- The new SEN Code of Practice
The SEND Green Paper

The ‘Call for Views’ (Autumn 2010)

The Green Paper (March 2011)

Progress and next steps (May 2012)
The SEND Green Paper

- *Green Paper: Children and young people with SEN and disabilities - Call for views*

Priorities included:
- Having high expectations and a greater focus on outcomes
- Intervening earlier
- Giving parents more choice of schools and services
- Closer working between Education, Health and Social Care
The SEND Green Paper

Chapter 1  Early identification and assessment
Chapter 2  Giving parents control
Chapter 3  Learning and achieving
Chapter 4  Preparing for adulthood
Chapter 5  Services working together for families
Green Paper Pathfinders

- Set up to run for 2 years from Sept 2011, but later extended to Sept 2014
- 20 selected involving 31 Local Authorities and their Health partners
- Their purpose is to pilot some of the new ways of working
Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disabilities – Progress and next steps

Using the same chapter headings, this summed up:

✓ What was in the Green Paper
✓ What had happened since
✓ What still needed to be done
Children and Families Bill - content

- Adoption and Children Looked After by LA
- Family Justice
- **Children & Young People with SEN (Part 3)**
- Childminder Agencies
- The Children’s Commissioner
- Statutory Rights to Leave and Pay
- Time Off Work: Ante-Natal Care etc
- Right to Request Flexible Working
Children and Families Bill - Timetable

- Announced in the Queen’s Speech May 2012
- Bill introduced in Parliament February 2013
- Goes through parliament during 2013
- Becomes an Act early 2014
- Implementation from September 2014

In addition, Regulations and a new Code of Practice are being developed alongside the Bill.
Children and Families Bill - Headlines

- **Education, Health and Care Plans** to replace statements and to run from **0-25**
- LAs to produce a **Local Offer** providing information on what services are available locally
- Parents to be offered **Personal Budgets**
- Parents to be offered **Mediation** before going to Tribunal
- School Action and School Action Plus to be reduced to a single category
 SEN Code of Practice

- **Indicative Draft Code** published March 2013
- **Draft Code** due to be published for consultation in the Autumn
- **SEN Code of Practice** published alongside the Children and Families Act
New SEN Code of Practice

- A Family Centred System
- Integration, Joint Commissioning & Co-operation
- The Local Offer
- Early Years, Schools, Colleges etc
- Identifying Needs (including Additional SEN Support)
- Assessments & EHC Plans (including Personal Budgets)
- Resolving Disputes
The Children & Families Bill will continue its route through Parliament and is due to become an Act early in 2014, with implementation from Sept 2014.

Further details will come in Regulations.

A revised SEN Code of Practice will appear for consultation in the Autumn, before the final version is published shortly after the Bill has become an Act.
It is likely that....

There will be a growing range of provision for SEND pupils.

Staff at all levels will be encouraged to increase their knowledge and skills.

More children will be recognised as having co-existing conditions.

More pupils who are born prematurely will populate our classrooms.
I hope that......

- We do not wait for children to ‘fail’ before giving them the support they need.

- Families feel it is no longer a fight to obtain the provision they want.

- The continuum of provision is used more flexibly, with the value of part-time, short-term and dual roll placements being recognised.

- Everyone works more closely together: families with schools; schools with each other; health and social care with education.
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