

## LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) REFORMS FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

The Government's vision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in school and college; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and grow up to secure employment, live independently and participate in their community.

It is expected that the SEND reforms will deliver this by implementing a new approach which joins up the system across education, health and care, from birth to 25. Local authorities will provide help at the earliest possible point, with children and young people with SEN and their parents fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. It is anticipated that this will lead to better outcomes, and more efficient ways of working.

The Children and Families Bill makes significant changes to the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). The key proposals for children with SEN and their families are:

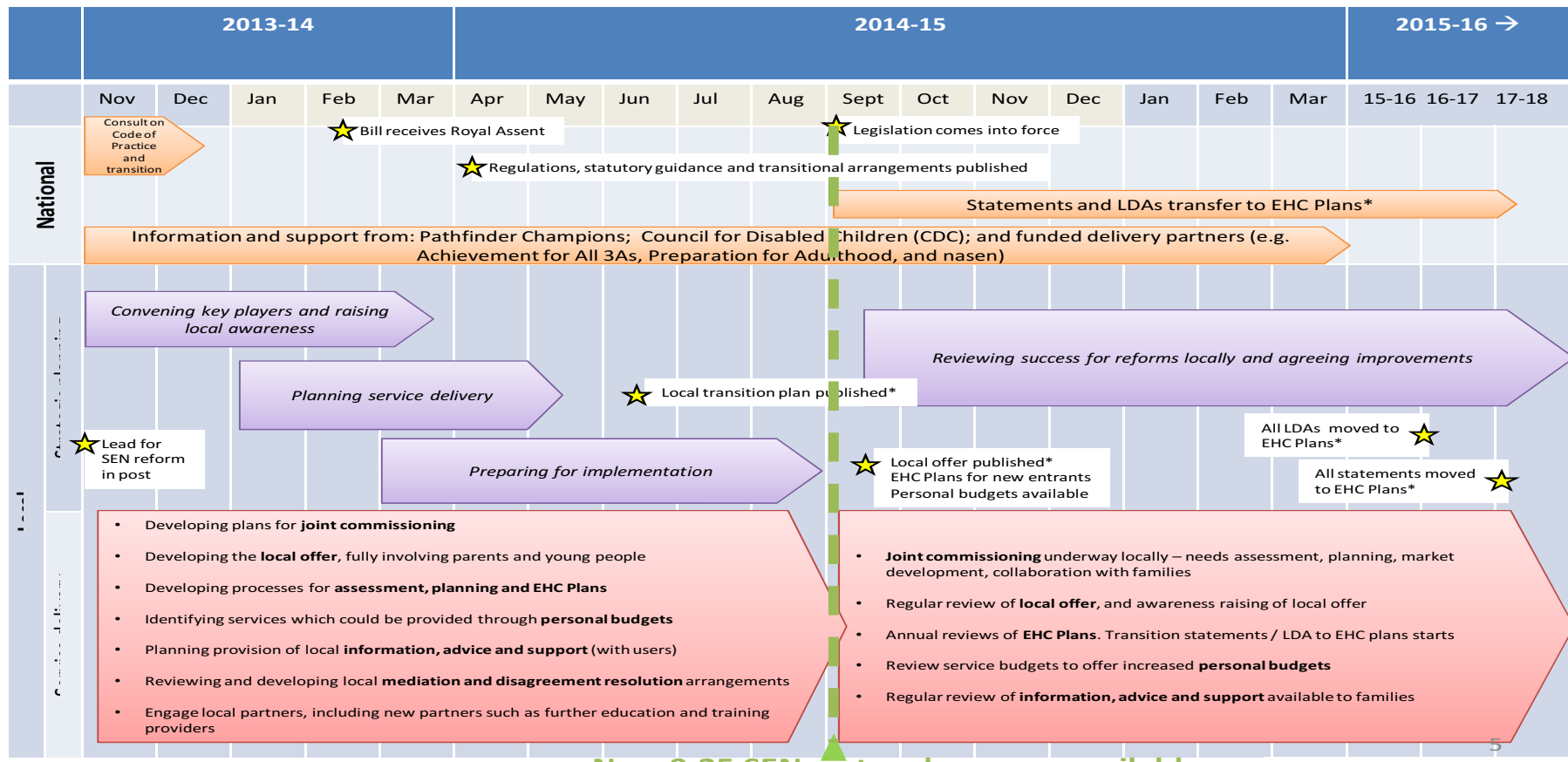
- Work with health and social care colleagues ***jointly to commission services to deliver integrated support for children and young people with SEN aged 0-25.***
- ***Consult children, young people and their parents, and cooperate with a range of local providers*** across education, health and social care partners ***to deliver the new system***, including post-16 education providers such as further education colleges and training providers.
- Engage local partners in, ***co-producing*** with parents and young people, and publishing, ***a local offer of SEN services and provision*** to assist young people in finding employment, obtaining accommodation and participating in society.
- Provide a ***coordinated education, health and care assessment for children and young people aged 0-25, and new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans*** that will replace the two existing systems of SEN statements (in schools) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (in further education and training).
- Offer those with EHC plans the ***option of a personal budget.***
- Consider the ***transition from children's to adult services*** and whether to use a ***new power to provide children's services to young people over 18 to smooth their transition.***
- Provide a ***new system for resolving disputes*** including disagreement resolution and complaints procedures, mediation, First-Tier Tribunals (SEND) and NHS Complaints-Healthwatch.

The Department for Education and the Department of Health are currently consulting on a new **0-25 SEN Code of Practice**, which will act as statutory guidance for the duties introduced by the Bill. A final Code of Practice will be published in Spring 2014.

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# Timeline for implementing a new approach



New 0-25 SEN system becomes available

\* Subject to (national) consultation

