

## **ALN Transformation Briefing – July 2018**

Over the past 5 years, FEIs in Wales have been developing their support provision for young people who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. In the academic year 2016/17, colleges were providing programmes for 13,390 learners with a recorded disability. Most colleges now have significant human and technical resources and use these to meet a wide range of additional learning needs. However, there has been limited statutory requirements placed on post-compulsory education providers and the provision made by colleges has been in line with general improvements they have made to their services.

### **Colegau Cymru / Colleges Wales**

Colegau Cymru / Colleges Wales is a charity that raises the profile of further education, vocational, work-based learning, and adult continuing education among decision-makers. Our aim is *to promote world-class education, training and skills outcomes for all learners in Wales.*

Based on this ambition we work with all Further Education Institutions in Wales (FEIS), in order to improve educational opportunities, enrich the learner experience and enhance outcomes and employability. It is a national member-led body, representing all 13 further education colleges and institutions across Wales.

### **The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act**

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (ALNET) which received royal assent in January 2018, places specific responsibilities on local authorities, schools **and** colleges on the provision they make for children and young people aged up to 25 years. The Welsh Government have set a timeline that requires these institutions to start meeting these new duties in September 2020 and to reach full compliance by July 2023. As part of the transformation process, they have appointed five ALN Transformation Leads, one for each of the four regions and one to cover all FEIs in Wales. The latter of these, employed with Colegau Cymru, has the responsibility of providing support and challenge to each of the 13 colleges as they prepare for the implementation of the legislation, as well as affording an interface between FEIs and Welsh Government.

Amongst the new duties that the Act places on FEIs, there is a responsibility to:

- Appoint an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo)
- Provide improved transition arrangements
- Create and maintain an Individual Development Plan (IDP)
- Provide an annual person-centred review
- Offer support through the medium of Welsh language

- Provide transparent opportunities for young people to raise concerns with clear procedures for dispute resolution and appeal
- Collaborate with other services such as health and local authorities

Colegau Cymru, through its FE Lead, is working closely with the regional Transformation Leads (TLs) to ensure a consistent approach to developing systems and protocols and to encourage partnership working.

The ALNET Act represents a significant challenge for colleges, particularly in terms of:

- An increased workload
- New duties requiring additional skills to meet the legal responsibilities
- Developing consistent processes with LAs and schools (some colleges enrol learners from more than one region)
- A potential for greater pressure to enrol learners who have more complex needs
- Increased expectations from learners and their parents as well as the potential for referrals to the Special Educational Tribunal for Wales (SENTW)

The sector is currently awaiting further details about the new requirements that will come with the release of the Code of Practice and associated regulations. This is expected to provide a clearer steer on many elements of the Act.

In the meantime, the FE Lead is working with each of the regional TLs to support the regional development plans and to ensure that FEIs are fully involved in every part of the transformation process.

### Key statistics (for the academic year 2016/17)

Unique learners enrolled at an FEI institution	128,690
Learners with a recorded disability	13,390
Male	7270
Female	6120