



Department
for Education

National Network of Parent Carer Forums

National SEND and AP Standards Co-Production Session

February 2023

Context Setting

Introducing National Standards

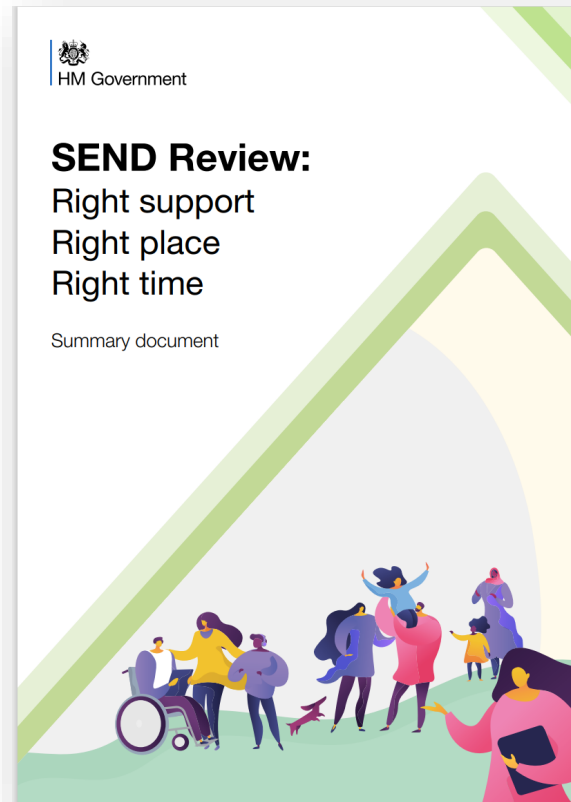
Context

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Green Paper was published on 29 March 2022, and committed us to the production of a set of National Standards for SEND:

- Since then, we completed a 4 month consultation on the Green Paper proposals.
- We have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders such as Council for Disabled Children, Local Government Association, LAs and Ofsted to seek views on the purpose, scope and development of national standards.

There is broad support for the purpose of standards, and the focus on ending the “postcode lottery”

What are National Standards?



- The aim of national standards is to **set clear expectations for what good looks like**, in identifying and meeting need, and clarify who must secure support and from which budgets.
- This will set the Government’s position on what every child and their family must receive and what providers must deliver.
- We want to improve the evidence base for identifying and meeting needs, by working with experts in the short-term and undertaking new research in the medium term.

What will the National Standards look like in practice?

- **We want to build on what good local areas are already doing** with their local offer and ordinarily available provision and set this as the standard everywhere.
- As the green paper set out, we propose setting standards in legislation, **via a framework**, to clarify who is responsible for securing what provision – emphasising what should be ‘universally’ available in early years, schools and colleges.
- Intend standards to apply across education, social and healthcare – legislated for education, and aligned with existing health care legislation
- Alongside the National Standards, we will develop ‘**practice guides**’, to offer frontline professionals a single source of evidence on ‘what works’ to support children and young people with SEND. These could cover both specific conditions (e.g., dyslexia) and support in core areas of development (e.g., reading, language support).



National Standards will clarify:



What types of support should be made available, based on evidence of what works.




Whose job it is to make different types of provision available.



Which budgets should be used to pay for support.

Next Steps

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- Spring 2023:** Establish the National Standards Steering Group, and ways of working with stakeholders, parents, carers, children and young people
 - End 2023:** Some elements of the National Standards ready for testing by the Regional Expert Partnerships
 - End 2025:** Publish a significant proportion of the National Standards, and three Practice Guides

Co-Design Session

Questions for Co-Production Session

Discussion Groups

Guiding questions

Early Years

What should be required as standard within mainstream provision?

- What should be provided through policies? (e.g. attendance policy, behavioural policy)
- What staff skills and training should be in place as standard?
- What should the standards be for the physical environment?
- What resources should be accessible as part of ordinarily available provision (e.g., access to specialist services)?

Primary

Secondary

Post-16

Parent and Carer
engagement

How and when should mainstream settings engage with you?

- What are your examples of this working well/not working?
- What expectations should there be?

Barriers

What do you think the main barriers are to high standard provision in mainstream?

- What do you think drives variation of provision and experience?

For all groups -
Where should we
start?

This is the first question we are focussed on answering.

- Of everything you have discussed in your groups (or wider issues), what one specific thing would you advise us to start with?
- What is your top priority practical problem that you think the standards may be able to help solve?