



SEND and AP Monthly Newsletter (October 2024)

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! We are excited to share updates on the progress we are making with the [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities & Alternative Provision \(SEND&AP\) Improvement Plan](#).

What's been happening?

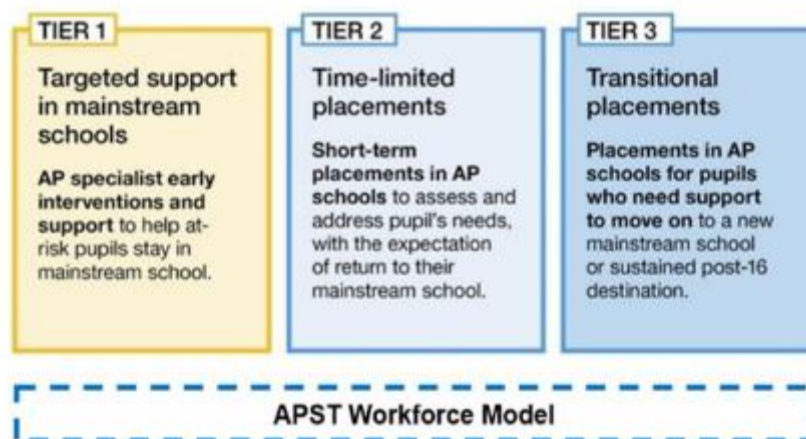
Change Programme Update 2024/25

Since the recent election, the Department for Education (DfE) is waiting for new government decisions on the Change Programme. We expect more information by early November, after the government announces its budget. We will keep you posted on any important decisions.

Focus on Alternative Provision

East Sussex have been implementing the three-tier model for alternative provision. The focus is for alternative provision to be used as an intervention, rather than as a destination. Children and young people should remain in mainstream education where possible. They should receive the targeted support they need whilst continuing to attend their school.

A three-tier model for alternative provision



The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforces (APST) model, brings together experts from

- Education
- Health
- Social Care

They work inside Alternative Provision schools to support students and their families. The DfE is testing this model to help students move back towards full time mainstream education.

East Sussex Alternative Provision Directory

[East Sussex Alternative Provision Directory](#) (The Directory) has recently celebrated its first year.

The Directory is hosted by East Sussex County Council. It is a resource for schools to commission alternative provision for their students. It helps schools in the county find quality assured alternative provision for students. While the Council recommends using this resource, it is not an approved list. Schools must still check the safety and suitability of each placement to meet their students' specific needs.

The Directory has a range of alternative provision from Key Stage 1 to 4. It includes:

- farm school
- forest school
- one to one tuition (face to face, and online)
- small group face to face tuition
- sports based providers (martial arts, gym and Jui-jitsu).

The focus in the first year has been on quality assuring providers not registered with the DfE, delivering alternative provision off-school site. However, the Directory does contain some DfE registered providers. This ensures a balanced offer for schools and students

The Council supports providers on the directory throughout the year. There are three provider network meetings during the year. These are used to share key messages and receive feedback from providers. It aims to continually improve alternative provision in the county.

For further information, please contact: apcommissioning@eastsussex.gov.uk

Excellence for All

Education East Sussex has launched its [Excellence for All](#) vision. The Directory supports the goal that by 2030, every child and young person in the county will be part of an excellent and fair education system. It is a key part of the plan to improve alternative provision in East Sussex.

SEND&AP South East Network Meeting

The South East CPPs hold monthly meetings to discuss reforms. In September and October, the focus is on Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) and the APST model.

New EHCP Template

We have been testing the new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) template for children and young people entering the system. We asked families to give feedback on it.

Local Area Inclusion Plan

We submitted the first draft of the Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP) in May 2024. This plan helps with strategic planning for SEND and AP. It will help us improve the quality of care for children and young people with special needs.

Feedback Loops

REACH

The Reaching Excellence and Ambition for all Children (REACH) group works with the DfE to test changes to the SEND and AP system. REACH organises webinars and workshops to help teams improve their systems.

REACH has also set up forums for knowledge sharing from September to December 2024. These will help teams understand the practical changes in SEND & AP reform, such as OAP, EHCP Reforms, and Alternative Provision.

East Sussex Change Programme Team

The programme is led by James Bawn, a Senior Manager with sixteen years of experience in education and local authorities. James now leads the SEND & AP Change Programme in East Sussex. Tammy Frichot, the Project Officer, has five years of experience with local authority systems and processes.

We would also like to thank Penny Mackay, who led the Change Programme until September 2024, for all her work.

If you would like to share your thoughts on any aspect of the Change Programme, please email: ChangeProgramme@eastsussex.gov.uk

To find out more about the SEND&AP Change Programme please visit: [SEND and AP Change Programme \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/SEND-and-AP-Change-Programme)

If you have any specific questions about the SEND&AP Change Programme or would like to provide feedback, please email: ChangeProgramme@eastsussex.gov.uk