

# Information for parent carers on the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan Change Programme

## What is REACH?

The Reaching Excellence and Ambition for all Children (REACH) consortium is the name for the team of four organisations who are working with the Department for Education and local areas to test the proposed changes to the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) System, as set out in the [SEND and AP Improvement Plan](#). These organisations are PA Consulting, IMPOWER, the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and Olive Academies.

The REACH consortium will work with the nine regional Change Programme Partnerships (CPPs), made up of two to four local areas, who will share experiences, learning and suggestions for improvement, as they test out the key reforms outlined in the [SEND and AP Improvement Plan](#).

## How are parent carers involved?

Co-production and engagement are at the heart of this process. Part of the role of the REACH consortium and the DfE's delivery team is to work closely with CPPs and to make sure the right partners - including parent carers - are involved at both CPP and individual local area level. As a first step, each CPP is in the process of setting up their steering group and this *has* to include parent carers. As the reforms are tested, the REACH consortium will ensure that CPPs are involving parent carers and children and young people. This will include parent carer representatives for each policy area via a range of methods including focus groups.

## About the REACH consortium

- [PA Consulting](#) are experts in helping organisations to change for the better by trying new approaches, building skills and changing ways of working. They work a lot with central government, local government and health organisations.
- [IMPOWER](#) work with public sector organisations, such as local government, to make positive change by helping organisations work together better and focus on what really makes a difference to the people they support.
- The [Council for Disabled Children](#) brings together more than 380 voluntary and community organisations, as well as practitioners working in education, health and care. CDC works with these partners to promote the rights of disabled children, young people and their families and improve the services they depend on.
- [Olive Academies](#) is a multi-academy trust specialising in alternative provision. Through its five academies in London and the East of England, they support 7 to 16-year-olds to re-engage with learning and reach their full potential. Olive Academies also works with mainstream schools,

sharing best-practice to help prevent exclusions and improve outcomes for marginalised children and young people, and their families.

## Why these organisations?

The REACH consortium has come together because these organisations have the same values and hopes for the SEND System. Each organisation brings different skills and knowledge, including:

- SEND and the SEND system
- Alternative provision
- Facilitating change in complex systems
- Running large, complex projects

The team will work closely with people with lived experience to make sure that children, young people and families' voices are at the heart of the programme.

## How will REACH deliver the Change Programme?

The REACH consortium will work hand-in-hand with the CPPs and the CPPs will provide feedback and learning about whether the reforms drive essential improvements in outcomes and experiences for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs, their families and carers.

CPPs will test the proposed SEND and AP reforms in each participating local area in phases over the course of the programme, adapting their approach as the REACH consortium learn from what works. The programme - with regional input and testing will build the necessary evidence base to inform what future national changes should look like and how they could best be delivered.

The REACH consortium will support CPPs in 4 key areas of programme delivery:

1. **Regional Tailored Support:** The REACH consortium will be available to provide “on the ground” support and expertise to each CPP to understand, test and share insights about each reform in their local areas.
2. **Evidence feedback loop:** The REACH consortium will work with CPPs and the DfE to create a streamlined approach to gathering insight and learning from testing. This will help to focus our support and inform the DfE’s development of policies based on local experience of what works.
3. **Programme Delivery:** The REACH consortium programme management team will ensure clarity on timings, governance and provide overall reporting to the DfE.
4. **Learning communities:** The REACH consortium has developed a community of practice for local areas to engage with each other and to share insights from testing the reforms that will inform the wider system learning beyond the programme.

## What does this mean for me and my child?

### If you live in a CPP area

Although the CPP areas will be testing some different ways of working, these will not change your rights under the existing legislation. Both the DfE and REACH consortium hope that the reforms will make for a better experience for children, young people and their families, but it is important that we learn what is working and what isn't, so you may be asked for feedback. The REACH consortium will be working with local areas to develop communications for parent carers and families to ensure local areas are able to provide further details on what is happening locally.

### If you do not live in a CPP area

Non-CPP areas are not expected to try any of the reforms as part of this programme, but there will still be plenty of opportunities to hear and learn from areas who are part of the testing programme. This means that non-CPP areas might choose to make changes in response to what comes out of the programme, for example if we learn that a particular change makes a big positive difference for families. Once the testing is finished, there will be more information to all local areas about what changes are expected.