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NatSIP is a unique national partnership of professionals and voluntary organisations working with children and young people with sensory impairment (SI) and their families.

The purpose of NATSIP is to improve outcomes for children and young people with SI, closing gaps with their peers, through joint working in services for these children.

NatSIP is funded through voluntary contributions, affiliation subscription and grants from government.

Following the 2 year contract (April 2013 – 31st March 2015) with DfE for the provision of specialist information, advice, support and training to improve the outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairments, in the context of the wider SEN reforms, we are now, as strategic partner for SI, receiving DfE grant funding until 31st March 2016 to continue in this role.

Details, published guidance and outcomes from the NatSIP workstreams in the contract and the emerging grant programme can be found on the NatSIP website: www.natsip.org.uk

1. The NatSIP grant programme 2015 – 2016

1.1. The aims of the NatSIP programme:

1. Continue SI data collection and improving co-ordination and usefulness of the data.
2. Increase the number of authorities participating in data collection, ensuring we understand better the links between interventions and outcomes.
3. Link data more closely with development of good practice tools to improve outcomes, across the SI cohort, with increased understanding of how to achieve better outcomes.
4. Improve the ability of SI professionals to use tools and NatSIP materials to increase understanding, capacity and confidence to implement good plans and provision, to secure better outcomes for SI CYP 0-to 25yrs.
5. Give greater understanding across the general SEND workforce about the effective support CYP with SI need in order to achieve good outcomes and when and how to seek additional advice from an available high quality specialist workforce.
6. Increase understanding of parents, carers and young people about what good provision looks like for them and how they should be involved in decision making.
7. Enable local authorities and settings to be able to ensure the right provision is in place to support and improve outcomes for CYP with SI.

1.2 The objectives of the grant work programme:

Objective A: Establishing the link between evidence and outcomes

We will:

- A.1 Develop the current NatSIP outcomes benchmarking data collection (attainment and achievement) to provide evidence of impact and improve outcomes. The pilot study with CRIDE and UCL will start to integrate output to outcome data (HI CYP).
- A.2 Ensure this data informs the other work programmes in the bid supporting development of an overall quality framework. This will deliver more effective provision of SI services supporting the wider workforce.

Objective B: Assisting implementation of the SEND reforms to improve outcomes

We will:

- B.1 Develop tools and practical guidance on writing effective plans for SI CYP to ensure that the requirements of the Code of Practice are fully met, good outcomes clearly identified, expressed and targeted in line with SMART principles in the SEND Code of Practice.
- B.2 Produce a separate guide for parents and young people so they can contribute effectively in production of plans and understand the local planning context for sensory services.
- B.3 Develop guidance on what is a good offer for sensory support across early years, schools and post-16 settings and also for local authorities. Aligning the Local Offer and School Information Report will give a clear picture of what effective SI provision looks like.
- B.4 Use the reforms to devise mechanisms which help empower YP to explain how they want to be supported in their ambitions for independence.

Objective C: Improving workforce practice in delivering better outcomes

We will:

- C.1 Revise and develop our quality improvement tool to support early years, schools and post-16 settings.
- C.2 Deliver training and disseminate professional guidance for Communication Support Workers (CSWs).
- C.3 Work with NCTL and DfE in the development of the Mandatory Qualification (MQ) for HI, VI and MSI and address shortages of specialist teachers and look at wider available continued professional development for SI professionals.
- C.4 Produce and disseminate materials for the wider workforces on good sensory support. Specific projects will include: curriculum and examination access; post-16 guidance; development of NatSIP eligibility criteria for VI CYP to access habilitation support.
- C.5 Develop new specialist tracking tools to enable educational settings to demonstrate progress for SI CYP, relating to wider outcomes, including independence (CoP 6.18).
- C.6 Integrate the work of the last two years with future support materials and innovation through our own on line hub and other SEND portals.

The NatSIP working groups:

1. Establishing links between evidence and outcomes:

- 1A.1 Outcomes benchmarking
- 1A.2 MSI outcome measures
- 1A.3 VI independence outcomes
- 1B.1 Establish the link between evidence and outcomes
- 1B.2 Service impact on VI learner outcomes

2. Assisting implementation of the SEND reforms to improve outcomes

- 2A Effective EHC plans
- 2B Parent and Young People – guidance for planning
- 2C Local Offer and School Information Report for SI
- 2D.1 Empowering Young People - Think Right Feel Good
- 2D.2 Empowering Young People - HI Post 16 transition resources
- 2D.3 Empowering Young People - VI transition resources (for Higher Education)

3. Improving workforce practice in delivering better outcomes

- 3A Quality Improvement tool to track progress
- 3B.1 Regional centres for CSWs/TAs
- 3B.2 BSL level 3 training for CSWs
- 3C.1 Specialist teacher supply
- 3C.2 Braille literacy test proposal
- 3D.1 Tactile BSL
- 3D.2 MSI intervenor networks
- 3D.3 Materials to support workforce practice
- 3D.4 Examination access
- 3D.4 Revised eligibility framework
- 3D.5 Habilitation framework for support
- 3E The NatSIP portal

In addition:

MQ for HI, MSI and VI

MSI Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) course

4. Future NatSIP events:

- **NatSIP National Working Day:**
Thursday 11 February 2016 – Friends House, London
- Ofsted Learning Event for Specialist Schools:
20 November 2015, London
- NatSIP North Working Day:
30 November 2015, York
- EHC Plan Workshops for Parents:
Saturday 6 February 2016 – Friends House, London
- EHC Plan Workshops for Professionals:
Thursday 25 February 2016, NDCS, London
Tuesday 8 March 2016, York

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