



NatSIP Online Event

What could Experts at Hand offer for Sensory Impairment?

Tuesday 22 September 2026 13:00 - 16:00

Online via Microsoft Teams

Within the Government's SEND reforms, the Experts at Hand policy, funding and new guidance have significant implications for Sensory Impairment provision.

The new policies envisage that mainstream schools should have available specialist support and expertise to meet the needs of children and young people in mainstream settings without them necessarily having EHCPs.

This event is for SI heads or senior leaders of schools and support services, heads and managers of VI, HI/deaf, SI resource base provision and colleagues in organisations working with children and young people with sensory impairment in schools and settings.

Specialist teachers of SI are specifically mentioned in the guidance. **Experts at Hand (EaH)** are expected to work directly with children and, more commonly, groups of children within mainstream settings. We know that the EaH offer must be commissioned jointly by local authorities (LAs) and integrated care boards (ICBs) within the local area SEND partnership joint commissioning arrangements, and be additional to existing services and not replace EHCP provision.

While these new arrangements offer potentially increased support for children and young people with SI, the rules governing how the money is used and the process for identifying where it should be invested are not straightforward.

This SI sector-wide discussions will focus on our understanding of EaH, the opportunities it presents, and potential limitations. As well as contributions from key speakers from across the sector, NatSIP invites delegates to share their responses to EaH and planned developments in their local areas.

Cost:

The cost is £60/delegate, reduced to £30/delegate for NatSIP-member organisations.

To book:

Download and return the booking form from:

<https://www.natsip.org.uk/calendar/experts-at-hand>

Save the date!