**Q&A from Graduated Approach Briefings**

1. Question - “We use the VSEND Tool for assessments. When applying for EHCNA or Inclusion funding the forms still ask for ages and stages. Can I ask whether you still assess children with SEND in the old format or whether the forms have been updated and I've just missed it?”

Answer - The EHCNAR is currently being updated and will be closer aligned to VSEND. It’s going through sign off process currently. All referrals for statutory assessments, AskSALL, support services. Funding requests should include VSEND radar and summary.

1. Question - “Can I please just check I've understood correctly, the setting readiness would be the same on VSEND tools for different children because we are looking at the readiness of the setting as a whole?”

Answer - This is correct. The setting readiness describes the range of interventions you have in place for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. should review this section at least once a year or if you significantly increase skills or resources.

1. Question – “Is the new digital version been done in an early years version?”

Answer - Yes, the VSEND digital tool is available for 0-5 years and 5-25 years

1. Question – “What will the support plan look like? Can we print in and use instead of an IEP type format?”

Answer - The support plan will relate to the areas of need identified. You will be able to print it and schools are using this instead of IEPs. The support section in VSEND is linked with the Inclusion Toolkit which identifies strategies and signposts to resources.

1. Question – “This looks a little different to the one we have been using in my early years setting.”

Answer - The content is broadly similar, but we have made some amendments following feedback from recent trials.

1. Question - “Does the tool keep previous inputs? To see progress? or is it just updated?”

Answer - The digital tool keeps the child’s history, including the new assessment feature which enable you to track a child’s progress over time.

1. Question - “Is the setting readiness carried over into new profiles for different children or do you need to input it each time?

Answer - You will just need to enter your whole school/setting agreed setting readiness once. This will be carried across each time you complete an individual assessment, so setting readiness will be the same for each assessment

1. Question – “When will the new VSEND digital tool be available, please?”

Answer – Lincolnshire are working hard on the finishing touches to the digital tool ready for roll-out. LCC will be in touch very soon to invite schools and settings to sign-up and get started.

1. Question “How do you access this tool?”

Answer – LCC will be in touch soon to invite people to sign-up which will provide further guidance on how to access and login to the new digital platform.

1. Question – “Can you just confirm with me where I can access the early years version of VSEND?”

Answer – Once you receive your login details from Lincolnshire County Council, you will be prompted to choose either the ‘Early Years’ for children under 5 years of the “5-25” version when completing Setting Readiness and Needs Profiling Sections of the digital tool. All-age settings can complete both versions of the tool.

1. For Setting Readiness - ensure that you select the correct version by selecting the ‘Early Years’ tab on the “Setting Readiness” landing page.
2. For Child or Young Person Need’s Profiling – Ensure that you select the correct version by the “summary” page for the “VSEND tool”. You can select the “Early Years’ tool using the drop-down box, “Tool version”

Through the new Valuing SEND toolkit, you will have access to instructional videos and step-by-step guidance on completing the tool which includes detailed information on how to select the right version of the tool.

1. Question “So is there a front page that details all the children in our setting that are on VSEND?”

Answer – Yes there is, and this can be searched by name, year group or Pupil Reference Number.

1. Question “We are using an excel version currently - will we get information on how to log into the digital version when it is available?”

Answer – Yes, LCC will be in touch soon to invite people to sign-up, as this will include guidance on how to access and login to the new digital platform.

Question - “When a child moves school, will it be easy to transfer the digital V-SEND to their new setting?”

Answer – You will be able to export their VSEND profile and share with their new setting.

1. Question - “Can we import existing Excel spreadsheet versions of the tool into the tool so that schools who have completed hundreds of VSENDS don’t have to start from scratch – and a ‘how to’ guide for this”

Answer – At launch it will not be possible to upload existing completed Excel VSEND tools, although this is something we are exploring for the future.

1. Question – “If a child transfers schools will we be able to share the Valuing SEND digitally and assign it to the new school? I guess the same applies in the future for if a child transfers out of county to another VSEND authority e.g., Lincs to Derby – could this be done across counties too?”

Answer – You will be able to export their VSEND profile and share it with the new setting.