**Early Years Additional Learning Needs**

Every Local Authority in Wales has a statutory officer known as the **'Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officer' (EY ALNLO)**. They will have responsibility for strategically co-ordinating the Local Authority's functions in relation to children **under compulsory school age**, who are not attending maintained schools.

The Early Years ALNLO will work with all Early Years partners who are supporting children who may have a known or, be suspected of having, an **Additional Learning Need (ALN).**  Those children are known as the **EY ALNLO Cohort.**

Blaenau Gwent Local Authority has a robust Early Years ALN process in place. This process is designed with systems in place to ensure that children are identified early, who may present with Additional Learning Needs.

The role of the **EY ALNLO** sits in the Education Inclusion Team here in Blaenau Gwent. Their role has a strategic responsibility for supporting early Identification of ALN in preschool children. The role comprises of the following duties.

1. Will work with children and their parents; early years settings; health colleagues and other professionals both inside and outside of the Local Authority who are working with children below compulsory school age.
2. Will raise awareness of the ALN system by providing training to all Early Years partners.
3. Will promote early identification of Additional Needs (AN) as well as Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
4. Will support the Local Authority in executing its statutory duties in relation to Early Years ALN in conjunction with the ALN Code of Practice.

**What happens when a learner starts school nursery/reception?**

The **EY ALNLO** will support a learner through transition until they begin school. Once the learner is registered at, and attends a school, responsibility for supporting this learner becomes that of the school designated **Additional Learning Needs Coordinator** **(ALNCO)**. The school **ALNCO** is the lead for learners who present with Additional learning Needs. They are based in each maintained school setting.

Contacting the ALN Team

For any enquiries related to Early Years ALN, please contact us on the email address below:

* [ALNEnquiries@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:ALNEnquiries@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please see ALN Early Years Guidance and Process** | |
|  |  |