

The National Autistic Society Cymru
Pembrokeshire Branch
C/O 6&7 Village Way
Greenmeadow Springs Business Park
Cardiff
CF15 7NE
11 June 2014

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

The Pembrokeshire branch of the National Autistic Society Cymru [NAS Cymru] welcomes the latest correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Social Services on the waiting times for diagnosis of autism in children from Cardiff and the Vale, and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Boards.

We are also pleased that the Deputy Minister acknowledges that urgent action needs to be taken to address diagnostic waiting times for children and, as a result, will be establishing a Task and Finish Group on children's diagnosis which will report back to her with recommendations. We also note that they will consider the points raised by NAS Pembrokeshire branch, which were to:

- ensure timely diagnosis for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, regardless of where they live, so that children with autism can be supported and lead fulfilled lives; and
- review implementation of and ensure compliance with the NICE guidelines on recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autism spectrum as part of the Welsh Government's refresh of its ASD strategic action plan.


As an NAS Cymru branch of parents and carers of children and young people with autism we are very proud of what our petition has achieved and how we have been able to directly engage with our politicians and our political system through the Petitions Committee.

Due to our close involvement and on-going interest in this issue we would ask the Deputy Minister to ensure that NAS Cymru is invited to be a member of the aforementioned Task and Finish Group. We would also seek assurances that the Task and Finish Group's report and recommendations are made public and published on the Welsh Government's website, for the benefit of people in Wales with autism, their families and carers.

Finally, we would assure the Deputy Minister that the Pembrokeshire branch is keenly awaiting the publication of the refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan and will be responding to the consultation

Kind regards

Lisa Phillips
NAS Pembrokeshire branch



Accept difference. Not indifference.
Gwahaniaeth. Nid difaterwch.