

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Christine Chapman AM  
Committee Chair  
Children and Young People Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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31<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October seeking clarity on two points discussed during an evidence session by the Children and Young People Committee as part of its inquiry into children's oral health in Wales. The questions are highlighted in bold and the response follows:

- **Can you clarify the role and responsibilities of school nurses and whether they are involved with the Designed to Smile initiative?**

School nurses are recognised as public health nurses through registration on the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing part of the Nursing and Midwifery Council register. They are key to promoting, improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of school aged children and young people to ensure they achieve the best possible health. Their role includes assessment and health surveillance, health promotion and health education, immunisation and disease prevention, safeguarding the health and welfare of children and young people and supporting children with medical, social and emotional needs. It also involves the direct delivery of interventions, as well as working with and supporting other partners in the delivery of specific services for children and young people.

Designed to Smile is a specific initiative that school nurses support locally but do not directly deliver. For example, within public health programmes the delivery of consistent messages is crucial and school nursing services have regular contact with Designed to Smile teams in order to receive updates and share information. They support the initiative by continuing to address oral and dental health as a part of the broader public health work they are involved in. A variety of dental and oral health promotion is delivered through Personal and Social Education (PSE) sessions, Health Fairs, Community Health Days, and many other locally organised events. School nurses, where necessary, will liaise with the Designed to Smile Team to deliver specific sessions that link in with other initiatives or

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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where a particular need has been identified. They will also integrate the key messages about oral and dental health into work they undertake in relation to smoking cessation and healthy eating.

An example of where local circumstances can determine the need for more direct involvement is where the school nursing service collects the Designed to Smile consent forms and follows up any outstanding forms that have not been returned. This activity helps to maximise participation in the initiative.

- **Can you also establish whether the changed roles of school nurses are dependent on locality?**

The school nursing service aims to deliver services that improve the health and wellbeing of school aged children and young people and are responsive, effective, sustainable and adaptable to change to ensure they continually develop and improve.

'A Framework for a School Nursing Service for Wales':

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/reports/nursing/?lang=en>

outlines the revised school nursing service. This provides the national direction in which the school nursing service in Wales is expected to develop in order to create equitable services that are responsive to the needs of local populations.

Kind Regards  
Lesley

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