

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Lynne Neagle AM
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee
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cc Mick Antoniw AM
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12th December 2018

Dear Lynne,

During your committee's scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, a commitment was made to provide regular updates on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation programme. This letter is the fifth of these updates.

1. Legislation and statutory guidance

In my previous update, I informed you that the next iteration of the draft Additional Learning Needs Code ("the ALN Code") would be available for consultation later this year. I am therefore pleased to have written to you earlier this week as a statutory consultee announcing the launch of a public consultation on the draft ALN Code under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 ("the Act"). The consultation also seeks views on draft regulations relating to the Education Tribunal for Wales and ALN Co-ordinators, and the policy intent for a number of other proposed regulations. In addition, it seeks views on proposed

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

revisions to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Part 6 Code of Practice – Looked After and Accommodated Children, that have been primarily made relating to looked after children with ALN.

As per my previous letter, it is crucial that you provide your views to ensure that our proposals are manageable and fair to those who must discharge functions under the new legislative framework, as well as just and equitable for learners with ALN who need the right support to help them achieve their full potential.

In January 2019 both a children/young people's version and an easy read version of the consultation will be published. This will provide children and young people, and those who may benefit from an easy read version with an opportunity to engage with the consultation.

2. Implementation/ transition support

In September 2018, the ALN Transformation Leads submitted their regional and further education implementation plans. The plans set out how each region are supporting the early years sector, local authorities, health boards and further education institutions in Wales, to prepare for implementation of the new system. Funding is being used to roll out multi agency training programmes, create post 16 provision maps across Wales, scope the role of the Early Years ALN lead officer, support the role of the Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO) and help raise awareness of the ALN transformation programme amongst stakeholders.

Progress and review sessions will take place in January to monitor the development of all projects across Wales.

We are continuing to meet with the ALN transformation leadership group on a bi-monthly basis. The group are helping to develop and consistently apply implementation approaches across Wales and are crucial in driving forward the work of the transformation leads and wider transformation programme. .

3. Workforce Development

The consultation on the draft Code seeks your views on the draft ALNCo regulations (in part 3 of the consultation document). The intention is to use the regulation making power under section 60 of the 2018 Act to ensure that the ALNCo role is undertaken in a consistent and effective way in every school and further education institution in Wales, and supports the delivery of the ALN system and the overarching objectives of the 2018 Act.

The ALNCo role is fundamental to the success of the new ALN system and we are committed to supporting this workforce through professional learning. Officials continue to work with local authorities and regional education consortia to develop an ALNCo professional learning offer.

The Welsh Government currently awards a grant to Cardiff University, which pays fees and bursaries for 10 students per year on their three year Doctorate in Educational Psychology professional training programme. I have decided to continue

with this arrangement and strengthen it by linking a minimum number of bursaries to students who can already, or have the potential to work through the medium of Welsh, and by encouraging students to stay and work in Wales immediately after graduation.

4. Awareness Raising

In February, we will be hosting a series of stakeholder events across Wales. Each event will provide stakeholders with an update on the ALN transformation programme and will include workshops on specific aspects of the draft ALN Code. Details of the events will be available in due course.

We will also be organising workshops specifically for children, young people and their families, to contribute their views on these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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Cabinet Secretary for Education