



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1392
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/05579/24

Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

19 August 2024

Dear Chair

Reform of the additional learning needs Code of Wales 2021.

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2024 regarding the petition: Reform of the additional learning needs code of Wales 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ALN Reform Wales group and Senedd members for their support and commitment to collaborate with Welsh Government officials to ensure the ambitions of ALN reform are realised.

I want to reiterate I am fully committed to improving the ALN system and creating an inclusive education where all learners' needs are listened to, responded to and learners are supported to participate fully in education.

Evidence is telling us that the ALN system is not operating effectively in some areas. We are also hearing about the growing challenges facing the system. It is clear concerted action is needed, including a period of review, designing and testing proposals to ensure we deliver for children, young people, and their families.

The two Children and Young People Education (CYPE) committee reports (*'The Implementation of education reforms'* and *'Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education'*) published in July set out recommendations that Welsh Government are aware of and are in the process of setting out action to remedy. The recommendations are for the Welsh Government to consider as part of a wider review, and I will share our response to the report with the Petitions Committee.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

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.

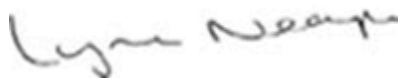
I have listened to parental groups and acknowledge their concerns and absolutely recognise that being heard is part of the solution. This is a complex, and highly charged area of government policy, and an important aspect of this work will be to ensure parents and learners are at the heart of the ALN process. We will continue to listen and collaborate with parents to ensure they have the support, guidance and information they need. My officials have already reached out to the ALN reform group Wales, and other parental and third sector groups.

As you are aware I have set out my commitment to improve implementation and ensure the legal framework is clearly understood, and what steps we can take in the short term to support the sector to identify and meet the needs of learners. I am pleased to say that work has already begun.

This includes strengthening monitoring of key delivery partners, which is developing mutual understanding of clarity of expectations as set out in the act and code. We continue an active dialogue with Estyn, and I met with them this month to understand findings from inspection activities and progress and insights so far as part of the second ALN thematic review.

I'd like to thank Senedd Members for surfacing and contributing important evidence, for allowing officials the space to focus on the work that is needed to move at pace, and to reassure families that concerns are being heard and progress is being made. I will be keeping the Senedd fully updated on progress and will seek to respond to concerns raised by the ALN Reform Group Wales.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education