

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Ymchwiliad: Bil Iaith Arwyddion Prydain (Cymru)

Ymateb gan: Cwlwm

Welsh Parliament

Equality and Social Justice Committee

Inquiry: British Sign Language (Wales) Bill

Evidence from: Cwlwm



Hoffem ddiolch i chi am roi inni'r cyfle i ddarparu tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig ar gyfer y Bil Iaith Arwyddion Prydain (Cymru) | British Sign Language (Wales) Bill. Ymhellach i'n hymateb cynharach i Ymgynghoriad y Bil Arfaethedig ar Iaith Arwyddion Prydain (BSL) (Cymru), roeddem am ddarparu ymateb ysgrifenedig ar ran partneriaeth Cwlwm, gan ein bod yn teimlo ei bod yn bwysig iawn tynnu'ch sylw at leisiau plant, ymarferwyr a'r sector ehangach o ran y problemau presennol sy'n codi yn sgil gweithrediad Iaith Arwyddion Prydain (BSL). Mae CWLWM yn gonsortiw m o bum partner gofal plant a chwarae, sydd wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu gwasanaeth integredig, dwyieithog a fydd yn sicrhau'r canlyniadau gorau posibl i blant a theuluoedd ledled Cymru.

O safbwynt y blynyddoedd cynnar, mae ymarferwyr yn gweithio'n hynod galed gyda'r holl arbenigedd sydd ar gael iddynt i sicrhau bod y plant ifanc sydd angen cymorth BSL yn derbyn y gefnogaeth honno, a lleihau'r rhwystrau i fynediad at wasanaethau gofal plant ar gyfer gofalwyr a all fod yn F/fyddar Fodd bynnag, nid yw digon o gyllid neu hyfforddiant addas ar gael ar gyfer pob sefydliad gofal plant a chwarae sydd yn ceisio cefnogi plant ifanc sy'n F/fyddar neu sydd â nam ar y clyw. Mae hyn oherwydd bod cyllid a chyfleoedd hyfforddi yn cael eu darparu ar sail angen yn unig; er enghraifft, os bydd lleoliadau ar draws y sectorau blynyddoedd cynnar, gofal plant a chwarae yn ymwybodol bydd angen cefnogaeth ychwanegol ar blentyn fydd yn mynychu eu lleoliadau hwy, yna gallent dderbyn hyfforddiant er mwyn cefnogi'r plentyn hwnnw.

Er bod hyfforddiant i'r staff yn fuddiol, ac yn darparu gwell canlyniadau na dim hyfforddiant o gwbl, ni chaniateir digon o amser i'r staff ddysgu BSL i'r lefel sy'n eu galluogi i fodloni anghenion unigryw plentyn. Er gwaethaf ymdrechion gorau'r staff, golyga hyn gall y plentyn gollu rhyngweithiadau serfio a dychwelyd allweddol sydd, fel y gwyddom, yn hanfodol ar gyfer datblygiad plentyn. Felly, byddai cyfleoedd hyfforddi cyson, hirdymor a ariannir yn llawn ar sail barhaus er mwyn hyfforddi staff i ddefnyddio BSL yn gam pwysig wrth sicrhau bod plant â nam ar eu clyw yn profi'r holl fuddion gofal plant a'u bod yn derbyn cefnogaeth gan sefydliadau gofal plant a chwarae.

We would like to thank you for opening up the opportunity for written evidence to be provided for the Tystiolaeth Ysgrifenedig Bil Iaith Arwyddion Prydain (Cymru) | British Sign Language (Wales) Bill. Further to our previous submission to the Proposed British Sign Language (BSL) (Wales) Bill Consultation, we wanted to provide a written response on behalf of the Cwlwm partnership as we felt it was really important to bring to your attention the voices of children, practitioners and the wider sector with regards to the current issues facing British Sign Language (BSL) implementation. CWLWM is a consortium of five childcare and play partners, committed to delivering a bilingual integrated service that will ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales.

From an early years, childcare and play perspective, practitioners are working incredibly hard with all of the expertise at their disposal to ensure young children requiring BSL support are supported and reducing barriers for access to childcare services for caregivers who may be D/deaf. However, there is not enough adequate funding or training for all childcare and play settings who are seeking to support young children who are D/deaf, or who have hearing impairments. This is because funding and training opportunities are provided only on a needs basis, for example, if settings across the early years, childcare and play sectors are made aware of a child coming into their care who requires extra support, training will be provided on this basis.

Although the training for staff is of course beneficial and provides better outcomes than a complete absence of training, the time provided for staff to gain a grasp of BSL, enabling them to cater to the individual needs of the child in question is too short. This means, despite the best efforts of staff, the child may miss key serve and return interactions which we know is incredibly crucial for child development. Therefore, consistent, long-term and fully funded training opportunities for staff to train in BSL on an on-going basis would be an important step in ensuring children with hearing impairments experience the full benefits of childcare and support from childcare and play settings.

Long term funding for free training and 'drop-in' sessions across Wales to support practitioners to practise BSL would be useful. This would encourage



Byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe ddarperir cyllid tymor hir i ariannu hyfforddiant am ddim a sesiynau 'galw heibio' ledled Cymru i gefnogi ymarferwyr i ddefnyddio BSL. Byddai hyn yn eu hannog i ymgorffori defnydd BSL i'w hymarfer bob dydd, fel bod plant yn ei dysgu ym mhob lleoliad (neu gyfuniad o leoliadau) y maent yn eu mynychu. Byddai hyn yn arwain at ddefnydd ehangach o'r iaith yn yr hirdymor, gan wneud i'r rheini sydd â nam ar eu clyw deimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

Mae hyn yn ategu'r pwynt ehangach a godwyd yn barhaus gan y sector ynghylch diffyg y cyngor sydd ar gael i staff wrth iddynt gefnogi plant ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY). Rydym yn cydnabod nad yw cymorth ar gael yn gyson ledled Cymru, ac er mae yna enghreifftiau da o gymorth, rydym wedi derbyn adborth gan ymarferwyr nad ydynt yn teimlo eu bod wedi derbyn cefnogaeth ddigonol.

embedding the use of BSL so that children learn it in whatever setting (or combination of settings) they attend, meaning that there is long term and wider use of the language, making those who have a hearing impairment feel included from the outset. This builds on the wider point raised continually by the sector regarding lack of advice available for staff in helping children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). We recognise support is not consistently available across Wales, and although there may be good examples of support, we have had feedback from practitioners that they do not feel adequately supported.

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