

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-CS-2397/71

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education Committee

20th July 2017

Dear Lynne

At the debate on the Children, Young People and Education Committee's Report on its inquiry into Statutory Advocacy Provision on 29 March 2017, one of the agreed recommendations was that I provide an update on progression of the national approach to Committee.

On 13 June, Welsh Government reconvened the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) where the Welsh Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru updated members on the significant progress that has been made by local authorities over recent months.

I am happy to report that all six regions have fully committed to implement the national Approach in full and all have arrangements in place to enable this. This was confirmed in a letter I received from the WLGA and ADSS on 22 June, a copy of which is enclosed and outlines progress to date across the regional collaboratives.

As you are aware the Welsh Government has committed to provide up to £550k to the regions to ensure the Active Offer is fully funded. . All regions have received their grant letters, and regular monitoring of the grant will enable the Welsh Government to keep abreast of expenditure for the first two years of implementation.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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.

The approach also includes the National Independent Advocacy Standards and Outcomes Framework (NSOF). The Welsh Government consulted on the Framework as agreed at the Committee and the consultation closed on 23 June. My officials are now considering the responses and will update the framework to reflect the comments received.

As Wales is at the forefront of the advocacy agenda in the UK, it was agreed at the SLG meeting that the 4 year journey to get to where we are with the National Approach should not go unrecognised. I wholeheartedly agree with this, and my officials are considering the options for an official launch at the Senedd later in the year.

The Strategic Leadership Group agreed to review progress on the national approach in the Autumn. I will provide you with a further update following their meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Carl Sargeant'.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

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