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Children, Young People and Education Committee  
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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 seventh of these updates.

## 1. Legislation and statutory guidance

On 14 June I published a [written statement](#) on the consultation of the draft Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code and proposed related regulations alongside the summary of responses to the consultation, a summary of feedback from engagement events with children, young people and parents and a summary of feedback from regional stakeholder events. All of the summary reports can be found here: <https://gov.wales/draft-additional-learning-needs-code>

In total 644 written responses were received, including some in response to the children and young people and easy read consultation documents.

The main consultation document sought feedback on 65 questions covering the following five themes; the draft ALN Code; draft Education Tribunal for Wales regulations; draft ALN Co-ordinator regulations; looked after children; and the impact of proposals. Respondents raised a number of issues which all require detailed consideration to determine what changes may be needed. Analysing the responses is a huge task but I believe it is critical to ensure the range of views expressed by our stakeholders are used to develop and refine the draft ALN Code and proposed regulations. This work is key in

helping to ensure we create a Code which enables those working with learners with ALN to fully understand and embrace their roles and responsibilities in delivering the transformed system and improving educational outcomes for some of our most disadvantaged children and young people.

The rationale for changes will be set out in the explanatory memoranda which will be published when a revised draft of the ALN Code and various regulations are laid before the Assembly for its approval.

## **2. Implementation / transition support**

The ALN Transformation Leads submitted a suite of documents to summarise the transformation activity that had taken place in their respective regions during 2018-19. The documents were reviewed by officials who are content that good progress is being made in preparing the regions for implementation of the Act.

Building on the activity undertaken in 2018-19 the Transformation Leads have submitted their draft regional implementation plans for 2019-20. Officials will be meeting with the Transformation Leads individually over the coming months in order to finalise these plans.

The first round of meetings to review the progress made in relation to the ALN transformation programme have been held across Wales in each regional area. The meetings focussed on the elements of the transformation programme that the lead local authorities, regional consortia and Transformation Leads considered were working well and the areas that they were felt were more challenging.

The outcomes of the progress and review meetings will be discussed with the Transformation Leadership Group. This will enable regions to; reflect on the learning that has taken place since the progress and review meetings, discuss the ways in which the challenges are being addressed, and share good practice.

Going forward, the progress and review meetings will be held biannually with the next round planned for the autumn.

## **3. Workforce development**

We are investing in developing the skills of the education workforce to support the delivery of the new legislative framework for ALN and contribute to the overall objectives of the ALN reforms. Working with our five ALN Transformation Leads, we are delivering an extensive package of training, core skills development and ongoing professional development for all practitioners.

Part of this work includes the development of a specific professional learning offer for Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCos) who will provide a strategic leadership role under the new system and will be the first port of call for professional advice and guidance. The development and implementation of this learning offer will be approached as a single project and work is underway to appoint a Project Manager to drive forward this high profile and critical work programme.

Students in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Programmes will play a critical role in delivering the new ALN system. We are therefore working with universities to support their efforts to make ALN learning resources and opportunities available that enhance the main programmes of study in ITE. Working through the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers Cymru, we will develop materials which are voluntary and/or support enrichment. It is envisaged that these will be ready for use from September 2020. While the training will not be accredited initially, we will work to ensure that it forms part of accredited training as and when the existing syllabus is reviewed.

#### **4. Awareness raising**

The Welsh Government has commissioned Eliesha Cymru to develop ALN implementation training and awareness raising materials, which have been split into four “levels”, with each level targeting different practitioners. The first of the levels to be published will be a series of short animated awareness raising videos hosted on Hwb aimed at leaders with a corporate or statutory responsibility related to the Act such as Elected members, Chief Executives, directors, principals of Further Education Institutions, head teachers and governing bodies. The first of the videos is scheduled to be released this autumn, with a series of videos aimed at different sectors to be released during the subsequent months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kirsty Williams', written over a light grey grid background.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education