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Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Our ref: EH/00685/10
Your ref:

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Welsh Assembly Government

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Dear Helen

3 March 2010

Thank you for your letter of 11 February to Huw Lewis AM, the Deputy Minister for Children regarding the status of targets contained within the National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales. I have been asked to reply in my role as Minister for Health and Social Services as the Children's NSF falls within my portfolio.

A joint letter (copy enclosed) from both myself and the Deputy Minister for Social Services was issued to the Lead Directors of Children's Services in January. The letter emphasises the importance of joint working across organisations and urges the Directors to continue to build on the progress already made since the inception of the NSF.

As you may be aware a Self Assessment Audit Tool (SAAT) has been developed to enable statutory agencies who deliver children's services to monitor their progress in implementing key actions in the NSF. The SAAT is completed annually in a cyclical process of ongoing review and re-evaluation and is intended to facilitate sustained improvement over 10 years.

The NSF and SAAT have given the 22 Children and Young People's Partnerships the opportunity of working on children's issues at a multi-agency level and has proved essential in identifying and informing their local planning priorities.

A review of the NSF is currently underway. New policies and statutory changes have been introduced since the NSF was launched in September 2005 and a review is being undertaken to ensure the framework remains relevant, fit for purpose and live to change. Completion of the review is expected this summer.

Edwina Hart