

# **Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru**

## **Welsh Dyslexia Project**

### **Presentation to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee**

#### **POLICY REVIEW: Special Educational Needs (PART 2).**

**If we look at the Provisional figures from the PLASC Returns provided by schools in January 2005, (Copies circulated) we can see that there is a wide variation in the number of pupils who have Specific Learning Difficulties across Unitary Authorities.**

**Indeed, Taking some specific examples, we can see that the number of SpLD pupils (which includes pupils with Dyslexia OR Dyspraxia) are:**

- **Primary Schools:**

**Gwynedd... 113 pupils (of which 51 have Statements) out of a total of 10,266 pupils.**

**Flintshire...266 pupils (14 with Statements) out of a total of 14172 pupils.**

**Ceredigion... 337 pupils... (27 with Statements) out of a total of 5361 pupils.**

**Merthyr Tydfil.. 76 pupils. .(10 with Statements) out of a total of 5435 pupils.**

**Torfaen... 60 pupils. ( 6 with Statements) out of a total of 8563 pupils.**

**Blaenau Gwent...96 pupils (5 with Statements) out of a total of 6638 pupils.**

- **On the other hand, the number of pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (including Statements) in Primary schools in Wales is 20983, compared to the total for SpLD of 4398.**

**It is widely recognised that the percentage of people with Dyslexia ranges from 4%(severe) to 10%(mild). In Wales for some reason, based on PLASC 2005 data, the percentage in Primary and Secondary schools combined is: 2.26%-much lower than the expected average.**

**(For Primary Schools, the percentage of SpLD pupils is: 1.62% across all LEA's and 3.06% for Secondary).**

**Are schools and Unitary Authorities not recognising or identifying those pupils with SpLD correctly, mis-identifying them as pupils with MLD, or is it because Authorities are unable or unwilling to undertake Formal Assessments for pupils who are a cause for concern?**

- **We as Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru believe that until such a time that pupils are diagnosed, identified, given appropriate support and then progress monitored, that there is a need for LEA's to take greater regard to the SEN Code of Practice concerning assessments and statements as far as Dyslexia is concerned. It would appear that it is only through having a Statement of Educational Need that a dyslexic child can be guaranteed of appropriate intervention from suitably qualified teachers.**

**We would also ask you, the Education and Lifelong Committee to ensure that the recommendations in Part One of the Review of Special Educational Needs are implemented, as far as it relates to the early identification of pupils with SEN, and intervention. (para 3.18) Part 1-Early Identification and Intervention.**

**Mention is made of appropriate training for Teachers in each school so that they can recognise Special Educational Needs within their class and school. All schools have SENCOs.**

**Would it not be better for them to be trained in undertaking appropriate screening and/or assessment tests, and how to evaluate test results. They can then provide Reports and results to Educational Psychologists, who should then be able to offer appropriate advice based on the findings.**

- **I should mention that Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru has a proposal to develop an on line e-learning course (in Welsh and English) for parents, teachers, classroom assistants, and others interested, on dyslexia. This is subject to us securing the appropriate funding to implement the program, and it may be an aspect worthy of consideration as to funding from the National Assembly for Wales.**

**I cannot understand why there is a need for EP's to carry out, in most cases, the same testing as SENCOs undertake as part of the formal assessment process.**

- **Would the EP Service in the Unitary Authorities not rather have more time to undertake advice, supporting pupils with behavioural or social problems, than duplicating school based assessments?**

**Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru is also concerned as to the lack of use of Welsh language Screening Tests by LEA based Psychologists—which were developed 2 years ago by the Dyslexia Unit, University of Wales Bangor, in conjunction with Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru-through a Grant we received from the National Assembly for Wales.**

**Pupils receiving their education through the medium of the Welsh language should be assessed through Welsh,--especially those in Welsh medium designated schools where they have had Welsh as a subject from Reception Class. Assessing Key Stage One pupils in a language (English) in which they have not been taught, surely gives false results—and these pupils COULD be diagnosed as Moderate Learning Difficulties pupils –and not ones that are DYSLEXIC.**

**Through this, the wrong kind of intervention is put in place, and as we can see from PLASC 2005—Secondary School data, there is a much higher number of SpLD pupils in Secondary School, than Primary—despite there being less pupils in the Secondary Sector.**

**Is this a case of late identification or late assessment?**

**In closing, I would like to bring to the attention of the Committee that we have been told "that some pupils in Primary schools—whose (Home) First language is English, but who have through parental choice, decided to have WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION, are being advised by Educational Psychologists employed by LEA's, that due to their learning difficulties that they should leave Welsh medium Education, and be taught only through their Home language"—thus having to move school to do this.**

**Will not such a strategy not make Welsh Medium schools elitist -in some LEA's ,as they will end up with very few SEN pupils. Is this also against the legality of the Welsh Language Act, which Unitary Authorities follow ?**

**It may also be discriminatory!**

**Michael Davies. (Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru).**

<http://www.welshdyslexia.info>

Data from PLASC January 05  
PROVISIONAL  
DATA

Primary Schools	MLD	MLD	TOTAL SPLD	SPLD	TOTAL Pupils in	% with
-----------------	-----	-----	------------	------	-----------------	--------

Unitary Authorities	no Statement	Statement	MLD	no Statement	Statement	SPLD	Authority	spld
Isle of Anglesey	21	34	55	70	34	104	5615	1.85
Gwynedd	167	66	233	62	51	113	10266	1.1
Conwy	130	70	200	23	34	57	9453	0.6
Denbigh	450	45	495	147	16	163	8643	1.89
Flintshire	401	83	484	252	14	266	14172	1.88
Wrexham	337	73	410	43	34	77	11762	0.65
Powys	1135	42	1177	304	53	357	10942	3.26
Ceredigion	520	15	535	310	27	337	5361	6.28
Pembrokeshire	832	7	839	448	19	467	10800	4.32
Carmarthenshire	1886	48	1934	304	42	346	15073	2.29
Swansea	1336	91	1427	386	8	394	20955	1.88
Neath Port Talbot	1161	88	1249	102	11	113	12903	0.88
Bridgend	811	2	813	109	1	110	12486	0.88
The Vale of Glamorgan	705	50	755	305	4	309	12081	2.56
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1745	4	1749	276	7	283	22295	1.27
Merthyr Tydfil	503	10	513	18		18	5435	0.33
Caerphilly	1765	93	1858	126	15	141	17551	0.8
Blaenau Gwent	309	72	381	91	5	96	6638	1.45
Torfaen	709	53	762	54	6	60	8563	0.7
Monmouthshire	287	26	313	76	18	94	7306	1.29
Newport	1149	191	1340	89	11	100	13810	0.72
Cardiff	3287	174	3461	361	32	393	28201	1.39
Wales	19646	1337	20983	3956	442	4398	270311	1.62

Data from PLASC January 05  
PROVISIONAL DATA

Secondary Schools	MLD	MLD	MLD	SPLD	SPLD	SPLD	Number of pupils	% with SPLD
Unitary Authorities	No statement	statement	Total	No statement	Statement	TOTAL		
<b>Isle of Anglesey</b>	366	33	399	147	57	204	4749	4.29
<b>Gwynedd</b>	428	90	517	237	83	320	8023	3.99
<b>Conwy</b>	236	91	327	142	142	284	7899	3.59

<b>Denbigh</b>	206	58	264	162	84	246	7887	3.12
<b>Flintshire</b>	211	109	320	163	130	293	10695	2.73
<b>Wrexham</b>	116	103	219	4	108	112	7208	1.55
<b>Powys</b>	475	86	561	218	103	321	9250	3.47
<b>Ceredigion</b>	192	35	227	638	55	693	5186	13.3
<b>Pembrokeshire</b>	491	67	558	504	46	550	8710	7.31
<b>Carmarthenshire</b>	671	152	823	272	106	378	12432	3.04
<b>Swansea</b>	912	109	1021	439	36	475	15216	3.12
<b>Neath Port Talbot</b>	525	86	614	113	47	160	9473	1.69
<b>Bridgend</b>	514	4	518	281	6	287	9857	2.91
<b>The Vale of Glamorgan</b>	299	45	344	446	20	466	9711	4.79
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taff</b>	1046	29	1075	309	25	334	19151	1.74
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	838	39	877	66	10	76	4418	1.72
<b>Caerphilly</b>	980	194	1174	94	53	147	13260	1.1
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	105	110	219	267	15	282	4890	5.77
<b>Torfaen</b>	440	65	505	38	15	53	8154	0.65
<b>Monmouthshire</b>	57	53	110	169	26	195	5739	3.39
<b>Newport</b>	617	187	804	105	30	135	10869	1.24
<b>Cardiff</b>	1697	267	1964	429	101	530	21849	2.42
<b>Wales</b>	11422	2012	13434	5283	1298	6581	214626	3.06