

CYPE(5)-19-20 - Paper to note 2

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales

13 July 2020

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 ninth of these updates. This update will also address the issues you raised in your letter of 18 June.

1. Legislation and statutory guidance

Despite the restrictions necessitated by the Covid19 pandemic, work towards the successful implementation of the ALN Act remains a priority. My officials continue to work on the ALN Code and regulations and my intention remains to lay these before the end of this Senedd term, to enable the commencement of the new ALN system on a phased basis from September 2021.

Following the consultation, I published a summary of responses report which answered the common misconceptions arising from the reforms. Since then the priority is to finalise the Code and regulations ready for laying and publication. To ensure that our draft Code and regulations meet the needs of practitioners, parents and learners, we are engaging with a range of stakeholders in the public, health and third sectors; as well as representatives of the specialist institutions at post 16. This engagement has allowed my officials to discuss the consultation feedback and how

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

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 updated Code and regulations might address these, where it is appropriate to do so.

2. Implementation / transition support

The ALN Transformation Leads have provided a suite of documents that highlight good practice and summarise the transformation activity that has taken place in their respective regions during 2019-20 and they will shortly be providing their Regional Implementation Plans for 2020-21. During the lockdown period the Transformation Leads have been meeting officials on a weekly basis, providing an update from the ALN Transformation Leadership Group on progress made in relation to their regional and further education plans and to highlight and discuss any issues as they occur.

As part of work to increase Welsh Language resources for learners with ALN we have awarded a contract, subject to agreement of terms and conditions, for the translation of three books into Welsh. These books are part of a series aimed at teaching social, emotional and communication skills to learners of all ages and will be particularly useful for supporting children and young people with ALN.

We are also working with our stakeholders including the Third Sector Additional Learning Need Alliance (TSANA), to develop our thinking and materials around inclusion practices to provide reference materials to those working in ALN.

3. Workforce development

We continue investing in developing the skills of the education workforce to support the delivery of the new ALN system. Part of this work includes the development of a specific professional learning offer for Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCos).

We are working with our ALN Transformation leads, the Professional Learning Accreditation Group for Wales and other stakeholders to develop an accredited and a recognised route for the ALNCo professional learning.

It is anticipated that ALN modules that will be developed as part of the new national Masters qualification (MA in Education) will form the basis of the accredited option. The non-accredited but recognised option is likely to be a discrete module of learning that will contribute to an outcome in learners' Professional Learning Passports. This module will be available on the Welsh Government's Hwb digital learning platform and will be free at point of use.

The project scope has now been signed off by the ALN Professional Learning Steering Group and we anticipate that authoring groups for the modules of learning will be established over the summer.

4. Awareness raising

Eliesha Cymru are continuing to work alongside Welsh Government officials to develop ALN implementation training and awareness raising materials. An e-learning course will be the first of a three-part training package, made available over the summer and will be available on the Welsh Government's Hwb digital learning platform. It will be targeted at those who work in ALN but will be accessible to anyone

with an interest in understanding the basics of the new ALN system. Further training will be available on Hwb in the autumn.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
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Minister for Education