

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Ein cyf/ MA-KW-2320-20

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

3 September 2020

Dear Lynne

I am writing to you to provide an update on our reforms to transform the existing Special Educational Needs (SEN) system into the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system. As you are aware the ALN system will focus on ensuring that all children and young people who require additional support to meet their needs have that support planned for and protected. The reforms will place the learner and their parents or carers at the heart of the process. This will help to ensure that all learners with additional learning needs reach their full potential.

The last few months have been an extremely difficult time for all of us due to the pressures and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the implementation of the ALN Act remains a personal and government priority. My officials continue to work on revising the draft ALN code and operational regulations and it is my intention to lay these before the Senedd in February 2021.

Timelines for the commencement of the roll out of the new ALN system remain unchanged and the statutory posts (Additional Learning Needs Coordinators, Designated Education Clinical Lead Officers, and Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officers) are still planned to commence in January 2021, with the rest of the new system commencing on a phased basis from September 2021.

To accompany the commencement of the statutory roles, I intend to lay regulations on the ALN Co-ordinator role and publish guidance on all three statutory roles under the new ALN system. The guidance will include text from aspects of the revised Code related to these roles and will clarify their responsibilities. Both the guidance and regulations will be informed by the responses to the previous consultation on the draft ALN Code and the ALNCo role regulations. Furthermore to support the implementation of the Act from September 2021, information will also be provided around the implementation and transitional arrangements.

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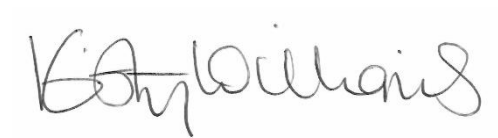
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support during these extremely challenging times.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

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