

P-05-932 Education On Food Allergies In Schools & Mandatory EPI PEN Training, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 21.09.20

Thank you to all that have responded, however the problem is no one is being held accountable for these actions. You can include lots of links to great resources but if there is no one to CHECK that this has been done or even checked if they understood what they've read etc what good are these procedures to anyone? Who do they go to if they have any questions? Why aren't we appointing at least 1 person in every school or council to be an allergy champion that is ensuring these guidelines and procedures are met, that can support our teachers and education staff?

Our story is the best example of how these procedures are flawed and have been ignored countless times and not just in our case but many many more. I'm asking the welsh assembly to make it the LAW, to hold those responsible for educating our children, to educate them on what a food allergy is, if a child comes into contact with their allergen whilst at school and has anaphylaxis who's fault is that? If they die due to this, who is being held responsible for not having the right training or knowledge? that if they are having an egg sandwich for lunch then wash your hands after it because their friend could die if they don't. Schools don't HAVE to make anyone aware of any serious food allergies and again our example is under 5 DIFFERENT head teachers and school governors they did NOTHING for my son or anyone else with allergies at his school. Now there is another new head teacher that due to his own personal experience with a family member FINALLY the school is taking it seriously and are making others aware as well as making classrooms free from. These actions are solely personal because this ONE headteacher out of 6 has a loved one with serious food allergies, there is no blanket procedure in place on how to manage allergies and head teachers don't want to get involved because they have never had to know about allergies. How can families living with food allergies just accept this?

However, I have had to show my sons new teachers how to use an epi pen because they AREN'T GIVEN THE TRAINING, give them FREE training when they study to become a teacher, mandatory for anyone that works in a classroom.

(Update): As of Thursday 24th September, No EPI PEN Training has been given to the teachers and although hopeful of the newest headteacher he 'doesn't know' if anyone attended the training nor when it was, further to this another incident where my son was ignored three times by 2 different teaching staff and was told to IGNORE his allergic reaction on Tuesday 22nd September and that it will go away. When asked why this happened after coming home with hives covering his arm his teacher said he didn't want to over react, when my son or someone else's child is dead on the floor because teachers are CHOOSING to not 'overreact' WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, I am fed up of 'apologies' and 'it won't happen again' because it does, when teachers use negative language to discourage a child like Archie with food allergies, they're teaching them to ignore what their bodies are telling them and this is not acceptable and we cannot allow this to continue, what will become of these children if this is the attitude of adults teaching them. These teachers are not bad people, they just don't know and this is the serious problem in schools and teaching settings.

We adapt our schools for those with certain disabilities but because we cant SEE food allergies we should just ignore them? We should say click this link and hope for the best?

We invite police officers to tell our children drugs can kill but so can your chocolate bar, it is the same but because of our relationship with food and by using it as a social tool we cannot separate the differences, until food becomes a lethal weapon and then we take it seriously when it affects us, but if it doesn't affect you then it doesn't matter

I have contacted Allergy UK for assistance many times but was always just to go to the headteacher and that is that, YOU as the Welsh Assembly are responsible for CHANGE and again YOU can make this difference. By providing Wales with the tools needed which is costless then we can save lives, we can stop children from developing food anxiety and not eating because of it, all because you normalised the stigma around having a deadly allergy. Kirsty Williams doesn't want to know and her last response was to go to the local council but I did because they are not supported because THEY DON'T KNOW about allergies, let's give them the TOOLS to LEARN and support teachers and their students.

Because it will only come from another child to die from anaphylaxis at school because we NEVER taught our children that FOOD CAN KILL. It can be PREVENTED by education!

I provided an example the last time the petition was up for discussion from the local council themselves and you can see that their risk assessment is not sufficient enough for children with allergies, it is not good enough and if you let this petition slip you will be showing schools, the local councils and the education system that food allergies aren't serious enough, you'll let hundreds of families affected by allergies daily down, every child deserves an education and they deserve to feel safe whilst in a school environment and that if they ever did need help they would know what to do, epi pen training is not part of the first aid training

From a desperate mother trying to bring a positive change and attitude towards those living with food allergies, I put my faith in you as my Welsh government to do what is so life-saving vitally needed, you will be the leaders of change and open the gates for the rest of the UK to follow.

WE CAN DO BETTER, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE ASSEMBLY CAN DO BETTER, WE ALL MUST DO BETTER