

## **P-05-932 Education On Food Allergies In Schools & Mandatory EPI PEN Training, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 23.11.20**

Firstly, thank you to all that have responded so far regarding our petition. I would like to highlight the recent response from Sharon Davies, how thorough and detailed it was, please know how much I appreciate the time taken to reply in full. I also appreciate every policy in place currently and to the schools that turn to these policies to keep children living with food allergies safe but as well as in every reply I have sent back to the Senedd I highlight that regardless of these policies and complaints procedures no one cares because they don't have to by law, it just falls on if that person can be bothered to take the time to learn and understand allergies especially when they aren't just as straightforward as banning nuts from a classroom and we know this is not an ideal situation there are currently, officially 14 top allergens and we can't always avoid these allergens however if we are educated on how dangerous these allergens are to those allergic what a different world we would live in.

School is where we go to learn so why aren't we learning about how we can look after our friends by not sharing our food even though it's good to be kind but it isn't safe to share our foods with our friends. Why aren't teachers more understanding of our children's life threatening conditions, they don't have to because not one person is checking on them to see if they know what they are doing or if they need more support.

Many schools across Cardiff had epi pen training cancelled due to covid this year so instead were sent a video and that's it, a video but Cardiff Council isn't chasing anyone to check if the staff have watched the video, have they been able to practise with a training pen? Have they been given the opportunity to ask questions about the different ways anaphylaxis can present, no they haven't and I must stress this is not good enough, this same practise that isn't evolving in anyway so how are we as parents meant to trust the level of care our teachers are giving our children if there is no one monitoring this? I can say 'yes I watched the video' but how do you know if I did or not? You don't!

I really support the answers from Sharon and I hope that you can too. She proves more can be done and it's time more is done. Food Allergies come with an abundance of anxiety in a variety of ways and if we can remove the anxiousness parents have when leaving their children in a school setting as well as reassurance for the child knowing that if there was an emergency the school is fully prepared then we are moving in the right direction, if we don't address the issues I have raised and proved time and time again that there needs to be accountability then what becomes of our children that live with food allergies?

I still don't trust my own child's school. I dread every morning I leave him and pray he has a safe day because everytime my phone rings and it's his school I hope there isn't a disaster on the other end because I have no confidence in any of them to save my son's life. That's what it comes down to, SAVING A LIFE.

In response to Vaughan Gething, I have emailed many times and the response to the Senedd is the first regarding support with the petition, unfortunately this reply is very disappointing and poor. Food allergies didn't go away whilst covid came, they were here before the pandemic, during and after they aren't something you can hide in the cupboard when you feel like it. Again it's unfortunate that this response shows no understanding of what I am lobbying for, support services lack for those with allergies regardless and you'd need to create new allergy nurse positions to help aid the lack in service, allergy nurses store incredible knowledge and bare the brunt of all allergy support that families require. But

these services have no bearing on making epi pen training mandatory in schools or on how the welsh government should be aiding schools in support those living with allergic disease.

Imagine the welsh government does nothing just as England has and another child dies in school because of the lack of knowledge or the fact that no one is monitoring the current policies and their standards. Our children, my child, shouldn't have to wait for tragedy to strike again but instead be proud that their country, their government has chosen to better our procedures and training in place to PREVENT tragedy. These are both 2 very different and very important things you as our government need to consider because on your head be it.

As always thank you greatly again,

Charlotte