

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn Information Further to Plenary

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at y ddadl ar Reoliadau Seibiannau i Ofalwyr Plant Anabl (Cymru) 2012 a gyhoeddwyd gan Gwenda Thomas, y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 29 Mehefin 2012

Information further to the debate on the Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Wales) Regulations 2012 issued by Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, on 29 June 2012

At/To Kirsty Williams:

During the Plenary debate on 26 June, you raised concerns that the Regulations do not provide carers with a legal entitlement to short breaks. Before I add some clarity to the point you raised in the debate, I would like to thank you for supporting the introduction of these Regulations.

You were concerned that paragraph 4.9 of the explanatory memorandum which states 'The 2012 Regulations do not provide carers with an entitlement to a service, but are intended to ensure that those who are most in need are able to access the support they need. Local authorities will still have the flexibility to provide a service which reflects the funding available', actually implied that local authorities did not have to provide a service for carers.

Paragraph 4.9 of the explanatory memorandum is merely seeking to establish that the nature of the local authorities' duty to provide breaks for carers is a target duty. One dependant on an 'assessment of need', as is the case in the provision of all services provided by a local authority and also the availability of services over and above those specified in Regulation 4, as opposed to an individual carer having an 'entitlement' to a particular service or level of service which could be enforced in the courts by way of judicial review.

The commencement of section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 places a duty 'to assist individuals who provide care for such children to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively by giving them the breaks from caring' (the insertion of paragraph c into paragraph 6 (provisions for disabled children) of schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989).

This duty has to be performed in accordance with these Regulations. The Regulations will require that local authorities provide a range of short breaks services as stated in Regulation 4 and that local authorities, in consultation with carers in their area, prepare, publish, and keep under review a 'short breaks services statement' setting out what services are available.

The Statement will also include the categories of carer who may be eligible to gain access to such services following the necessary assessments and how they are designed to meet the needs of carers in the area (Regulation 5).

The Welsh Government believes that these Regulations will strengthen the duty on local authorities to provide a range of short breaks for disabled children, young people and their parents and carers.

I am copying this letter to those Members who took part in the debate and will also place a copy of my letter in the Members Library. I hope that this helps to clarify the matter for you.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0586(FM) a gyhoeddwyd gan Lesley Griffiths, y
Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 4 Gorffennaf 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0586(FM) issued by Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for
Health and Social Services, on 4 July 2012**

At/To Andrew RT Davies:

During questions to the First Minister on 26 June you suggested appointing an oncologist to oversee the Cancer Delivery Plan and monitor its outcomes.

The all Wales Cancer Implementation Group already includes several oncologists and is best placed to lead and oversee our collective efforts to translate the Cancer Delivery Plan into action.

In order to know how well we are doing in terms of tackling cancer and its consequences, we will measure the cancer incidence and mortality rates and 1 and 5 year survival rates. We will monitor how people are better off as a result of NHS cancer care through a range of performance measures. These will include the cancer waiting times target, the stage of cancer at the point of diagnosis, mortality rates following chemotherapy and surgery, access to clinical trials and whether people are assigned a Key Worker and have a care plan.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0593(FM) a gyhoeddwyd gan Lesley Griffiths, y
Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, ar 18 Gorffennaf 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0593(FM) issued by Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for
Health and Social Services, on 18 July 2012**

At/To William Graham:

During Plenary on the 26 June you made a suggestion to the First Minister for the Welsh Government to consider developing a No Smoking Month to support children and young people to stop smoking.

We are already investigating in measures to discourage children from starting smoking, such as the Assist peer support programme, which are yielding good results. In 2010, only 3 per cent of 13-14 year old boys and 6 per cent of 13-14 year old girls reported smoking weekly, and there has been a significant reduction in the prevalence of smoking among both girls and boys aged 15-16 years old since 1998.

Evidence suggests a co-ordinated approach is required where young people are provided with different initiatives and strategies throughout their time in education. The Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales recommends social marketing should be used to encourage young people not to take up smoking and to support current smokers to quit.

I have therefore asked the Tobacco Control Delivery Board to take forward your suggestion for a No Smoking month to support children and young people to stop smoking. The campaign will be delivered alongside the ASH Wales social media project and national smoking cessation programme to support young people to successfully quit.