



Comisiynydd y  
Gymraeg  
Welsh Language  
Commissioner



Comisiynydd  
Plant Cymru  
Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales

19/06/2023

Dear Chair and members,

Please see enclosed a copy of a joint paper on the provision of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) through the medium of Welsh. As new commissioners, we are acutely aware of the need to protect the independence of our institutions, but we also recognise we have a duty to work in collaboration on issues if in so doing will drive positive improvements in the lives of children and young people in Wales. Here's our first joint piece of work on a matter that has been of concern to both institutions recently.

The language medium of ALN provision is integral to the effectiveness and quality of the provision itself. The report concludes that the ALN system in Wales does not currently reflect the needs of a bilingual nation. Whilst the Additional Learning Needs and the Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 establishes the principle that the ALN system in Wales should be bilingual, the report shows that there is a long way to go to realise this vision.

Based on the evidence presented, the report includes a series of recommendations including a call on the Welsh Government to establish a national task force that would be responsible for co-ordinating efforts to improve Welsh Medium ALN provision at a local, regional, and national level. The report identifies the main issues the task force should prioritise:

- Ensure that local authorities have fully reviewed their Welsh-medium ALN provision in 2023
- Ensure that reviews of local ALN provision are used to formulate and direct strategic plans to strengthen Welsh-medium ALN provision
- Develop the evidence base and contribute to the planning of Welsh Ministers' 5-year review of Welsh-medium ALN provision
- Develop proposals for formalising effective collaboration between local authorities on a regional basis
- Leading the development of national interventions in areas such as workforce planning, resources, and professional learning

We hope you find the report and its recommendations of interest. We know that the Committee is monitoring the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and the Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and are collecting stakeholder evidence to this effect. We therefore ask the Committee to consider the report in question as evidence to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

**Efa Gruffudd Jones**  
Comisiynydd y Gymraeg

**Rocio Cifuentes**  
Comisiynydd Plant