

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc  
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Assistant Director  
Welsh NHS Confederation

Cc. Jeremy Miles MS  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Cc. Julie Morgan MS  
Deputy Minister for Social Services

17 July 2023

## **Implementation of education reforms (2nd check-in)**

Dear Nesta,

You may be aware that the Children, Young People and Education Committee is carrying out a Senedd-long inquiry into the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales and the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system. We are doing this through a series of 'check-ins' to consider progress and any emerging and established issues associated with implementation.

As part of our second check-in we visited several schools, conducted focus groups with practitioners and held a scrutiny session with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language on 10 May 2023. We also received a range of written evidence from stakeholders.

I will take this opportunity to remind you that you can submit your views to us as often as you like, at any time, and about any issue relating to either education reform.

The role of the Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO)

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The Committee is keen to learn more about collaboration under the new ALN system between local authorities, schools, and health boards. Improvements in such collaboration are an intended benefit of the new system. The new statutory Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO) role that local health boards are required to designate is a key part of achieving this.

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We would be grateful for your perspective on the extent to which the new ALN system has brought about the intended improvements to joint working between schools, local authorities and the NHS. For example, how much of a difference is the statutory DECLO role making on the ground?

#### NHS bodies' statutory duties

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The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 requires NHS bodies to consider whether there is a relevant treatment or service that is likely to be of benefit in addressing the child's or young person's additional learning needs, where a local authority asks it to do so. Where the NHS body concludes there is such a treatment or service, they are required to secure it for the child or young person.

The ALN Code also requires NHS bodies to respond to a request to consider whether there is a treatment or service that is likely to benefit the child, or a request for information or help in deciding how to meet child's additional learning needs, within six weeks. An exception to the six-week timescale is where it is impractical for an NHS body to do so due to circumstances beyond its control.

We have heard some anecdotal evidence of schools and local authorities struggling to gain the input of health services and sometimes having to write Individual Development Plans in the absence of such input and information from the NHS where this is much needed.

We would be grateful for your perspective on the extent to which NHS bodies are fully complying with their statutory duties to secure provision where they consider it is likely to be of benefit, and to provide information and help in the process of assessing learners' needs and identifying suitable provision.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter no later than 31 August 2023.

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language and the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.