

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Bil Addysg Awyr Agored Breswyl \(Cymru\)](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) on the [Residential Outdoor Education \(Wales\) Bill](#)

ROE 23

Ymateb gan: Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru

Response from: Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Local Government Association – The Voice of Welsh Councils

We are the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA); a politically led cross-party organisation that seeks to give local government a strong voice at a national level. We represent the interests of local government and promote local democracy in Wales.

The 22 councils in Wales are our members and the 3 fire and rescue authorities and 3 national park authorities are associate members.

We believe that the ideas that change people's lives, happen locally.

Communities are at their best when they feel connected to their council through local democracy. By championing, facilitating, and achieving these connections, we can build a vibrant local democracy that allows communities to thrive.

Our ultimate goal is to promote, protect, support, and develop democratic local government and the interests of councils in Wales.

We'll achieve our vision by

- Promoting the role and prominence of councillors and council leaders
- Ensuring maximum local discretion in legislation or statutory guidance
- Championing and securing long-term and sustainable funding for councils
- Promoting sector-led improvement
- Encouraging a vibrant local democracy, promoting greater diversity
- Supporting councils to effectively manage their workforce.

WLGA response

The WLGA has, throughout the timeline of the proposed Bill and its various stages, and specifically through the collating and building of the joint consultation response (March 2023), had many discussions with local authorities regarding the Residential Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill.

There has been much support in principle for the aspirations of the Bill, particularly the importance of outdoor education to children and young people's overall education and development, with main benefits being highlighted such as enjoyment, experiential learning, health and wellbeing, increased motivation, and appetite for learning.

Local Authorities are agreed that a guaranteed, free of charge, opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience would benefit children and young people positively, and have considered barriers and equalities considerations which are included in the consultation response. However, LAs require reflection and confirmation on what a 'guarantee' in this context means.

There would need to be formal arrangements with suppliers in place, and for the system to be failsafe, accountable, and meet expectations without risk of litigation.

Finally, and as a critical element of this proposal, this Bill would need to be fully funded at inception and also allow for future potential increased costs (therefore have a review / evaluation process built-in with guarantees on appropriate future funding).