



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

29 February 2024

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February about the Youth Justice Summit on Speech Language and Communication needs held on 24 January 2024. Although Speech Language and Communication in the justice system is the responsibility of the Minister for Health and Social Services (MHSS). I am responding as my officials led on organising the summit and capturing the outcome, although officials from both my portfolio and the MHSS portfolio attended the summit as part of a coordinated approach.

The Summit was held virtually. It was well attended by over 40 participants, including representatives from Welsh Government Health and Social Services, Youth Justice Services, Youth Justice Board, Royal College of Speech, Language and Communication Therapists (RCSLCT), York St John University, policy leads from across Welsh Government departments, youth justice, health, education, social services, early years and others.

Participants heard presentations from the RCSLCT, Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice Service (YJS), Milton Keynes YJS and about 'The Box' a free online e-learning tool designed to give professionals in the justice system the ability to identify communication issues and the skills to work with individuals who have such issues.

They then discussed the barriers/mitigations and resources/opportunities in the area and identified potential avenues for improvement under the current system. Pippa Cotterill, Head of RCLSC, in her closing remarks commented on how positive the summit had been.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Once officials across government have considered all the information and ideas shared and defined a planned way forward in more detail, the relevant Ministers will be advised in order to help inform their decisions on the way forward. I will continue to update the Committee on progress.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter "J".

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip