



Buffy Williams MS
Chair - Children, Young People's and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

4 February 2025

Dear Buffy

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2024 requesting more information on the scope and timetable of the review of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) legislative framework.

The review is considering the clarity and accessibility of the legislative framework to inform policy and legislative solutions on areas of the ALN Act, Regulations and Code.

This is alongside the detailed research activity and findings of the 4-year evaluation of the ALN system, undertaken by Arad Research. This includes the scoping report, a practitioner survey (due in February 2025) and a survey of parents and carers that is underway.

An iterative process of evidence gathering has commenced to examine a range of issues including;

- The clarity and accessibility of the Act and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the legislative framework reflects the policy intent.
- Identification of any inconsistencies and areas where greater clarity may be required.
- Understanding how the legislative framework translates into practice.
- Identifying policy and legislative solutions.

We are currently requesting evidence from the key partners and stakeholders including the Education Tribunal Wales, local authorities, local health boards, further education institutions, early years, representatives of the third sector and parents. They are being asked to provide information under the headings;

- a) Definition and identifying Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- b) Definition and identifying Additional Learning Provision (ALP)

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@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.

- c) UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- d) UN Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities
- e) Advice and information about ALN and the ALN system
- f) Duty to prepare an Individual Development Plan (IDP), to include the duty on schools, further education institutions (FEI) and local authorities (LAs).
- g) Children under compulsory schools age – LA duty to maintain an IDP
- h) Children over compulsory schools age - LA duty to maintain an IDP
- i) Young people at FEIs – duty on FEI and LA to maintain an IDP
- j) Young people not at a maintained school or FEI – duties on LAs
- k) Content of an IDP
 - a. ALN Section 2A
 - b. ALP Section 2B including outcomes
 - c. ALP Section 2C to be secured by an NHS body
 - d. Education placement Section 2D
 - e. Provision in Welsh
- l) Children and young people resident in Wales but educated in England
- m) Children and young people receiving education otherwise than at school (EOTAS)
- n) Children and young people Electively Home Educated and Child/ren looked after (looked after children)
- o) Ceasing to maintain an IDP
- p) Children and young people lacking mental capacity
- q) Transition of SEN provision to ALN
- r) Tribunal procedures and powers

We are also interested in observations on

- 1) The status of the ALN Code and interplay between the ALN Act, the ALN Regulations and ALN Code in decision making and application of the law.
- 2) Any apparent mismatches between the ALN Act and the ALN Code, or any confusion by stakeholders in respect of the ALN Code's meaning.
- 3) Any other observations that fall outside the headings and issues raised above

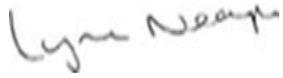
The existing evidence and reports from the Committee will be considered in this review. I am interested to know whether you would like the Committee to have further input into this process.

This work will continue into 2025 and I expect to update the Senedd on the progress and findings of the review by early July 2025. This is a complex piece of work and we have to get it right and I would prefer to get it right than to rush the work.

Meanwhile, as I made clear in the Committee debate on 13th November 2024 work to improve implementation continues alongside the Review. The Welsh Government is facilitating joint working between health and education partners to improve multiagency working towards common goals. Officials have been actively listening to the concerns from parents over the last six months and are delivering actions to improve the accessibility and availability of information about the ALN system. Termly meetings with individual local authorities continue, creating structures for key delivery partners to raise challenges and plans of improvement locally. Finally, work is underway to better understand what is 'generally available' to all learners in Wales.

I am determined that meeting the needs of learners remains at the heart of our education reforms and do not underestimate the importance of this review in achieving that aim.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Neagle".

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education