

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LF GT 422 13

Vaughan Gething AM
Chair
Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales

Dear Vaughan,

14 May 2013

Thank you for your letter of 8 May concerning how "When I am Ready" will work alongside the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill.

As Members will be aware, on 19 October 2011 Ken Skates AM was selected in the ballot to introduce a Member's Proposed Bill on Continuity from Care into Adult Life. During the Plenary debate on 11 January 2012 on Mr Stake's motion seeking the Assembly's leave to introduce a Bill I made clear that I supported the intention behind the Bill proposals but was of the view that a Bill was not required. Instead I agreed to work with him to develop a scheme to support young people transitioning from care.

The proposed "When I am Ready" scheme is one of a range of options that will be available to young people who are transitioning to adulthood when they are due to leave care at the age of 18. It is intended as an alternative to 'supported lodgings' and will enable young people to remain with their former foster carers in a familial setting with people who are known to them and who can offer continued support as they grow into adulthood. As you are aware I have agreed to pioneer this in three local authority areas during 2013/14 (using powers within Part 3 of the Children Act 1989) in order that the experiences of these areas can inform the further development of the guidance to ensure that it will meet the needs of young people and their carers.

As you know, we are incorporating the current provision contained in Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 into the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill 2013 and Part 6 of the Bill, in particular section 93, will provide local authorities with the necessary legislative authority to operate the "When I am Ready" scheme.

Yours sincerely

Gwenda

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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