

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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David Rees AM  
Chair  
Health and Social Care Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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28 November 2013

*Dear David,*

I recently gave an assurance that I would write to update you on the current position of the When I am Ready scheme for supporting the transition to adulthood for care leavers in Wales.

As you will be aware, I agreed that 3 local authorities (Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda-Cynon-Taff) should pioneer the When I am Ready scheme in their areas during 2013/14 (using powers within Part 3 of the Children Act 1989) to enable the experiences in these areas to inform the further development of the guidance and to ensure it will meet the needs of young people and their carers. My officials have also established a monitoring group to collate intelligence and data from the pioneer areas in order to inform the further development of this guidance.

The monitoring group features representation from the three pioneer areas and also from ADSS/WLGA, the Fostering Network and Action for Children. There have been two meetings of the monitoring group to date, with the next meeting planned for early December. There is consensus at the meetings that good progress is being made. At these monitoring meetings, my officials receive reports from each pioneer area of their general experiences and on their specifically allocated themes, which are financial aspects in RCT, foster carers' issues in Gwynedd and policies and procedures - including safeguarding issues - in Merthyr.

The meetings have provided an excellent example of collaborative working. The third sector have designed a monitoring tool incorporating the scheme's objectives and the Welsh Government have supported the group with their planning..

At the monitoring group meetings held so far, there has been no indication from stakeholders of any gap in legislation which may affect When I am Ready being put into practice at the completion of the pioneer phase.

I hope that my update is helpful.

Yours sincerely

*Gwenda*

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

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