

The National Autistic Society Cymru
Pembrokeshire Branch
C/O 6&7 Village Way
Greenmeadow Springs Business Park
Cardiff
CF15 7NE
02 October 2014

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the correspondence that you received from the then Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, on the 21 August 2014.

We are pleased to note that a representative from NAS Cymru will be a member of the Task and Finish Group being established on children's autism diagnosis. We look forward to working with Welsh Government and others on this important piece of work.

Since then, there has been a Cabinet reshuffle and a new Minister is now responsible for autism and the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan. Given that, could the Petitions Committee undertake to:


- draw the new Minister's attention to the Petition and the agreed actions;
- clarify when the Task and Finish Group is expected to begin its work; and
- obtain confirmation from the Minister that autism remains a Welsh Government priority

As you will recall, Hywel Dda local health board drew up an improvement plan to help reduce the particularly long waiting times in Pembrokeshire. In my previous correspondence to you dated 18 March 2014 I asked that the Committee receives an update from Hywel Dda local health board on progress of its plan by June 2014.

I would be grateful if the Committee could confirm that it has received a progress report from Hywel Dda and that you are happy to share it with the Pembrokeshire Branch. It would also be useful for the Hywel Dda local health board to explain to the Committee how it intends to ensure that children in Pembrokeshire receive a timely diagnosis, after this current improvement plan finishes.

Kind regards

Lisa Phillips
NAS Pembrokeshire branch



Accept difference. Not indifference.
Gwahaniaeth. Nid difaterwch.