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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : MA-P-KW-1172-17
Lynne Neagle AC/ AM
Chair of Children, Young People
and Education Community

29 March 2017

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 07 March, regarding the Committee's enquiry about how expert and specialist advice is being fed in to the development of the new curriculum.

A Strategic Stakeholder Group was set up as part of the curriculum reform governance structure to ensure key stakeholders are informed of and are involved in the development of the approach to implementing the new curriculum. Public Health Wales (PHW) is a member of this group and all attendees are required to provide feedback to their networks and organisations, feed in any messages from the wider sector and also act as a critical friend to provide external challenge, scrutiny and advice.

A Healthy Relationship Expert Panel, to be chaired by Professor Emma Renold, has recently been set up to address the ongoing need to support schools to provide good quality inclusive Healthy Relationships Education. The expert panel will provide advice and support to the Welsh Government on issues relating to the delivery of Healthy Relationships education within the current curriculum and also help inform the development of the future curriculum as part of the Health and well-being Area of Learning Experience (AoLE). PHW is a member of this Panel.

Our respective officials are in contact, and there is established joint action between the health and education sectors which can inform the development of the curriculum, for example the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes (WNHSS).

Work on the high level design of the AoLEs began in January 2017. A work plan and clear milestones were agreed to enable the creation of an initial high level framework for each AoLE by the end of June this year. This framework will be used as a blueprint to fully develop, populate and test emerging models for each AoLE.

The Health and Well-being workshop in February focused on emotional and physical well-being. There was a strong emphasis on bringing in experts in public health and other

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.

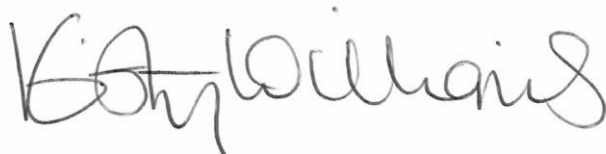
relevant disciplines. PHW presented on the Together for Children and Young People programme and on their broader work on wellbeing. The office of the Children's Commissioner and Sport Wales also came along to inform and support the curriculum development process.

At a second workshop in March PHW presented a view of links between our WNHSS and the Health and Wellbeing AoLE and there was a clear message from attendees that the Health and Wellbeing aspect of the curriculum, and expectations of the broader ethos and culture of a school, should build on the good work that schools are already putting in place as part of their involvement in WNHSS.

Over the coming months, our priorities for expert input, in addition to more general curriculum and assessment expertise, are to utilise expertise from PHW and other health stakeholders in relation to the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child development among other topics, to ensure that the initial high level framework is informed by expert input and research. There will be further opportunities to utilise the specialist advice and support of public health experts and organisations beyond June, when the detailed elements of the curriculum are scoped out and resources gathered and developed.

Within Welsh Government, our officials have established a mechanism for engagement that spans the range of interests across health and social care. We, along with the Minister for Social Services and Public Health, will continue to work together to maximise opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of children through the development of the new curriculum and through the school inspection programme.

Yours sincerely



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