



Minutes / Cofnodion
Cross Party Autism Group / Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Awtistiaeth
Mehefin 14 June 2017
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales

1 WELCOME / CROESO

CPAG Chair Mark Isherwood AM, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was attended by Dai Lloyd AM, as well as support staff from the offices of Mike Hedges, Alun Davies and Paul Davies.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING / COFNODION A MATERION YN CODI

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of the previous meeting, with the addition of one correction on ensuring the support needs of autistic people working within the emergency services are met.

3 UPDATE FROM THE MINISTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Alun Davies AM, the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language gave an overview on the reform to the special education needs system, adding that he is expecting the new legislation to be given Royal Assent by Christmas and on the statute books next year. He took questions on a range of issues, including funding for specialist provision, the Education Tribunal, School Transport, the Individual Development Plans, Training for Professionals and the Welsh Language. In response to concerns, the Minister outlined a number of ways in which these could be addressed, including amendments to the proposed legislation around Welsh Language provision as well as template and timeframes for IDPs. He also spoke about extra financial resource to support implementation of the Bill and ongoing work exploring how the Educational Tribunal could be strengthened to ensure decisions are delivered.

4 EMMA CARVER, YSGOL Y DERI

Emma Carver, assistant head at Ysgol y Deri, described how they had used specific autism money from the Vale of Glamorgan to develop a new resource for local schools, to help them better understand autism. She explained how it had started off as a paper copy and had developed into something a lot more interactive that could be downloaded. Demand for the resource was increasing with interest from all corners of the world. On the issue of making the resources available in Welsh, Emma said that it was something that they hoped to explore further with Welsh Government.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS / UNRHYW FATER ARALL

Jeff Morris raised the issue of autistic people wrongly being detained because of a lack of understanding of autism and resulting in autistic people wrongly having a

criminal history. Members agreed that it was an issue and that the Crown Prosecution Service be invited to a future meeting of the group.

The Chair reminded the group that the National Assembly would be discussing a Private Members Bill on introducing autism legislation in Wales later the same day and invited members to listen to the debate in the Senedd's viewing gallery.

6 ACTIONS / CAMAU GWEITHREDU

The group will write to the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language to gain clarity over funding for specialist provision. We will also write to him separately on a number of the issues raised during the meeting regarding the ALN Bill.

The group will write to the Crown Prosecution Service inviting them to a future meeting to discuss issues raised by the group.

The next CPAG meeting will be in Bangor University on the 8 September 2017 from 10:30am. Further details will be available closer to the day.

The next meeting at the National Assembly for Wales is scheduled for 6 December 2017 from 12:15pm-1:15pm with the exact location yet to be confirmed.