



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA(L)/KW/0396/17

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Simon Thomas AM  
Chair  
Finance Committee

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11 July 2017

Dear Lynne and Simon,

I am writing to alert you and your committees to a written statement published today about the additional learning needs transformation programme.

In March, I wrote to you with further information about how the £20m package of support for the transformation programme will be allocated to support the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill and wider programme. At the time, I said these allocations were subject to change as our work with delivery partners proceeds. This co-development work is ongoing, but I have agreed a significant element of our implementation approach – this is to fund five additional learning needs transformation leads who will support delivery of the programme.

Four of the transformation leads will operate on the regional education consortia footprint and there will be a further education transformation lead who will work on a pan-Wales basis. The leads will play a critical role in our implementation strategy, ensuring delivery partners are prepared, resourced, trained and are working together for the benefit of children and young people with additional learning needs, making sure these learners are at the centre of everything.

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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.

We are continuing discussions with the Association of Directors of Education in Wales and the board of Colegau Cymru and I will be in a position to say more about these roles in the autumn.

The written statement also confirms that local authority implementation grants will be pooled on a regional basis. This will ensure our investment is maximised by exploiting economies of scale and facilitating improved regional planning and working. It will also help ensure bureaucracy around the grants is minimised and the focus is on service delivery and value for money. This will address recommendation four in the Finance Committee's stage 1 report into the Bill.

I will provide a revised breakdown of the costs for activities within the transformation programme in the autumn. I will do this at the same time as publishing the revised version of the regulatory impact assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Alun Davies AC/AM**  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language