

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/HID/1565/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

2 May 2018

Dear Lynne,

Following my attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 18 April I agreed to write to you to provide a note on the rationale for the childcare offer starting in the term following the child's third birthday and the Welsh Government's assessment of the potential impact of this approach on summer born children.

As you know the childcare offer comprises of two elements; the existing early education entitlement for all 3-4 year olds and additional hours of childcare provided for working parents. The point at which children become eligible to access childcare through the offer aligns with the point at which they also become eligible to access their early education, which is the term after their third birthday. This alignment is necessary to ensure that the two elements of the offer begin at the same point and that the offer as a whole is easy to understand for parents, providers and local authorities.

Children are no longer eligible for the offer once they begin full-time education. At this point they begin receiving over 30 hours of early education per week.

The number of terms that a child is able to access the childcare offer will be influenced by when the child is born. However, standardising the number of terms of childcare that children can access under the offer would create unfairness in the system, where some parents were able to access one element of the offer sooner than other parents. It would also mean the two elements of the offer, early education and childcare, were no longer aligned and some parents would not be able to access both elements of the offer from the same point.

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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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify my comments made in committee on the commitment to increase the capacity of Welsh Language Childcare Provision by funding Mudiad Meithrin to create new Welsh-medium nursery groups. I would like to be clear that the commitment is to establish 40, rather than 30, new Welsh-medium nursery groups by 2021. This is part of a broader target to establish 150 new Welsh-medium nursery groups over the next decade.

Yours sincerely

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

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care

