

A30

Ymchwiliad i Fil Awtistiaeth (Cymru) / Inquiry into the Autism (Wales) Bill
Ymateb gan Gymdeithas Siartredig Ffisiotherapi
Response from Chartered Society of Physiotherapy



Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Chair of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA



Dear Chair and Committee Members

Consultation on the Autism (Wales) Bill – response from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Autism (Wales) Bill. Physiotherapists, whilst not a key professional working with children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ND) specifically, will see people with both in relation to any physical disability they may also have that requires physiotherapy input.

Feedback from CSP members in Wales suggests that appropriate intervention should not be based on diagnosis. CSP members raised concerns (also expressed by others such as the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists) that proposed legislation would lead to a focus on diagnosis rather than on their needs and outcomes. CSP members considered that services for children and adults with ASD and ND must be **needs driven and outcomes focussed**.

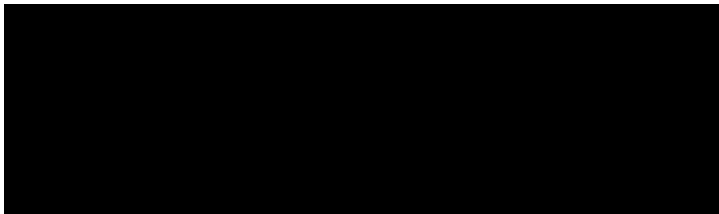
CSP members suggested that condition specific legislation might push individuals or families to believe that the only/best way to ensure access to services would be by obtaining a diagnosis. They commented that the current best practice approach relies on early access to therapies and intervention to address specific clinical needs and this is of greater importance than on trying to ascertain a particular diagnosis.

CSP members raised concerns that if there is to be a condition specific piece of legislation then this could potentially lead to the call for other condition specific pieces of legislation. Such as approach would lead to a highly complex situation in relation to service delivery. The 'knock-on' effects could be detrimental to service provision.

The CSP welcomes the developments which have already been brought forward by Welsh Government for children and adults with ASD and ND and acknowledges that a profile must be retained to ensure services continue to develop across the sectors. It is the view, however, of physiotherapy members in Wales that autism specific legislation is not required at this time. A focus on needs and not on diagnosis is the way forward.

The CSP hopes the members of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will find this response useful.

Yours sincerely




Public Affairs and Policy Manager for Wales


In association with:
CSP Welsh Board
All Wales Children and Young People's Physiotherapy Service Managers
Welsh Physiotherapy Leaders Advisory Group