

Vaughan Gething AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

26 October 2018

Dear Vaughan

Many thanks for attending yesterday's meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to discuss the Autism (Wales) Bill. You agreed to provide further detail of your draft Code of Practice, including a reconciliation between the areas being considered for inclusion in the Code and the Bill as it currently stands. You also said that you would provide further information on waiting times by health board area.

There are some further areas where the Committee would appreciate clarification:

1. During the meeting, you said that you did not believe that condition specific legislation was the appropriate way forward but your proposed statutory Code of Practice would appear to be condition specific. Can you confirm whether that is the case and why you believe a condition specific Code of Practice is appropriate if legislation is not;
2. How the Code will address a person's wider needs beyond social care and health, including employment, housing and social inclusion;
3. We've heard that individuals with ASD with a high IQ and without a co-occurring learning disability or mental health condition find it particularly difficult to access support (e.g. employment support) and fall through gaps in current legislation (as they are not considered eligible for support). Can you explain how the Code will address these issues and help this cohort;
4. Confirmation that health bodies will have a duty to act and adhere to requirements under the Code;
5. We heard that some families are struggling to obtain information about services in an appropriate format. Can you confirm that you are making information available in languages other than English and Welsh, and in an easily understandable format.



The Committee will be considering its draft report on 21 November so it would be helpful if you could provide this information in time to inform our consideration (if the consultation for the Code is published at the end of November, it will be too late to inform our report).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dr Dai Lloyd AM  
**Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**

