

## CYPE(5)-07-19 - Paper to note 2

**Dyddiad /Date:**

**Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line: Eboost/Email:**

31 January 2019  
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Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair of the CYPE Committee  
National Assembly for Wales Cardiff  
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Dear Lynne,

### **Progress on Developing the New Curriculum for Wales**

Many thanks for your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> January concerning the joint written evidence submitted by the WLGA and ADEW to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's scrutiny session on 10<sup>th</sup> January. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to reply to some of the concerns raised at that session and to be able to correct a few misconceptions.

It might be useful if I were to start by stating that the WLGA supports fully the development and the proposed implementation of the new curriculum by the Welsh Government. The WLGA welcomed Professor Graham Donaldson's independent review of the curriculum in Wales and the subsequent publication of *Successful Futures* in 2015. Since then, the WLGA has worked with ADEW and the whole of local government in supporting the development of the new curriculum and securing its successful implementation.

The WLGA and ADEW have sought to engage as fully as possible in this process. As recently as 27<sup>th</sup> September, I shared the conference platform with Education Minister, Kirsty Williams AM, at a joint WLGA/WG Conference on Accountability in Education and publicly stated my support for the Welsh Government's approach to the new curriculum.

I know that the Association of Directors of Education (ADEW), has also responded to you regarding the issues raised during your scrutiny session and I can reaffirm that our joint response was based on our consultation with all 22 local authorities and the information available to them at the time. I must also emphasize that the response focused on the specific questions raised by the Committee was meant as a constructive contribution to the further development of the curriculum.

Dr Chris Llewelyn  
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Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.  
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

These concerns had not been raised with the Education Minister directly as they had not come to light until the Committee started its inquiry. Discussions between the WLGA and the Education Minister in recent months have inevitably focused on funding issues and the Welsh Government's budget process.

As important as the new curriculum is, authorities must also focus on immediate budget pressures and the sustainability of their services. For that reason, the November meeting between the Education Minister and the 22 education cabinet members was dominated by discussions on the provisional local government settlement and the challenging financial pressures facing local authorities and their schools including increased pay and pension costs rather than the new curriculum.

In conclusion, may I assure you and your colleagues on the Committee that the WLGA supports fully the development and the implementation of the new curriculum and is committed to working with the Welsh Government and all other partnerships in ensuring its successful roll out over the coming years.

**Yours sincerely**



**Councillor Debbie Wilcox  
Leader of WLGA**

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