



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-804
Ein cyf/Our ref JM/05086/19

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

20 February 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding your Committee's current consideration of the petition from RAY Ceredigion about funding for play. I am replying as play policy falls within my portfolio.

I note that the Committee has requested an update in respect of funding for play in 2019-20. Before I provide the update, I would like to remind you of the history of the Play Sufficiency Duty. When the duty on local authorities under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, 2010 "to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in their area . . ." commenced, it was made clear that no designated Welsh Government funding would be allocated. However, in 2014 when the second part of the duty, which called for "local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable . . ." was introduced, the duty was supported by the Welsh Local Government Association and local authorities on the understanding that, as and when financial support became available, it would be used to support local authorities in complying with this section of the duty.

We have continued to demonstrate our commitment by the allocation of £6.7m over the last six years. The revenue funding has been made available via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG).

Furthermore, this financial year, following the reprioritisation of budgets, £2m additional funding was made available to local authorities via the AWPOG. This has included an allocation to Ceredigion County Council. The grant conditions are more focussed to allow local authorities to address the amber and red actions within their Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) action plans which they have not previously been able to achieve. Included in the £2m is £10k to each local authority to help them focus on producing a robust 2019 PSA, by the end of March 2019, with meaningful up-to-date local statistics.

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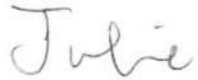
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

As per the original agreement, we will continue to review our funding position in the light of resources available at the time.

I hope the Committee will find this reply helpful.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie'.

Julie Morgan AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services