

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA(P)/KW/1131/19

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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5 April 2019

Dear Lynne,

During your committee's scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, a commitment was made to provide regular updates on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation programme. This letter is the sixth of these updates.

1. Legislation and statutory guidance

As you are aware, the consultation on the draft ALN Code and a number of proposed regulations to be made under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 ran from 10 December 2018 to 22 March 2019. I wrote to the Committee on 29 March, thanking you for your response to the consultation. As noted in that letter, a formal 'summary of responses report' on the draft ALN Code consultation will be published in due course together with reports on the views gathered at the series of workshops that took place during the consultation period with children, young people and parents, and at the regional stakeholder events (see below for further detail). Alongside these, I intend to issue a formal Written Statement outlining the next steps in terms of making any revisions to the Code and regulations. My officials are now undertaking a full analysis of all consultation responses. It remains my intention to lay the Code and regulations for Assembly approval later this year.

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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.

2. Implementation / transition support

The ALN Transformation Leads have submitted a suite of documents that highlight good practice and summarise the transformation activity that has taken place in their respective regions during 2018/19. The Transformation Leads also provide bi-monthly updates to the ALN Transformation Leadership Group on progress made in relation to their regional and further education plans. This Group, which includes lead Directors of Education from each of the consortia regions and Colegau Cymru, is helping to develop and ensure consistency of implementation approaches across Wales and is crucial in driving forward the work of the Transformation Leads and wider transformation programme.

Challenge and review sessions took place in each of the four regions during the first quarter to monitor the development of all projects across Wales. The learning from these sessions is being used to help shape and inform the work programme for 2019/20.

3. Workforce development

Draft ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCo) regulations were consulted on as part of the draft Code consultation and responses to these will be included in the analysis of consultation responses currently being undertaken by officials.

The ALNCo role is fundamental to the success of the new ALN system and we are committed to supporting this workforce through professional learning. Officials are continuing work with local authorities and regional education consortia to develop an ALNCo professional learning offer.

The Welsh Government has commissioned Eliesha Cymru to develop ALN implementation training materials, which have been split into four levels, with each level targeting different practitioners. Level 1 will be published before the end of the 2019/20 autumn term.

4. Awareness raising

In February, we hosted a series of draft Code consultation events across Wales. Each event provided stakeholders with an opportunity to engage with the consultation and receive updates on the ALN transformation programme.

The events included workshops on specific aspects of the draft ALN Code, covering:

1. Timescales
2. The role of the ALNCo
3. Early Years ALN Lead Officer
4. Post-16 specialist placements
5. Advice and information, disagreement resolution and independent advocacy
6. Health and the Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer

Over 1,000 stakeholders applied for tickets to the events, with a turnout of over 800 attendees. Presentations from the North Wales events were live-streamed online via Periscope and had more than 700 views.

In addition, a series of workshops with children, young people and their families, have been conducted by an independent external contractor on our behalf in order to ensure that their views on the proposals can be taken in to account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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Minister for Education