

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ86322

James Evans MS
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31 October 2022

Dear James,

Thank you for your recent written question asking, 'What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that schools are able to carry out duties imposed on them by Welsh Government additional learning needs reforms?' My response is set out in this letter.

Following many years of preparation and operationalisation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code we have, together with the sector, made considerable progress in setting the foundations for the new ALN system.

Ahead of implementation of the ALN system our ALN transformation programme focused on workforce development, awareness-raising, and stakeholder engagement. Since 2018 Regional Transformation Leads have worked with delivery partners and education establishments to support services to prepare for the changes and to develop closer multi agency and cross-sector working practices. This work included school readiness surveys undertaken to aid whole school improvement planning and was undertaken in parallel with the creation of new statutory roles in local authorities, schools and the health service.

The statutory ALNCo role in schools is strategic and provides teachers with a first port of call for advice and guidance. Extensive awareness raising and professional learning opportunities have been provided to schools across regions, and learning modules developed which target specific leadership roles within relevant sectors.

We have published technical, practitioner and parents guides to support a shared understanding of the ALN Code and of the arrangements for the second and third years of implementation. We have also published a guide to support parents to understand their rights under the ALN system.

I have continued to listen to concerns about implementation pressures. Last Spring I announced more time to help schools and local authorities meet the timeline for moving children to the new ALN system and made an additional £6 million available to support ALN implementation. Since 2017 we have invested £35m core funding to prepare the

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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.

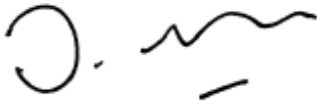
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

infrastructure and increase additional learning provision, with a yearly budget of £21m until 2025 to support system reform.

I have set up structures to ensure we continue to listen, facilitate discussions with practitioners and bring consistency. This includes the appointment of national ALN implementation leads and establishing an ALN Reform National Steering Group to provide strategic direction information, and advice to support ongoing implementation of reforms.

It is still too early to assess progress on implementation, but feedback from the sector, families and stakeholders is currently positive and we are working with Estyn to seek further assurance that the roll out of the ALN system in schools is effective and improving educational outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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