

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 7 Chwefror 2012

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 7 February 2012

*Cyhoeddir atebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o atebion yn y Gymraeg.
Answers are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.*

[R] *yn nodi bod yr Aelod wedi datgan buddiant/signifies that the Member has declared an interest.*

[W] *yn nodi bod y cwestiwn wedi'i gyflwyno yn Gymraeg/signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.*

Cynnwys

Contents

- 2 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Questions to the Minister for Education and Skills
- 4 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services
- 10 Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Questions to the Minister for Local Government and Communities
- 10 Cwestiynau i'r Cwnsel Cyffredinol
Questions to the Counsel General

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
To ask the Minister for Education and Skills

Simon Thomas (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i roi sylw i'r pryderon am lythrennedd yn Adroddiad Blynyddol Estyn 2010-11. (WAQ59679)

Simon Thomas (Mid and West Wales): What action is the Minister taking to address the concerns about literacy in Estyn's Annual Report 2010-11. (WAQ59679)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): This is not the first Estyn report to raise issues of literacy. The Estyn Annual Report for 2009-10 identified 'a dislocation in how progress in literacy and numeracy is tracked from Foundation Phase through to key stage 2, across the transition to secondary school, and eventually into tertiary education.'

That is why I announced in February 2011 a clear programme to address literacy issues, including:

- a national approach to professional development in literacy through initial teacher training, induction and continuing professional development.

- A new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (NLNF) to be introduced on a statutory basis from September 2013. The NLNF will include literacy and numeracy attainment matrices which will identify annual expected outcomes in literacy and numeracy for all learners aged 5 to 14. It will also enable schools to identify how best to support and challenge all of their learners.

- A national reading test, beginning on a voluntary basis this year and on a statutory basis from May 2013. All learners in years 2 through to 9 will be required to be assessed using the national reading test. The tests will assess achievement holistically by including varying elements of comprehension and higher order reading skills. The tests will have a diagnostic element so that teachers will be able to undertake further investigation of the strengths and weaknesses of an individual child's attainment if appropriate.

- The continuing use of proven intervention strategies to help young people who are behind catch up

The School Standards Unit will monitor literacy as one of its key priorities. The performance management system for both headteachers and teachers will reflect literacy priorities. My department is working with the Welsh Local Government Association and local authority consortia to set targets in literacy based on their key priorities as identified in their self-evaluation.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am bresenoldeb a chyflawniadau plant teithwyr yn yr ysgol yng Nghymru. (WAQ59680)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the school attendance and achievements of traveller children in Wales. (WAQ59680)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
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Leighton Andrews: Considerable Welsh Government support is in place for Gypsy and Traveller children and more of them are now registered at schools in Wales than ever before. An annual Grant for the Education of Gypsy and Traveller Children, of £900,000 in 2011-12, aims to improve their school

attendance and encourage progression to secondary education. Used as match funding, it is attracting £2 million of ESF Priority One Convergence funding.

Welsh Assembly Government Circular 003/2008 'Moving Forward – Gypsy Traveller Education' provided comprehensive guidance to all schools. Officials are working to the recommendations of the 2011 Estyn report 'The Education of Gypsy Traveller pupils – An Update on Provision in Secondary Schools' including commissioning a new curriculum resource which will celebrate Gypsy Traveller culture. Two all-Wales conferences have been held on Gypsy Traveller education and an All-Wales Forum of local authority Gypsy and Traveller Education Co-coordinators has been set up, with whom my officials work closely.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cefnogi ysgolion wrth iddynt ymdrechu i ddarparu bwyd sy'n addas i'r rheini sydd ag alergeddau. (WAQ59681)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How is the Welsh Government supporting schools as they strive to provide food which is suitable for allergy sufferers. (WAQ59681)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

Leighton Andrews: We have produced guidelines providing practical advice for school caterers on implementing changes to the food and drink provided in schools in line with the standards proposed in our Appetite for Life Action Plan. These guidelines were developed in consultation with key stakeholders and contain information on allergies and intolerances, with practical advice for schools and caterers on some of the most common food allergies and intolerances and how reactions can be avoided.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Sut y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn hybu perthynas agosach rhwng athrawon a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. (WAQ59682)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): How is the Welsh Government promoting a closer relationship between teachers and social services. (WAQ59682)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

Leighton Andrews: Guidance on how teachers and social services should work together to ensure that pupils in schools in Wales are effectively safeguarded is outlined in "Safeguarding Children in Education" (Circular 005/2008). All schools and Further Education institutions in Wales have a senior member of staff who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, provide advice and support to other staff, liaise with the local authority, and work with other agencies. The designated person undertakes training in inter-agency working that is provided by, or to standards agreed by, the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and refresher training to keep her/his knowledge and skills up to date.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarparu cwnsela i blant mewn ysgolion. (WAQ59696)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the provision of counselling for children within the school setting. (WAQ59696)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

Leighton Andrews: The School-Based Counselling Strategy was published in April 2008 and has been gradually rolled out across local authorities, with all secondary schools being covered by autumn 2010. To date grant funding of £12.5m has been made available.

An independent evaluation report from the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), published in November 2011, evaluated the success of the strategy and the longer term effect of the service on children and young people. The report found that young people, teaching staff, local authorities and counsellors all expressed high overall levels of satisfaction with school-based counselling. It also strongly evidenced the role that counselling plays in helping young people achieve their potential.

Taking these findings into account, the School Standards and Organisation Bill will include legislative proposals in relation to school-based counselling. The purpose of introducing legislation in this area is to ensure that young people of secondary school age, and pupils in Year 6 in transition to secondary schools, have access to an appropriately trained counsellor who will provide formal one-to-one counselling.

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): Beth mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â bwlio homoffobig mewn ysgolion. (WAQ59697)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): What is the Welsh Government doing to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. (WAQ59697)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

Leighton Andrews: We have taken a number of steps to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. Last autumn we issued comprehensive new guidance on homophobic bullying to help schools and local authorities put in place mechanisms to prevent bullying and to respond to it when it occurs.

We are providing support to young people through the school-based counselling initiative and we promote programmes to manage pupils' behaviour and support their emotional development. We have made £300,000 available to local authorities this academic year for well-evaluated behaviour management training for teachers, including specific anti-bullying interventions.

My officials will continue to work with organisations like Stonewall Cymru to tackle homophobic bullying, and will be running a series of seminars across Wales in the spring to draw schools' attention to this and other forms of bullying.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i ofalwyr ifanc a'r nifer sy'n defnyddio'r cymorth. (WAQ59683)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the support available for young carers, and the level of uptake of assistance. (WAQ59683)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 February 2012

The Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services (Gwenda Thomas): Young carers have been a key priority in the Carers Strategy for Wales since it was launched over ten years ago, and I will ensure

support for young carers continues to be a priority when we refresh the Strategy later this year. We have made progress in identifying and supporting carers across all ages but more needs to be done.

We have made sure that young carers' needs are fully taken into account as Local Health Boards and local authorities prepare, publish and implement their local Information and Consultation Strategies under the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010. £5.8 million has been allocated over three years for the development of these strategies, including £430,000 specifically to ensure a chapter on the information and consultation needs of young carers is included in each local strategy.

We are commissioning a toolkit specifically to help professionals throughout local authorities, NHS bodies and education and training providers to audit and improve their policies for identifying and engaging with you carers. This will include updating the 'Caring for Young Carers' training resource for schools which was originally produced in 2004. We expect this work to begin in April. The toolkit will be web based, and will be tested out with young carers and professionals to ensure that it meets the requirement.

Carers' needs are also at the heart of our Social Services Bill which will provide the legal framework to deliver our programme of transformation for social services. We fully recognise the important role that carers and especially young carers fulfil and that stronger support is needed to help them care. We will continue to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including young carers and those organisations which work directly with them, are able to participate in shaping our policies and the services they need as we move forward with this agenda of change.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am weithredu'r argymhellion a dderbyniwyd o adroddiad y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol: Gwasanaethau Orthodontig yng Nghymru. (WAQ59690)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide an update on the implementation of the accepted recommendations from the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee: Orthodontic services in Wales report. (WAQ59690)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): Many of the recommendations from the Committee's inquiry into orthodontic services in Wales mirror the findings of an independent expert group commissioned by the Welsh Government, both of which support our current policy direction.

It was generally recognised a process for consolidating and implementing the recommendations was required to produce guidance for Local Health Boards (LHBs) and the profession on the effective and efficient commissioning of orthodontic services, including the facilitation of strategic, detailed operational management and modernisation of services. To that end, I have established a Strategic Advisory Forum to oversee this work and facilitate the implementation process.

Guidance has been issued to LHBs supporting processes and policies to improve the quality of orthodontic care, eliminate inefficiencies and share best practice. The guidance includes advice on contract monitoring and specific indicators on the level of orthodontic services delivered. Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs) have been established which will help improve efficiency and effectiveness including the management of those patients waiting for treatment. LHBs are using MCNs to create an improved referral management process by identifying patients who have been referred to more than one orthodontist and reducing early, multiple and inappropriate referrals.

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu data am nifer y cleifion sy'n cael triniaeth orthodontig ar hyn o bryd fesul pob bwrdd iechyd lleol. (WAQ59689)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide data on the number of patients currently undergoing orthodontic treatment for each local health board. (WAQ59689)

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu data am nifer y cleifion sy'n aros am driniaeth orthodontig ar hyn o bryd fesul pob bwrdd iechyd lleol. (WAQ59688)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide data on the number of patients currently waiting for orthodontic treatment for each local health board. (WAQ59688)

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu data am nifer y cleifion sy'n aros am asesiad orthodontig ar hyn o bryd fesul pob bwrdd iechyd lleol. (WAQ59687)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide data on the number of patients currently waiting for orthodontic assessment for each local health board. (WAQ59687)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012*

Lesley Griffiths: Primary care orthodontics is not included in the targets set out in the Waiting Times Directive. As a result, figures for those patients waiting to access primary care orthodontic services are not held centrally.

Published Referral to Treatment Times (RTT) statistics for November 2011 show 2,383 patients in Wales were waiting for an initial outpatient appointment for orthodontics in hospital provider settings at the end of November, including 2 waiting over 36 weeks.

Local Health Board	Total	26-36 wks	Over 36 wks
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	795	0	0
Aneurin Bevan	291	0	0
Betsi Cadwaladr	795	114	2
Cardiff & Vale	325	1	0
Cwm Taf	114	0	0
Powys	63	1	0
Total	2,383	116	2

Patients from Hywel Dda Health Board are referred to secondary care orthodontic services in the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board locality.

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Fesul pob blwyddyn ariannol er 2003/4 a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion (a) unrhyw fenthyciadau y mae byrddau iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaethau wedi'u gwneud i fyrddau iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaethau eraill, a nodi pa fyrddau iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaethau oedd y rheini; (b) ad-daliadau'r benthyciadau hynny; ac (c) gwerth y benthyciadau a gafodd eu 'dileu'. (WAQ59684)

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): For every financial year since 2003/4 will the Minister provide details of (a) any loans that local health boards or trusts have made to other local health boards or trusts, and specify which local health boards or trusts are involved; (b) repayments of those loans; and (c) the value of loans 'written off'. (WAQ59684)

*Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 08 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 08 February 2012*

Lesley Griffiths: In accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual, Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts are not allowed to make loans to each other. Therefore, between 2003/04 and 2010/11 no loans have been made between these bodies.

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Fesul pob blwyddyn ariannol er 2003/4 a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion (a) benthyciadau a roddwyd i fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau; (b) ad-daliadau benthyciadau gan fyrddau iechyd lleol ac ymddiriedolaethau; ac (c) gwerth unrhyw fenthyciadau i fyrddau iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaethau a gafodd eu 'dileu'. (WAQ59685)

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): For every financial year since 2003/4 will the Minister provide details of (a) loans made to local health boards and trust; (b) repayments of loans from local health boards and trusts; and (c) the value of any loans to LHBs or Trusts that have been 'written off'. (WAQ59685)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 10 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 10 February 2012

Lesley Griffiths: I will write to you and a copy of the letter will be put on the internet.

Gweler Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad
See Information Further to Written Assembly Questions

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): Fesul pob blwyddyn ariannol er 2003/4 a wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu manylion (a) faint o arian a ddyrannwyd i bob bwrdd iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaeth ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol; a (b) unrhyw arian ychwanegol a ddarparwyd i bob bwrdd iechyd lleol neu ymddiriedolaeth drwy gydol y flwyddyn o gronfeydd wrth gefn. (WAQ59686)

Ieuan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn): For every financial year since 2003/4 will the Minister provide details of (a) the amount of money allocated to each local health board or trust at the start of the financial year: and (b) any additional money provided to each local health board or trust throughout the year out of reserves. (WAQ59686)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

Lesley Griffiths: The amount allocated to each local health board in each financial year since 2003-04 is detailed in the table below. The allocations for the former 22 local health boards, which were in existence until 30 September 2009, are grouped by the seven successor local health boards established on 1 October 2009. Also included is the allocation for Health Commission Wales, which was abolished on 31 March 2010, and its allocation devolved to local health boards from 1 April 2010. Also included is the core grant allocation to Public Health Wales NHS Trust, which was established on 1 October 2009. The Welsh Government does not make core grant funding allocations to the other NHS trusts in Wales. Initial annual Welsh Government allocations to local health boards, Health Commission Wales and Public Health Wales NHS Trust

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 7 Chwefror 2012
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	2003-04 £m	2004-05 £m	2005-06 £m	2006-07 £m	2007-08 £m	2008-09 £m	2009-10 £m	2010-11 £m	2011-12 £m
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University									
Bridgend	113.357	142.823	157.928	175.188	190.289	198.066	203.313		
Neath Port Talbot	120.678	144.984	159.312	176.040	191.267	198.942	205.714		
Swansea	183.486	223.815	244.931	273.745	299.641	311.236	319.977		
sub-total	417.521	511.622	562.171	624.973	681.197	708.244	729.004	832.184	853.271
Aneurin Bevan									
Blaenau Gwent	65.994	80.750	90.536	99.655	109.064	114.084	118.177		
Caerphilly	137.867	170.076	191.643	212.954	229.332	239.830	246.761		
Monmouthshire	66.136	81.215	90.147	99.765	109.068	113.923	117.641		
Newport	108.512	132.398	150.953	167.089	182.450	190.281	195.785		
Torfaen	84.125	103.741	113.673	125.989	136.033	142.027	145.940		
sub-total	462.634	568.180	636.952	705.452	765.947	800.145	824.304	923.164	939.490
Betsi Cadwaladr University									
Anglesey	60.257	73.010	78.712	85.147	91.742	95.511	98.056		
Conwy	106.113	125.209	137.094	149.859	163.810	170.310	175.126		
Denbighshire	96.212	112.700	125.277	138.109	150.492	156.320	161.053		
Flintshire	110.835	132.942	147.387	161.902	176.742	183.398	188.560		
Gwynedd	119.468	145.451	157.378	169.297	182.959	189.598	194.766		
Wrexham	111.498	136.147	146.572	162.057	177.576	184.457	189.822		
sub-total	604.383	725.459	792.420	866.371	943.321	979.594	1,007.383	1,130.402	1,155.160
Cardiff and Vale University									
Cardiff	220.939	265.510	300.052	338.532	375.360	391.490	402.003		
Vale of Glamorgan	115.251	130.087	139.843	151.908	165.640	174.154	178.915		
sub-total	336.190	395.597	439.895	490.440	541.000	565.644	580.918	679.157	693.745
Cwm Taf									
Merthyr Tydfil	55.050	67.470	73.348	80.213	85.938	89.325	91.912		
Rhondda Cynon Taff	207.154	257.680	282.979	314.625	339.256	352.703	362.650		
sub-total	262.204	325.150	356.327	394.838	425.194	442.028	454.562	503.111	509.806
Hywel Dda									
Cardiganshire	148.829	179.238	200.447	223.736	244.004	253.276	260.590		
Ceredigion	69.722	82.376	91.430	101.009	109.637	114.099	117.061		
Pembrokeshire	105.155	123.616	137.435	151.209	162.939	168.930	173.785		
sub-total	323.706	385.230	429.312	475.954	516.580	536.305	551.436	616.246	633.598
Powys									
	115.422	131.283	153.316	166.651	180.105	187.295	193.939	212.040	216.502
Health Commission Wales									
	344.787	403.275	457.573	489.908	511.286	548.350	583.721		
Public Health Wales NHS Trust									
								62.944	31.954
Total	2,866.847	3,445.796	3,827.966	4,214.587	4,564.630	4,767.605	4,925.267	4,959.248	5,033.526

There was no funding from Welsh Government central reserves to the former 22 local health boards to meet core cost pressures. Funding from 2009-10 to 2011-12 to the seven local health boards from Welsh Government central reserves to meet cost pressures is detailed in the table below. In 2011-12, the total sum available includes £40 million funded from reserves within the Health, Social Services and Children's Main Expenditure Group.

Allocations to Local Health Boards from Welsh Government central reserves

	2009-10 £m	2010-11 £m	2011-12 £m
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	6.193	16.583	17.000
Aneurin Bevan	13.769	21.420	17.000
Betsi Cadwaladr University	9.941	11.539	17.000
Cardiff and Vale University	11.538	19.623	17.000
Cwm Taf	6.737	12.575	17.000
Hywel Dda	12.151	22.180	33.000
Powys	2.152	6.080	15.000
Total	62.481	110.000	133.000

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wasanaethau maethu yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru. (WAQ59691)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on fostering services in Mid and West Wales. (WAQ59691)

Rebecca Evans (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am nifer y plant sy'n aros i gael eu mabwysiadu yng Nghymru. (WAQ59692)

Rebecca Evans (Mid and West Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the number of children awaiting adoption in Wales. (WAQ59692)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 09 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 09 February 2012

Gwenda Thomas: Improving outcomes for children and other vulnerable children remains a key priority for the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government greatly values the role that foster carers in Mid and West Wales and the rest of the country play in providing homes and caring for some of our most vulnerable children and young people. Of the current looked after children population 80% (4310) of the children are cared for by foster carers. We are committed to supporting them for the valuable service they provide.

We do not have statistics on the number of children awaiting adoption. The use of a placement settings such as Adoption, long term fostering or a children's home, is only taken for children when all extensive steps have been exhausted to rehabilitate and reunite them with their family or extended family

Whilst I am pleased with the increase in the number of children adopted from care, to 252 children in 2011, (representing a 10% increase on the previous year), I accept, the numbers remain low and evidence still shows that adoption rates continue to be low across the UK.

In Sustainable Social Services Wales and the Programme for Government we made clear that some services are more effectively delivered nationally, we are pioneering this approach in exploring with stakeholders the remit and functions of a National Adoption Agency, this work will form part of our consultation on the Social Services Bill, which we will consult on in March. The UK Government's recent response to the review of the family justice system, which we have positively influenced, will see major reforms, including the speeding up of the court system. This will lead to earlier decisions about the future of a child and help ensure they can be found loving homes more quickly.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y camau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u cymryd i fonitro gweithredu a chyflawni ei Strategaeth Awtistiaeth. (WAQ59693)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the steps taken by the Welsh Government to monitor the implementation and delivery of its Autism Strategy. (WAQ59693)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 February 2012

Gwenda Thomas: An Evaluation Report on the Foundation Phase of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategic Action Plan was published in February 2011. This report looked at whether the ASD Action Plan had delivered its original objectives. Its findings were that strong progress had been made in terms of putting in place an ASD infrastructure within the statutory services; the development of regional and national networks for the sharing of information and best practice; and awareness raising. A number of gaps were also identified that need to be addressed during the next phase of delivery including: data collection; mentoring support and guidance; and services for adults with ASD.

I have agreed that a consultation on the future direction of the ASD Strategic Action Plan should be opened in the summer which will draw on the findings of the Evaluation Report together with other relevant reports and research such as the Report of the Adult Task and Finish Group and the Wales

Autism Research Centre's study of children's diagnostic services. It is imperative that the consultation engages with people with ASD and their families and carers about what is important to them and what can make a real difference to their lives.

Gofyn i'r Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
To ask the Minister for Local Government and Communities

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gefnogaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i wasanaethau cyfryngu cymunedol yng Nghymru. (WAQ59678)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement regarding the Welsh Government's support for community mediation services in Wales. (WAQ59678)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 07 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 07 February 2012

The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant): The Welsh Government does not provide direct support for these services as it is for Local Authorities to determine what is needed based on locally assessed priorities.

Gofyn i'r Cwnsler Cyffredinol
To ask the Counsel General

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyhoeddi canllawiau i Weinidogion ynghylch pryd dylai pwerau i wneud is-ddeddfwriaeth fod ar ffurf gorchmynion neu ar ffurf rheoliadau. (WAQ59694)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Does the Welsh Government issue guidance to Ministers on when powers to make secondary legislation should be in the form of orders or in the form of regulations. (WAQ59694)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
Answer received for publication on 06 February 2012

The Counsel General: No guidance is issued to Ministers on this. This is considered a technical legal drafting issue and the choice of either an order or regulations for powers to make subordinate legislation is made by Ministers on advice from the drafter of the relevant bill. The drafter will be the Welsh Government's Legislative Counsel in the case of an Assembly Bill and UK Parliamentary Counsel in the case of a Westminster Bill. There is no categorical division between these two kinds of subordinate legislation, but generally they apply to different kinds of legislative power. Regulations are used for powers to set out the details of systems established by primary legislation. Orders tend to be used to give effect to a legislative event, such as commencement of provisions in an Act or the repeal or amendment of current statutory provisions. In practice nothing much turns on whether the instrument is called an order or regulations, except that it is usually the case that the power to make one kind of instrument is not exercised in the same statutory instrument as the power to make the other kind.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyhoeddi canllawiau i Weinidogion ynghylch pryd dylai pwerau i wneud is-ddeddfwriaeth ddefnyddio'r weithdrefn gadarnhaol neu negyddol. (WAQ59695)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Does the Welsh Government issue guidance to Ministers on when powers to make secondary legislation should use the affirmative or the negative procedure. (WAQ59695)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 06 Chwefror 2012
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The Counsel General: Guidelines have recently been issued for officials to observe when advising Ministers. Copies have been sent to the Presiding Officer and the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and a copy has been placed in the Assembly Library. The title is 'Welsh Government guidelines on choice of draft affirmative or negative procedure in subordinate legislation'.