

Atebion i Gwestiynau Ysgrifenedig y Cynulliad i'w hateb ar 23 Mehefin 2011

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 23 June 2011

*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.*

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

Suzy Davies (Gorllewin De Cymru): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r cynnydd a wnaethpwyd o ran diweddarau'r adolygiad 'Cydnabod Angen' a pha gamau sy'n cael eu cymryd i ddynodi meysydd o arfer da, i asesu cynnydd ac i ystyried opsiynau ar gyfer camau pellach. (WAQ57516)

Suzy Davies (South Wales West): Will the Minister outline the progress made in updating the review 'Acknowledging Need' and what steps are being taken to identify areas of best practice, assess progress and consider options for further action. (WAQ57516)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 05 Gorffennaf 2011
Answer received for publication on 05 July 2011

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): Acknowledging Need, the review of Welsh-medium provision and services for pupils with additional learning needs, was undertaken in 2002. The context for taking forward the Welsh-medium education elements of this review is now the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, published last year, which includes the objective "To expect improved planning of Welsh-medium education provision and services for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) as an integral part of education provision at national, regional and local levels." An informal review of Acknowledging Needs was commissioned in 2010 and this review will help to identify areas for local authorities to target progress.

Local authorities will be expected to develop Welsh in Education Strategic Plans to detail how they intend to achieve the targets of the Strategy. The Plans will provide the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which local authorities respond and contribute to the implementation of the Strategy. Guidance to explain how local authorities will prepare and submit Plans will be issued during July 2011 and this will include specific questions for local authorities to address with regard to the provision of Welsh-medium education and services for pupils with ALN.

Paul Davies (Preseli Sir Benfro): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am lefel bresennol yr ôl-groniadau mewn cynnal a chadw/atgyweirio ysgolion yng Nghymru. (WAQ57517)

Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister provide an update on the current amount of school maintenance/repairs backlogs in Wales. (WAQ57517)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 21 Mehefin 2011
Answer received for publication on 21 June 2011

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): The responsibility for the repair and maintenance of school buildings lies with individual local authorities and through assessment of their school buildings condition surveys will assess and determine the costs of maintaining their schools. However, it is not appropriate to consider backlog repair and maintenance in isolation, in many cases authorities have plans for investment in new buildings, or refurbishments, often linked to reorganisation which in some cases will remove the need for investment in buildings currently in use.

As you are aware the 21st century schools programme launched in march of last year is a long term collaborative programme of investment with colleagues in local government, which will impact upon every school, FE college and University in Wales.

All local authorities have submitted their Strategic Outline Programmes (SOPs), which are currently being assessed by DfES officials and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement before summer recess.

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

Darren Millar (Gorllewin Clwyd): A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddarparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y Cynllun Gweithredu ar Reoli Tybaco yn ogystal â chadarnhau a fydd y cynllun yn cynnwys targedau ar gyfer mynediad at wasanaethau rhoi'r gorau i ysmegu. (WAQ57518)

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the Minister provide an update on the Tobacco Control Action Plan and confirm whether the plan will include targets for access to smoking cessation services. (WAQ57518)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 24 Mehefin 2011
Answer received for publication on 24 June 2011

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Lesley Griffiths): Our consultation on the draft Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales ran from February to May this year and the responses are currently being analysed.

The draft Tobacco Control Action Plan builds on our programme of measures, including supporting smokers who want to give up. Through a number of measures the Action Plan's main aim is to drive down smoking levels to 16% by 2020 with an ultimate vision of a smoke-free society for Wales, in which the harm from tobacco is eradicated.

The Welsh Government funds Public Health Wales to deliver the Stop Smoking Wales service. It provides specialist advice and behavioural support across Wales to help smokers to give up. The service has a focus on health inequalities and vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and people with mental health problems. More than 16,000 people contacted Stop Smoking Wales in 2010/11.

The Plan sets out a number of actions for Public Health Wales to enhance the delivery of smoking cessation services in Wales:

- continue the delivery of the Stop Smoking Wales service and the provision of brief intervention training for health professionals and community workers
- consider developing online services for smoking cessation.
- lead on developing a systematic approach to training in brief intervention for smoking cessation for all existing and student health care professionals, by building on the work already being carried out by Stop Smoking Wales.
- co-ordination between primary care, hospital-based smoking cessation work and Stop Smoking Wales should continue to be encouraged to promote a seamless service for smokers, with comparable data collection on smoking cessation in hospitals and other settings and services throughout Wales.

Kirsty Williams (Brycheiniog a Sir Faesyfed): A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r broses ar gyfer cleifion unigol sy'n gwneud ceisiadau cyllido ym mhob Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol. (WAQ57519)

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister outline the process for individual patient funding requests in each Local Health Board. (WAQ57519)

Derbyniwyd ateb i'w gyhoeddi ar 23 Mehefin 2011
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Lesley Griffiths: Local Health Boards and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee have been working to establish an all Wales policy for individual patient funding requests. This will implement the Welsh Government's expectations, set out in October 2009, that the process for dealing with individual patient funding requests should be consistent, fair, timely and patient-centred. Local Health Boards will be publishing the details in the next few weeks.

The process will involve clinicians making applications on behalf of patients, which will then be considered by the relevant panel. Patients can, with the support of their clinician, ask for a local review

of any decision if they disagree with it. Reviews will be undertaken by people unconnected with the original decision. The new policy sets out that a review will be conducted on one or more of the three following grounds, that:

- the Health Board failed to act fairly and in accordance with the policy on making decisions on individual patient funding requests;
- the decision was irrational or unreasonable in light of the evidence submitted;
- the Health Board has exceeded its powers.

Those who remain dissatisfied can ask the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to look into their case.