

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-L/KW/0776/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

11 December 2018

Dear Lynne,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the public consultation on the draft Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code ('the ALN Code'). Along with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 ('the Act'), which received Royal Assent at the beginning of the year, the final statutory ALN Code will be an essential part of our programme to transform the system for supporting learners with additional learning needs (ALN). This is integral to Our National Mission for education in Wales.

The 15 week consultation will seek the views of delivery partners, families and other interested parties to help shape this important document and ensure the rights and duties under the new legislation are clearly understood.

The Act sets out the process for making the ALN Code, and requires that we consult with particular stakeholders on a draft of it as part of that process. The Committee is one of the statutory consultees listed in the Act under section 5(1). This recognises the significant stake you have in ensuring that the ALN Code reflects the new system in a way which is clear to those charged with its delivery and that the further guidance in it and mandatory requirements imposed by it are also clear and appropriate.

The consultation also seeks views on draft regulations relating to the Education Tribunal for Wales, draft regulations about Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators, and the policy intent for a number of other proposed regulations relating to additional learning needs. We are also seeking views on proposed revisions to the code on looked after children under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children)) and the policy intent for proposed regulations relating to the education of looked after children, particularly those with additional learning needs.

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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.


It is crucial that you provide your views to ensure that our proposals are manageable and fair to those who must discharge functions under the new legislative framework, as well as just and equitable for learners with ALN who need the right support to help them achieve their full potential.

During the consultation period, we will be holding a number of engagement events across Wales for stakeholders to find out more about the draft Code and other proposals being consulted on. Details of these will be shared with you by my officials in due course.

Following the consultation, my officials and I will consider what revisions to make to the draft Code in light of the comments received. It is intended that the final drafts of the ALN Code and regulations will be laid before the National Assembly for Wales by the end of 2019, with a view to the provisions of the Act and regulations commencing from September 2020, with a three year implementation period before they apply in full.

Our work to date on reforming the system for supporting learners with ALN would not have been possible without direct involvement and challenge from our stakeholders. I would like take this opportunity to thank you for your collaboration and the efforts made in getting to this significant stage of the process. I invite you to consider this draft of the ALN Code and respond to the consultation by 22 March 2019. You can do this by clicking the following link to our consultation webpage <https://beta.gov.wales/draft-additional-learning-needs-code>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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