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Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Lynne Neagle  
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Dear Lynne,

During the committee's evidence session about the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill which I attended on 12 January, I offered to provide the committee with further information, including an update about the timing of forthcoming guidance on healthcare needs of learners and information around the development of individual development plans (IDPs).

Following the consultation on the draft Bill in 2015, we have worked extensively on both the Bill and the draft code. A code content development group of experts and practitioners has been set up, which includes key delivery partners and third sector representatives. The group has put significant effort into the description and content of IDPs and has supported the production of a standard template.

Practitioners, as part of the group, have provided anonymised examples of IDPs which are being used within the existing statutory framework. The result of this work is in the latest working draft of the code, which will be shared with the committee this month. This represents the best distillation of current thinking and work on the IDP and is best considered within the overall context of the code.

As part of my evidence, I spoke about the work of the Additional Learning Needs Strategic Implementation Group (ALN SIG) and its expert groups. The ALN SIG, which was set up in March 2016, will consider the implementation, transitional and, in due course, the monitoring arrangements for the ALN transformation programme, including the statutory duties to be brought forward under the Bill. It will also act as a conduit between local authorities, further education institutions, health boards and

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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.

the Welsh Government to help identify and agree strategic operational approaches which can be adopted nationally.

The ALN SIG's 2016-17 programme of work has been divided into seven themes – IDPs; transfer and transition between education settings, providers, services and into adulthood; early years; post-16, including specialist provision; Additional Learning Needs Coordinators (ALNCos); training and health.

Expert groups have been set up to consider each of the themes, in terms of their implementation, transition and monitoring. Each of the expert groups is being chaired by an ALN SIG member. The expert group examining IDPs – and the ALN SIG – will continue to refine its advice on IDPs, with particular reference to issues raised during the passage of the Bill. This work will inform the version of the code which is consulted on, subject to the passage of the Bill and it receiving Royal Assent.

In terms of the forthcoming guidance on healthcare needs, local authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools have statutory responsibilities in respect of supporting children and young people with healthcare needs. Specific guidance is being revised, which will clarify and strengthen these requirements and expectations. Publication of the *Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs* guidance is scheduled for March 2017.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Alun Davies AC/AM**

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