

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref MA/PVG/1810/18

Llyr Gruffydd AM
Assembly Member for North Wales
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Dear Llyr,

I am writing in response to the concerns you raised regarding the funding of the All Wales Schools Liaison Programme (AWSLP) during the Business Statement at plenary on 8th May.

I appreciate that the work the Police have been doing in schools is widely recognised amongst head teachers and staff and that the programme has achieved 100% coverage across all schools in Wales in some academic years, with the most recent coverage being 95% in 2016/17. However, in the context of reducing budgets, we have had to take difficult decisions across the Welsh Government and, in the area of substance misuse, prioritise the resources we provide to frontline substance misuse services. The need to protect treatment services informed the decision, as part of the budget process last year, to end the Welsh Government's contribution to the AWSLP after financial year 2018-19.

I understand the fundamental and important role of schools in the prevention agenda. My officials have met with the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, the Rt Hon Alun Michael, and Deputy Chief Constable for South Wales Police, Richard Lewis, who I understand are the leads for AWSLP operationally. These discussions are ongoing, and will focus on the implications of the budget cuts on the programme and the future relationship between the Police and schools across Wales.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

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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.